

Real Talking

RTW-I

Program 2: CONVERSATIONAL WORKSHOP

➤ MAIN TOPIC: Education in Chile

▶ Warm-up questions

1. Where were you in college?
2. From the time you studied up to now what are the differences?
3. Do you have any children?
4. Are they at school?

▶ Reading

Read through this information and discuss it with your class:

Education in Chile has 4 main levels:

- Preschool for children ages up to 5 years old.
- Primary school includes children ages from 5-13 years old.
- Secondary school are for adolescent from ages 13-18 years old.
- Technical and Higher education. The technical education is that involved in technical areas like metal assembly, electricity. The higher education involves careers in universities like medicine, law, engineering, and so on.

■ Discussion

In small groups, discuss the item:

- In Chile students study about 900 hours a year. Do you think that this is enough?
- Should the government increase the hours?

Continue Reading...

The constitution of the country affirmed that primary and secondary educations will be *compulsory* for all Chileans. The government of Chile offers at no cost primary and secondary levels in public schools for individuals who cannot meet the expenses in a private education. The government finances the public schools which are controlled by municipalities while private schools can also be funded by the government.

To pass in state universities, the students are required to take the University Selection Test. It has 2 compulsory tests and also particular exams which depend on what the learner desires to study.

Usually the Chilean universities are known as being among the finest in Latin America. In 1980, the country had 8 universities (6 operate by private and 2 state universities) and most of their financial support came from the state.

- The state universities in the country are University of Chile (founded in 1842) and State Technical University (started in 1947) now known as University of Santiago.
- The private universities in Chile are Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (1888), University of Concepción (1919), Catholic University of Valparaíso (1928), Federico Santa María Technical University (1931), Southern University of Chile (1955) and the University of the North (1956).

▶ Vocabulary

Word or Expression	Meaning
compulsory	Required by rule. Mandatory

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► Discussion

In small groups, discuss the following questions:

- Do you think that education is a business rather than a right?
- Should Chilean education be free for all people?
- Should the government invest more on it?
- What about quality? Which ones in your opinion should be the improvements?