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Dutch Education System Glossary



DUTCH	ENGLISH
10–minutengesprek	10–minute meeting between parents and teacher to talk about the child’s progress and other issues (usually 2–3 times per year)
A	
Aandacht	Attention
Aangesloten	Connected
Aankondiging	Announcement
Aanmeldformulier	Application form
Aanmelding	Application
Aanmeldingsprocedure	Application procedure
Aansluiting	Connection
Aantal	Amount or number
Aanvraag	Request
Aanwezig	To be present
Aardrijkskunde	Geography
Achterstand	Delay
Achteruitgang	Deterioration, or failing grades
Activiteit	Activity
Administratie	Admin
Adres	Address
Advies	Advice
Afgelopen	Finished
Afkomst	Background
Afsluiting	Termination, or conclusion
Afspraak	Agreement, or appointment
Afwezig	Absent

Alfabet	Alphabet
Algemeen bijzonder	Special, non-religious school that has its own board (but still funded by the government)
Allergisch	Allergic
April	April
Augustus	August
Aula	Auditorium
Autisme	Autism
B	
Basisschool	Elementary school
Basistoezicht	'Basic supervision': Most positive rating by the school inspection. See http://tkrtp.owinsp.nl/schoolwijzer/zoek_scholen
Bedrijf	Company/ Business
Begeleiden	To accompany
Begeleiding	Guidance
Begin	Start
Begrijpen	To understand
Begrijpend lezen	Reading comprehension
Bekwaam	Capable, or competent
Bel	Bell
Beleid	Policy
Beloning	Reward
Beoordeling	Appraisal
Beschikbaarheid	Availability
Beschrijving	Description
Beslissing	Decision
Bestuur	Board

Betalen	To pay
Beter	Better
Betrokkenheid	Involvement
Bewijs	Proof
Bibliotheek	Library
Bidden	To pray (religion)
Bijdrage – bijdragen	Contribution – to contribute
Bijeenkomst	Gathering, or meeting
Bijzondere school	Special school that has its own board (usually a group of parents or a foundation)
Blij	Happy
Blijven zitten	Repeat a class
Boek	Book
Boekbespreking	Book review
Boete	Fine
Boterham	Slice of bread
Boven	Above, or beyond, or upstairs
Brede school	A combination of elementary school with preschool, day care, after-school care, welfare, sports and/or culture facilities, normally all within the same multi-functional building. They are usually all based on the same philosophy or educational approach, to ensure continuity of care for the children throughout the day and from 0–12 years old. Also referred to as IKC or Kindercampus
Brief	Letter
Broer(tje)	(Younger) Brother
Brood	Bread (sandwich)
Broodtrommel	Lunch box

Buiten	Outside
Buitenland	Abroad
Buitenlands	Foreign
Buitenschoolse opvang (BSO)	After-school care
Buitenspelen	To play outside
Buurt	Neighborhood
C	
Centrale Eindtoets Basisonderwijs	Central end test in group 8. All schools are obliged to take this test, offered by the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science (OCW). Based on the outcome of this test, in combination with the teacher's recommendation, the student's level of high school education will be established
Cijfer	Grade
Cito toets	End test in group 8 (from school year '14/'15 this isn't necessarily the Cito test anymore). See also 'Centrale Eindtoets Basisonderwijs'
Combinatieklas	Combined class (multiple age groups together) This is usually the case for groups 1&2 (=kleuterklas) and common practice for Montessori and Jenaplan schools
Commissie	Committee
Communicatie	Communication
Compliment	Compliment
Concentreren	To concentrate
Conciërge	School janitor
Consultatiebureau (OKC/GGD)	Health clinic for babies and toddlers (where you also go for the regular health checkups and vaccines)

Continurooster	Continuous schedule; all children stay at school for lunch. The teacher has lunch with the children in the classroom, and before or after lunch they play outside (weather permitting)
Contract	Contract
Crèche	Day care
D	
Daltonschool	School based on the educational principles of Helen Parkhurst (See the separate Summary document for further explanations)
December	December
Deelname	Participation
Deelnemen	To take part
Deelnemer(s)	Participant(s)
Deeltijd	Part-time
Dichtsbijzijnde	Nearest
Digiboard	Digital schoolboard
Dinsdag	Tuesday
Directeur	Director/Principal
Docent	Teacher
Document	Document
Donderdag	Thursday
Douchen - douche	To shower - shower
Drinkbeker	Cup
Druk	Busy, or crowded, or boisterous
Dyslexie	Dyslexia

E

Eénpitter	A school that has its own board and has only one member school (In Amsterdam this also means that they don't take part in the central school lottery policy)
Eerste	First
Eerste schooldag	First school day
Eind	End
Engels	English
Etui	Pencil case
Euritmie	Eurhythmics (expressive movement art class at Vrije School)
Excursie	Excursion
Extra	Additional
F	
Februari	February
Feest	Party
Feestje	(Little) party
Financieel	Financial
Fout	Wrong, or a mistake
Foutloos	Flawless
Frans	French
G	
Geboortedatum	Date of birth
Gedrag	Behavior
Gehoorzamen	To obey
Gekwalificeerd	Qualified
Geld	Money

Gemakkelijk	Easy
Gemeente	Local government
Gemiddeld	Average
Geschiedenis	History
Geschikt	Appropriate, or suitable
Geslacht	Gender
Gesloten	Closed
Gesprek	Conversation
Getal – Getallen	Digit(s), or number(s)
Gevoelig	Sensitive
Gezag	Custody
Gezellig	Cozy; being in good company
Godsdienst	Religion
Goed	Good
Grammatica	Grammar
Groep	Group
Groot	Big
Grootte	Size
Gym	Physical education
Gymkleren	Sports clothes
H	
Handenarbeid	Arts & crafts
Handschrift	Hand writing
HAVO	Senior general secondary education (duration: 5 years). (See the separate Summary document for further explanations)
HBO/Hogeschool	Higher Vocational Education / University of Applied Sciences (See the separate Summary document for further explanations)

Hemelvaartsdag	Ascension Day (national holiday, always on a Thursday in May – school is closed then)
Herfst	Autumn
Herfstvakantie	One week of holiday in Autumn. Its start and end day vary per region and per year. See www.schoolvakanties-nederland.nl/schoolvakanties-2015.html
Hoek	Corner
Hoofd	Head or main
Hoofdrekenen	Mental arithmetic
Hoogbegaafd	Gifted
Huidig	Current
Huiswerk	Homework
Hulp	Help
I	
IB'er	School mentor. They take some tests, and support the students who need some more attention. They support the teachers as well
IKC	“Integrated child center”; combination of elementary school with preschool, day care, after-school care, welfare, sports and/or culture; usually all within the same multi-functional building. They have all been based on the same philosophy or educational approach, to ensure continuity of care for the children. Also referred to as Brede school
Informatie	Information
Ingang	Entrance
Ingeloot	Won at the lottery

Inhalen	To catch up
Inhoud	Contents
inkt	ink
Inleveren	To hand in
Inschrijven	To sign up
Internationaal	International
Islamitisch	Islamic
IT	Information Technology (usually they mean everything related to computers)
J	
Januari	January
Jenaplanschool	School based on the educational principles of Peter Petersen (See the separate Summary document for further explanations)
Jong – Jonger	Young – Younger
Jongen	Boy
Joods	Jewish
Juf	Female teacher
Juli	July
Juni	June
K	
Kalender	Calendar
Kanjertraining	The name of an anti-bullying/ social-emotional program
Kans	Chance
Katholiek	Catholic

Kerndoelen	Core objectives; requirements set by the government. They specify per year the minimal objectives all students in all schools need to accomplish
Kerk	Church
Kerst	Christmas
Kiezen	To choose
Kind	Child
Kinderdagverblijf (KDV)	Day care, also called 'crèche'
Klaar-over	School crossing patrol
Klacht	Complaint
Klachtenprocedure	Complaint procedure
Klas	Class
Klaslokaal	Class room
Klas overslaan	To skip a class
Klasgenoot (klasgenoten)	Classmate(s)
Klasse-assistent	Class assistant
Klassenouder	Class parent
Kleding	Clothes
Klein	Small
Kleuterklas	Sort of kindergarten (usually group 1 & 2 combined)
Kleuters	Students of group 1 & 2
Knutselen	To do handicrafts
Krokusvakantie	See 'Voorjaarsvakantie'
Kunst	Art
Kunstmagneet school	School that focusses on arts ('Art magnet school')
Kwaliteit	Quality

L

Laatste	Last
Leeftijd	Age
Leerkracht	Teacher
Leerling	Student/pupil
Leerlingvolgsysteem (LVS)	Pupil monitoring system. Tests they start taking twice per year from group 1 or 2 to measure the progress of the students and catch possible learning problems early
Leerplicht	Compulsory school attendance. Please be aware that this law is very strict
Leerplichtwet	Compulsory school attendance law
Leerstofjaarklas	One age group per class
Lente	Spring
Lentekriebels	Educational program to talk with the children about friendships, their bodies, the differences between boys and girls, self-esteem, how to indicate their limits, etc. All in an age-appropriate way
Leren	To learn
Les	Lesson or class
Lesgeven	To teach
Lesstof	Subjects for tuition
Lesuur	School hour; usually takes 50 minutes
Lesvrij	No class (day off)
Letter	Letter (Character)
Lettergreep	Syllable
Leuk	Fun/Nice

Lezen	Reading
Lief	Sweet
Lievelings...	Favorite
Logopedie	Speech therapy
Loting	lottery
Luizen	Lice
Luizenouder	Lice-parent (they check the hair of the students after the school vacations on the presence of lice)
Luizenzak	Lice bag (children put their coats in them)
M	
Maandag	Monday
Maart	March
Margedag	Compensation day for 'too many' school hours. The school is closed on this day
MBO	Intermediate Vocational Education (See the separate Summary document for further explanations)
Medezeggenschapsraad (MR)	Representative advisory board
Mediatheek	Media library
Meenemen or meebrengen	Bring with you
Meertalig	Multilingual
Meester	Male teacher
Meevallen	To exceed expectations
Mei	May (month)
Meisje	Girl
Meivakantie	One or two weeks of holiday in the month of May
Melk	Milk

Methode	Method
Middag	Afternoon
Middelbare school	High school/secondary school
Middelbare school advies	High school advice (see the separate Summary document for further explanations)
Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap (OCW)	Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science
Misverstand	Misunderstanding
Moeder	Mother
Moedertaal	Native language
Moeilijk	Difficult
Montessorischool	School based on the educational principles of Maria Montessori (see the separate Summary document for further explanations)
Moslim	Muslim
Muziek	Music
N	
Na	After(wards)
Nablijven	Staying in after school (as a punishment)
Naschoolse opvang (NSO)	After-school care
Natuur	Nature
Nederland	The Netherlands
Nederlands	Dutch (both language and nationality)
Netjes	Neat
Niveau	Level
Normen en waarden	Norms and values
November	November

O

Ochtend	Morning
Oefenen	To practise
Oefening	Exercise
Oktober	October
Onder	Below, or underneath
Onderbreken	To interrupt
Onderhoud	Maintenance
Onderwijs	Education
Onderwijsassistent	Assistant teacher
Onderwijsconcept	Educational philosophy
Onderwijsinspectie	School inspection
Onderwijzen	To teach
Onderzoek	Research
Ongeschikt	Inadequate, or unsuitable
Onthouden	To remember, or to remind
Ontwikkeling	Development
Onvoldoende	Insufficient (in terms of grades 5.5 is the lowest possible sufficient grade)
Open	Open
Open dag	Open day
Openbare school	School that is both run and funded by the government. Always non-religious; can be Montessori, Dalton, etc at the same time
Opleiding	Education
Opletten	To pay attention
Optreden	To perform (drama), or to act, or to appear/materialize

Opvoeding	Upbringing
Oud – Ouder	Old – Older
Ouder(s)	Parent(s)
Ouderbijdrage	Parent contribution
Oudercommissie	Parent committee
Ouderinitiatief	A group of higher educated parents takes the initiative to send their children to the same lower-performing school in order to improve and mix the school better
Ouderraad (OR)	Parent council
Overblijfgeld	Fees for lunch supervision at school
Overblijven	Stay over (at school) for lunch
Overgang	Transition
Overheid	Government
Overleg	Meeting or discussion
Overslaan	To skip
P	
Particulier	Private
Pasen	Easter (two national holidays, always on a Sunday and Monday – school is closed)
Passend Onderwijs	‘Appropriate Education’ policy, designed to enable as many children with minor learning difficulties as possible to be educated in mainstream schools
Pauze	Break
Pen	Pen
Personeel	Staff
Pesten	To bully

Pestprotocol	Anti-bullying protocol
Peuter	Toddler
Peuterspeelzaal	Toddler playgroup (see also 'Voorschool')
Pinksteren	Whitsun/Pentecost (national holiday; always on a Sunday and Monday in the end of May/beginning of June – school is closed)
Plaatsing	Placement
Plannen	To plan or plans (noun)
Plek	Place or spot
Plusklas	Advanced lessons for gifted children
Populair	Popular
Portfolio	Portfolio (compilation of the work the student has accomplished)
Postcode	Post code or ZIP code
Potlood	Pencil
Praktijkonderwijs	'Practical education'. Lower secondary education (See the separate Summary document for further explanations)
Praten	To talk
Protestant	Protestant
R	
Rapport	Report
Regel(s)	Rule(s)
Regio	Region
Rekenen	Maths
Religieus	Religious
Remedial teacher (RT)	Remedial teacher (helps children with learning difficulties)
Respect	Respect

Richtlijn(en)	Guideline(s)
Rooster	Schedule
Rugtas/ rugzak	Backpack
Ruim voldoende	Above average
Rustig	Quiet, or calm
S	
Samen	Together
Schoen – Schoenen	Shoe – shoes
Schoolbezoek	School visit
Schoolbord	Black board
Schoolbreed	The whole school is involved
Schooldag	School day
Schoolgids	School guide
Schooljaar	School year
Schoolplein	School playground
Schooltijden	School hours
Schoolzwemmen	School swimming
Schorsing – geschorst	Suspension – Suspended
Schrift	Notebook
Schrijven	To write
Seizoen	Season
September	September
Sinterklaas	Sinterklaas' birthday is celebrated on December 5th
Slachtoffer	Victim
Slecht – Slechter	Bad – Worse
Slordig	Messy, or Sloppy
Sluiten	To close
Spaans	Spanish

Speciale school	Special needs school
Speelafsprakje	Playdate
Spelen	To play
Spellen	To spell
Spelling	Spelling
Sportdag	Sports day
Spreekbeurt houden	To hold a speech or lecture
Spreken	To speak
Stabiel	Stable
Stadsdeel	City district
Sterk	Strong
Stichting	Foundation (non-profit)
Stoel	Chair
Stom	Stupid/ Not nice (usually said by a child)
Stop Hou Op!	Stop it! (Children learn to say this to indicate their limits)
Straf	Punishment
Structuur	Structure
Studiedag	Study day; the teachers have to follow additional training and the school is closed
Studievaardigheid	Study skills
T	
Taak – Taken	Task – Tasks
Taal	(Dutch) language
Taalachterstand	Language delay
Tafel	Table, or multiplication table
Talent	Talent
Techniek	Technique, or technology

Technisch lezen	Technical reading
Tegemoetkoming	Allowance, or compensation
Tegenvallen	To disappoint
Tekenen	To draw
Tekening	Drawing
Tellen	To count
Thema	Theme
Thuisonderwijs	Home schooling
Tijd	Time
Toegestaan	Allowed
Toekomst	Future
Toepassing	Application
Toestemming	Permission
Toets	Test
Toetsresultaten	Test results
Toezicht	Supervision
Traktatie	Treat
Trakteren	Hand out treats to the children from the class. Ask the teacher for the guidelines
Trots	Proud, or Pride
Tutor (privé-leraar)	Tutor (private teacher)
Tweetalig	Bilingual
U	
Uit het hoofd leren	To learn by heart
Uitdagen	To challenge
Uitdaging	Challenge
Uiterste aanmelddatum	Application deadline
Uitgeloot	Lost the lottery

Uitkomst	Outcome
Uitspraak	Pronunciation
Uitzondering	Exception
Universiteit/WO	University (Analytical/Expert level) (See the separate Summary document for further explanations)
V	
Vaardigheid	Skill
Vader	Father
Vak	Subject
Vakantie	Holiday, or vacation
Vakleerkracht	Dedicated teacher (for music, PE, arts, etc.)
Verantwoordelijkheid	Responsibility
Verdrietig	Sad
Verf – verven	Paint – to paint
Vergadering	(Official) Meeting
Vergelijken	To compare
Vergelijking	Comparison
Vergeten	To forget, or forgotten
Verjaardag	Birthday
Verjaardagsfeestje	Birthday party
Verkeer	Traffic
Verlegen	Shy
Verlies	Loss
Verliezen	To lose
Verplicht	Compulsary
Verplichting	Obligation
Versieren	To decorate
Vertrouwen	To trust, or faith (noun)

Verwachten	To expect
Verwachting(en)	Expectation(s)
Verzendlijst	Mailing list
Verzorger	Care taker
Vieren	To celebrate
Viering	Celebration
Vlot	Smooth
VMBO	Preparatory secondary vocational education (duration: 4 years) (See the separate Summary document for further explanations)
Voedingsgebied	Catchment area of the school. Children who live in the area have priority
Vol	Full / oversubscribed
Voldoende	Sufficient (in terms of grades 5.5 is the lowest possible sufficient grade)
Volgen	To follow
Volgens	According to
Volgorde	Order
Voltijd	Full-time
Voor	Before(hand)
Voorbeeld	Example
Vorbereiden	To prepare
Voorjaarsvakantie	One week of holiday in springtime. Its start and end day vary per region and per year. See www.schoolvakanties-nederland.nl/schoolvakanties-2015.html
Voorkeur	Preference
Voorlezen	To read aloud
Voorrang	Priority
Voorrangsregels	Priority rules

Vorrangsschool (Amsterdam)	One of the 8 schools where you have priority, based on the distance between the school and your home
Voorschool	Preschool (similar to 'Peuterspeelzaal', but more structured and with a focus on learning Dutch and developing social skills – in a playful way)
Vooruitgang	Progress
Vriend	Friend (male)
Vriendin	Friend (female)
Vrij	Off
Vrijblijvend	Without obligations
Vrijdag	Friday
Vrijeschool	Waldorf/Steiner school based on the educational principles of Rudolph Steiner (See the separate Summary document for further explanations)
Vrijwillig	Voluntarily
Vrijwilliger	Volunteer
Vroeger	In the past
VVE-indicatie	Referral for priority for preschool and elementary school; usually issued children who have a language delay in their native language, whose parents have a low level of education, when the social-economical situation could lead to a potential future (language) delay, or when there is another reason to expect that the child will fall behind at school at a later stage

VVTO	Early foreign language program (usually this means that the school starts teaching English as a subject from group 1)
VWO	Pre-university education (duration: 6 years) (See the separate Summary document for further explanations)
W	
Wachtljst	Waiting list
Weekend	Weekend
Wennen	To grow accustomed to / to get used to
Wenperiode	Adjustment period; a new student usually starts going to school for half days for 1–2 weeks to get used to the new structure and their ‘new life’
Wereldoriëntatie	World orientation (combination of Geography, History, Biology, and World-religions)
Werken	To work
Werkboek	Work book
Werkwoord	Verb
Winst	Profit
Winter	Winter
Witte school	White school; this is not an official term, but is sometimes used to indicate that there are almost only children of higher-educated, Dutch parents attending the school
Woensdag	Wednesday
Woord – Woorden	Word – Words
Woordenschat	Vocabulary
Woordvolgorde	Word order

Z

Zaterdag	Saturday
Zeer goed	Very good
Zelfstandig	Independent
Zelfstandigheid	Independency
Zelfvertrouwen	Self-confidence
Ziek	Sick
Ziekmelden	Call in sick
Zij-instromer	'Side-streamer'; a child who starts a new school at age 4+
Zinsconstructie	Sentence construction
Zinsopbouw	Sentence structure
Zomer	Summer
Zomervakantie	Summer vacation. The duration is six weeks and its start and end day vary per region and per year. See www.schoolvakanties-nederland.nl/schoolvakanties-2015.html
Zondag	Sunday
Zorgen voor	To take care of
(Zich) zorgen maken (over)	To worry (about)
Zorgvuldig	Carefully
Zus(je)	(Younger) Sister
Zwak	Weak
Zwarte school	Black school; this is not an official term, but is sometimes used to indicate that there are many children who have at least one non-Western parent attending the school. (It doesn't say anything about the skin color of the pupils) Please note that schools get <u>more</u> money for children whose parents are lower educated.

Do you need more information on the Dutch education system?

Check <http://new2nl.com/events> for the next seminar on the Dutch education system. Please also inquire about our individual, **personalized Dutch education assistance services** (including local options for international schools), <http://new2nl.com/education-services>, and **Company Packages**, <http://new2nl.com/education-services/#company>.

You can purchase the following documents via the New2nl website, <http://new2nl.com/education-services/#info>:

- Checklist Basisschool for various cities (e.g., Amsterdam, Amstelveen, The Hague, Leiden, Utrecht)
- Checklist international schools
- Summary of the Dutch education system
- Glossary Dutch Education System

Or read the following articles, listen to a podcast or watch a video:

- This is a newspaper article published in The Telegraph (U.K.) on the **high scores of Dutch high schools in the OECD education report**. You'll find a familiar name in there too ;-) www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/netherlands/10489496/OECD-education-report-Dutch-system-puts-premium-on-quality-standards.html
- Two articles on **current developments in Amsterdam schools**: www.iamexpat.nl/read-and-discuss/education/articles/exciting-new-developments-in-amsterdams-schools and www.expatica.com/nl/education/schools/Exciting-developments-in-Amsterdams-schools_558345.html.

- I am very proud to present the education **podcast** by Amsterdam Mamas where they interview me about education in Amsterdam: www.amsterdam-mamas.nl/stories/education-amsterdam-part-1-school-faqs-and-swap-20-season-2-episode-12
- Figuring out **how the Dutch education system works** can be a very time-consuming and frustrating task. I wrote this article for Amsterdam Mamas to make people's lives a little easier! www.amsterdam-mamas.nl/stories/understanding-dutch-education-system
- All **Dutch universities** score reasonably well in the **Times Higher Education World University Rankings** study. Also keep in mind that the Dutch universities are state-funded and that students pay about 1500 euros per year. They might also qualify for a study grant, based on their parents' income and their performances. You get high-quality education without much of a student debt: www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2017/world-ranking#! You can find more info on Dutch universities on www.studyinholland.nl
- World Economic Forum: **the Netherlands is the third-most educated country in the world**: <http://nordic.businessinsider.com/wef-global-competitiveness-report-most-educated-countries-in-the-world-2016-10>
- New2nl at Million Female Founders: Insightful interviews with **female entrepreneurs**: http://bit.ly/Sonder_interview.
- Special Needs Education Support in the Netherlands: www.amsterdam-mamas.nl/articles/special-needs-education-support-netherlands.
- Special Needs Education Support in the Netherlands: www.amsterdam-mamas.nl/articles/special-needs-education-support-netherlands.