



NEWS REPORT

Date: 6 July 2009
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Title: racial inclusion in education
Country: Bulgaria

Context

Issue at stake: school desegregation; language instruction rights
Ground of discrimination: racial/ethnic origin
Source: draft legislation
Field: education

Content

On 30 March 2009, the government introduced a new draft law in the Parliament, the School Education and Preschool Instruction and Preparation Act, in order to govern education in schools and kindergartens. The bill provides for “every citizen’s” right to equal access to quality education (art. 2 (1)). Students are entitled to use the mechanisms provided for by the law to stimulate equal access to education (art. 161 (2.5)). These mechanisms consist of State subsidies for: student stipends and assistance; student transportation and accommodation; textbooks and learning materials; extracurricular activities; sports and leisure for students; all-day-long school process organisation and canteen catering; consultations and corrective-instructional work (art. 229 (1)). Students whose mother tongue is not Bulgarian are entitled to study their mother tongue in special classes (art. 5 (2)). Students in preparatory classes whose command of the Bulgarian language is inadequate are entitled to additional training in Bulgarian language skills (art. 73).