

## **Civic education, in September the new Guidelines: culture of respect, Italian identity, equal opportunities, legality, and the fight against crime. What is planned"**

The Ministry of Education and Merit ("Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito") submitted the document containing the new Guidelines for the teaching of Civic Education to the Higher Council of Public Education (CSPI) on August 7th.

The Guidelines, on which the CSPI is required to provide a non-binding opinion, **will be in effect starting from the 2024/2025 school year** and will replace those initially implemented under Ministerial Decree No. 35 of June 22, 2020.

The text introduces important changes compared to the previous one, with a strong emphasis on certain key topics.

### **Centrality of the individual and culture of respect**

The Guidelines place the human individual at the center as the fundamental subject of history, emphasizing the importance of valuing each student's talents and fostering a culture of respect for every human being. From this stems the constitutional values of solidarity and freedom, the concept of democracy linked to popular sovereignty, and the primacy of the human being over any ideology.

### **Italian, European identity and the culture of the homeland**

The formation of a common Italian identity is promoted as an integral part of European and Western civilization. The link between civic responsibility and a sense of belonging to the national community, defined as the Homeland, a concept explicitly referenced in the Constitution, is highlighted. The aim is to foster the integration of foreign students and to value local territories and cultures.

### **Culture of duties and individual responsibility**

Alongside rights, the Guidelines emphasize the importance of duties towards the community, defined by Article 2 of the Constitution as "irrevocable duties of political, economic, and social solidarity". The need to teach respect for rules is highlighted to promote civil coexistence and the primacy of law over arbitrariness, with a focus on individual responsibility.

### **Promotion of an entrepreneurial culture**

For the first time, entrepreneurial culture is recognized as an expression of self-determination and a tool to address social challenges. Private economic initiative and private property, defined by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union as essential elements of individual freedom, are promoted.

In addition to the points already highlighted, the new Guidelines also emphasize a series of other crucial topics for the education of the citizens of tomorrow:

### **Legality and the fight against criminality**

The commitment to fighting all forms of illegality is strengthened, with a specific focus on education to combat mafias and organized crime. The goal is to promote virtuous and law-abiding behavior from a young age.

### **Sustainable development and protection of heritage**

The Guidelines emphasize the importance of economic growth that is compatible with environmental protection and improving quality of life. Respect for public assets is also promoted, from urban upkeep to the preservation of Italy's cultural and artistic heritage.

### **Health, well-being, and responsible lifestyles**

Great emphasis is placed on promoting health and responsible lifestyles, with particular attention to nutritional education, physical activity, and mental and physical well-being. The importance of combating addictions to drugs, smoking, alcohol, and doping is reinforced, with the scope also extended to address pathological use of the internet, gaming, and gambling.

### **Road safety and respect for the rules**

Road safety education is promoted as a tool to spread the culture of respecting traffic regulations, aimed at protecting both one's own safety and that of others.

### **Equal opportunities and culture of respect**

The Guidelines reaffirm the importance of a culture of respect towards women and the fight against all forms of gender discrimination, promoting equal opportunities in every area.

### **Financial and pension education**

Financial, insurance, and pension education is introduced as a tool to provide young people with the knowledge to manage their assets and resources responsibly.

### **Work culture and active citizenship**

The culture of work is emphasized from the early stages of education, presenting it as a foundational element of society and a means of personal fulfillment.

### **Responsible use of digital technology**

The Guidelines dedicate significant attention to educating on the ethical and responsible use of digital tools and electronic devices, emphasizing the importance of a conscious and critical approach to technology. In this regard, the ban on the use of smartphones from preschool through middle school is reaffirmed, even for educational purposes.