

# Mozambique

## School Classes

In Mozambique, there are two types of schools - general and technical-professional. In the technical-professional schools, students have different classmates in each of their classes and in the general schools, students have the same classmates in each of their class and teachers rotate to the different classrooms. Boys and girls study in the same classrooms in Mozambique and are not seated apart in class. In Mozambique, students generally take six to nine subjects at a time and each class occurs every other day. Mozambican high school classes generally have around 40-50 students.

In Mozambique, students are evaluated through homework, class participation, periodic written and oral exams and sometimes how the students present themselves in class. Subjects in Mozambique are taught with the same level of difficulty, there are no remedial or AP courses available.

## School Relationships

Students in Mozambique show their respect to their teachers by using the formal titles "Mr." or "Mrs."

## Extracurricular Activities

Schools in Mozambique do not offer extracurricular activities. Students can join local private sports clubs or find other community offerings at their own expense. Parents in Mozambique support and help their children in extracurricular activities but the initiative to participate in the activity must always come from him or her; parents rarely arrange activities for their kids.

## School Rules

Many Mozambican high schools have a "zero tolerance" policy regarding cell phone usage, and fighting. These activities are generally not allowed at all in school and the penalties for engaging in them are often severe. Students have uniforms or dress formally for school.

## Return

The year in the U.S. does not count towards the students' academic progress.

## Family Life

In Mozambique, students are accustomed to living in large households composed of parents, children, grandparents and sometimes uncles and cousins. Mozambican teens interact formally with their family members. It is rare for a Mozambican family to have a housekeeper or hired help. Students are expected to clean their room, bathroom, do their own laundry and contribute to the upkeep of the house as well. Both parents are professionals and financially responsible for the family; they exert equal authority in all household decisions. Family members are allowed to do their own activities and socialize with their friends or to relax, as long as they respect their curfew. In Mozambique, meals are eaten all together as a family.

## Teen Life

In Mozambique, it is common for siblings to borrow clothes and electronics with permission of the owner. Mozambican students value respect, and permission is typically granted for most requests. Teens in Mozambique are mostly dependent upon their parents.

## Responsibilities

Mozambican students rarely work even part-time or small jobs. Whenever they are given some money from their parents it is expected to be used for transportation to and from school. The money may be given daily, weekly or monthly. In Mozambican families, it is not uncommon for teenagers, boy or girl, to have to cook for themselves or for their family.

## Parental Involvement

Few families in Mozambique have access to the internet at home. Students may be very happy to have 24/7 internet access in the U.S. and may have difficulty in limiting access on their own. Mozambican parents are in contact with their children's schools through their student. Periodically, the parents are invited to have a meeting with their children's school to share their academic progress.



## COUNTRY FACTS:

**Capital:** Maputo

**Population:** 22,061,451

**Area, sq. mi.:** 308,642

**Real GDP per capita:** 900

**Adult literacy rate:** 64% (male); 33% (female)

**Ethnic make-up:** African 99.66% (Makhuwa, Tsonga, Lomwe, Sena, and others), Europeans 0.06%, Euro-Africans 0.2%, Indians 0.08%

**Religion:** Catholic 23.8%, Muslim 17.8%, Zionist Christian 17.5%, other 17.8%, none 23.1%

## ***Pets***

In Mozambique pets stay mostly outside and are not allowed to go anywhere inside the house.

## ***Personal Interactions***

### ***Mixed Gender Socializing***

Mozambican teens socialize in groups and one-on-one, both are considered appropriate. It is also acceptable for teens to have friends of the opposite sex and to socialize with them individually.

### ***Friendships***

Mozambican teens make most of their friends through their neighborhood connections as well as their common activities. Friendship means brotherhood or sisterhood, people with whom they feel comfortable who share common interest and activities. In Mozambique, greeting someone every day is expected and it involves shaking hands, kissing cheeks, hugs and a small conversation. It is uncommon for Mozambican students to share their money with each other.

### ***Communication Styles***

Mozambicans tend to communicate indirectly. Negative emotions are considered personal in Mozambique and are not to be expressed to their friends or family. In terms of personal space, Mozambicans share the same living space and are very close with friends. They typically want to discuss everything with each other and assume that they are invited to participate in all family and friend activities. Mozambicans try to be punctual, but arriving 15 minutes after the agreed upon meeting time is still considered "on time."

### ***Eye Contact***

Making eye contact is considered disrespectful in Mozambique, especially between youth and elders.

### ***Cultural Norms***

In Mozambique, girls typically do the cooking and boys may do the gardening. It may be difficult at first for a boy to feel comfortable doing chores in the U.S. that are considered female chores back home.

## ***Personal Hygiene***

In Mozambique, it is normal to wear clothes two days in a row if they do not show any outward signs of being dirty. All clothes washing is done by hand in Mozambique, so students will need to learn about using washing machines and dryers and understand that frequent washing will not hurt clothes. It is normal in Mozambique to take a shower and change clothes when returning from school or work.

Mozambican teenagers are expected to keep their bathrooms clean and dry after using them (towels are hung up, and hygiene products are put away). Most Mozambican teenagers have one towel in their bathroom to use to dry their body (and maybe a separate towel to dry their hair or face).

## ***Food and Culture***

### ***Diet***

Halal meat is easily found everywhere in Mozambique and meals are always prepared from scratch.

### ***Gifts***

Teens are not expected to give gifts for Christmas or birthdays in Mozambique.

## ***Religion***

In Mozambique, attending religious services is often a family event, and the social aspect of attending the services, being part of the community, is often just as important as the religious aspect.

### ***Holidays***

The Heroes day (February 3rd)

Women's day (April 7th),

The independence day (June 25th),

The day of Peace (October 4th)

Ramadan and Eid al Fitr are nationally celebrated.