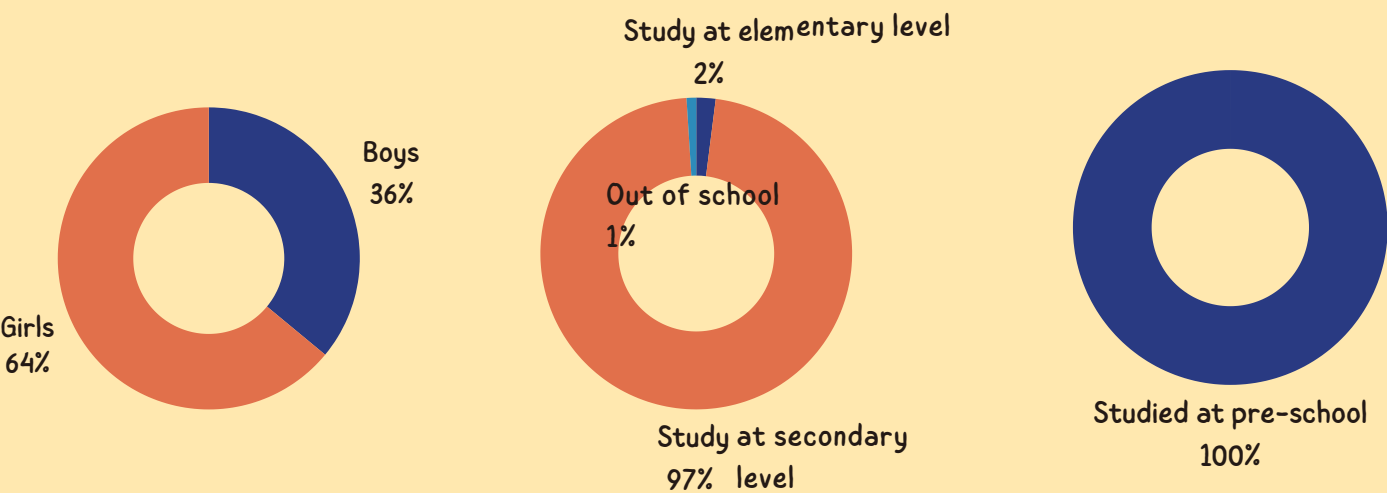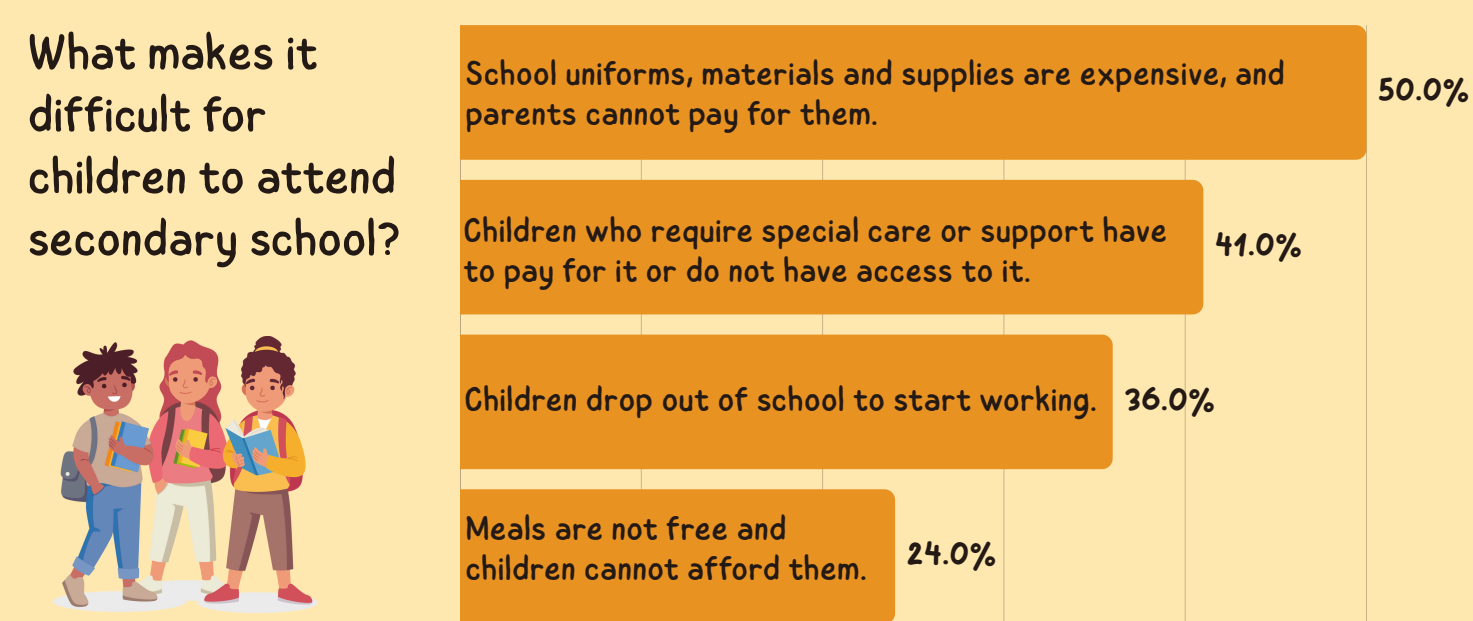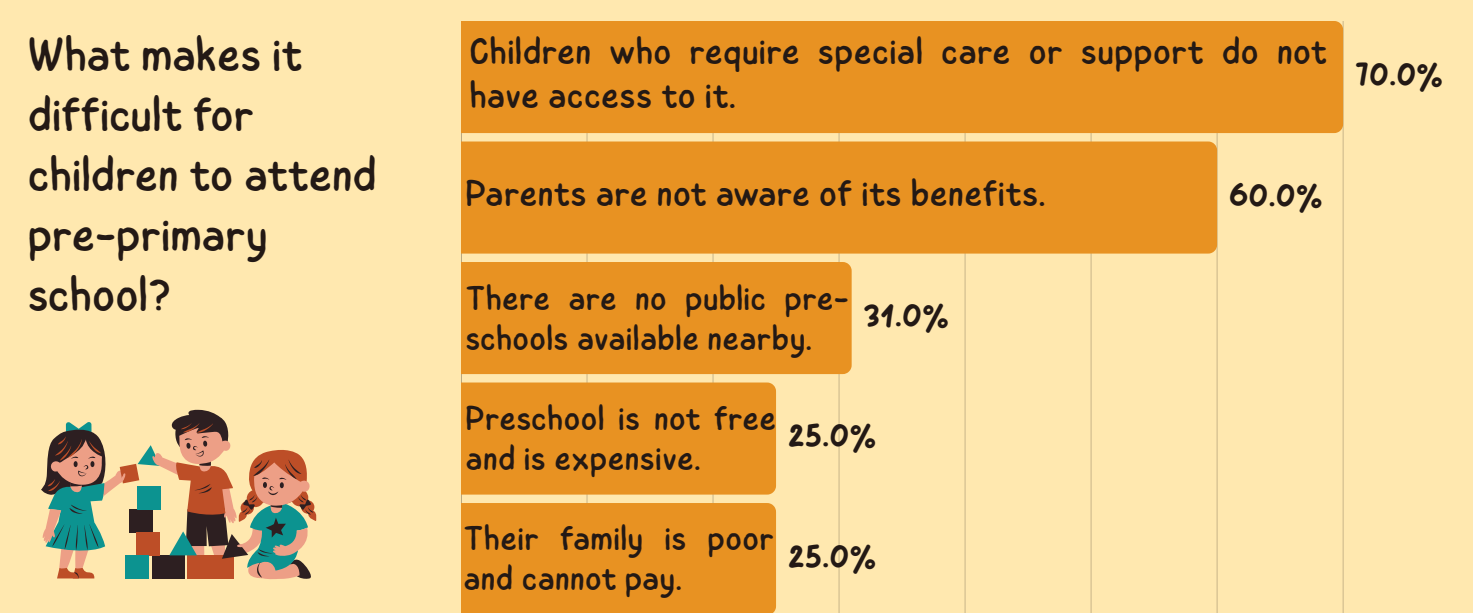# What children in Bulgaria said about access to free public pre-primary and secondary education?

What we know about the children who filled out the survey?

118 children replied to the survey. Most of them were 15, 16 and 17 years old, while the youngest was 10 years old.

Donut chart 1:
- Boys 36%
- Girls 64%

Donut chart 2:
- Study at elementary level 2%
- Out of school 1%
- Study at secondary level 97%

Donut chart 3:
- Studied at pre-school 100%

What did they say in their replies?

What makes it difficult for children to attend pre-primary school?

- Children who require special care or support do not have access to it. — 70.0%
- Parents are not aware of its benefits. — 60.0%
- There are no public pre-schools available nearby. — 31.0%
- Preschool is not free and is expensive. — 25.0%
- Their family is poor and cannot pay. — 25.0%

What makes it difficult for children to attend secondary school?

- School uniforms, materials and supplies are expensive, and parents cannot pay for them. — 50.0%
- Children who require special care or support have to pay for it or do not have access to it. — 41.0%
- Children drop out of school to start working. — 36.0%
- Meals are not free and children cannot afford them. — 24.0%

If children can go to free public preschool,

- their parents or older siblings don't have to stay at home with them. — **73%**
- they develop their social and communication skills. — **32%**
- their brain develop better. — **27%**
- they can break the cycle of poverty by continuing their education. — **29%**

If children can go to free public secondary school,

- they have more chance to find a decent job and earn their living. — **80%**
- they will be more prepared for adult life, and they will be able to create a better life for themselves and for their own children. — **69%**
- they have the chance to continue their studies at university. — **69%**
- they are less likely to get married off as a child or exposed to violence. — **40%**

In Bulgaria, schooling is compulsory for children between the age of 5 and 16, while 4 years of preschool and 12 years primary and secondary education is free.
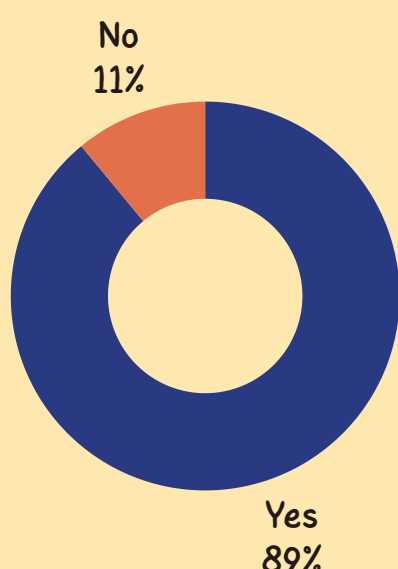
What children in Bulgaria said about access to free public pre-primary and secondary education?
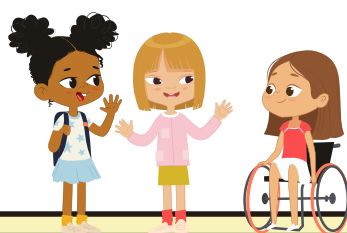
CONTINUE ▶

Do some children have a harder time or greater challenges attending public pre-primary and secondary school than other children?

No
11%

Yes
89%

Who are these children?

- Children with disabilities
- Children with health conditions including mental health issues
- Children who might face harassment because of situation of their parents
- Pregnant girls and young mothers
- Migrant children
- Minority children
- Children from the LGBTIQ community

What should governments do to make sure that all children can attend public pre-primary and public secondary education for free?

✓ To provide high quality free education in all regions and areas by building public schools and making online education available (64%)

✓ To provide free school meals, textbooks, uniforms (61%)

✓ To adapt the school environment to be inclusive and offer integrated or alternative learning methods for those who need it (55%)

✓ To give scholarships (51%)

✓ To encourage parents to send their children to school, particularly families from vulnerable communities (50%)

✓ To provide mental health services for children at schools (46%)

CAT Children's Advisory Team