

Education in Haapsalu

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Haapsalu



Population – 12 824 inhabitants (01.01.2025)

Area – 272 km²

2017 – Haapsalu town and Ridala parish were merged



Haapsalu is known as a town of **health** and **wellness**.

100 km from the capital Tallinn.

Haapsalu was granted town rights in 1279.

Industry – mainly small and medium enterprises (up to 50 employees).



Elanike arv

12 824

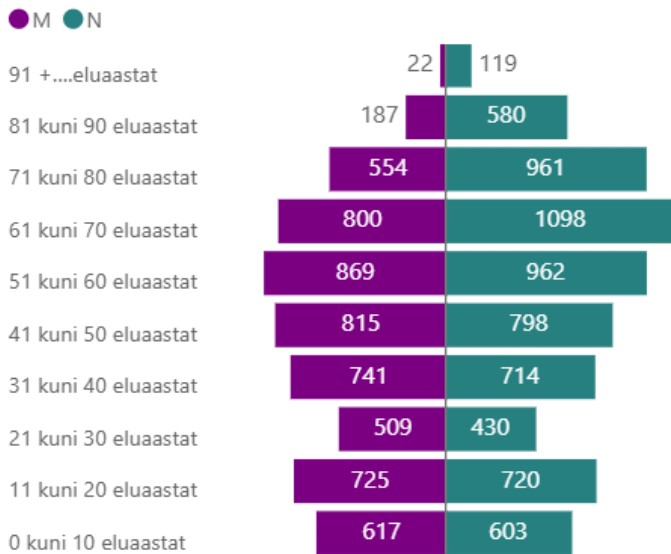
Muutus seisuga
31.12.2024
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Keskmine vanus

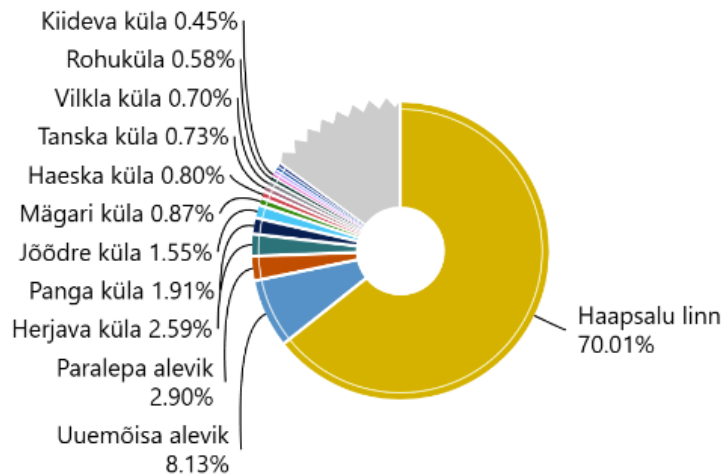
46,51



Rahvastikupüramiid



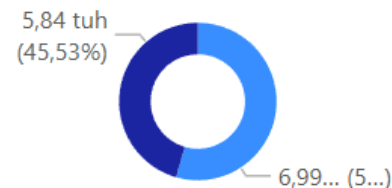
Elanike protsendiline jaotus paikkondade lõikes



SUGU

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Sooline jaotus



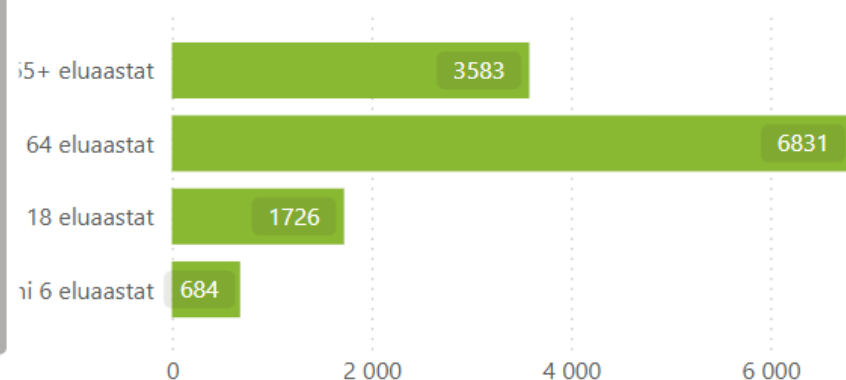
KODAKONDSUS KOKKU

EESTI	11481
VENEMAA	401
UKRAINA	370
MÄÄRATLEMATA	317
SOOME	100
Kokku	12824

Paikkonna elanike arv

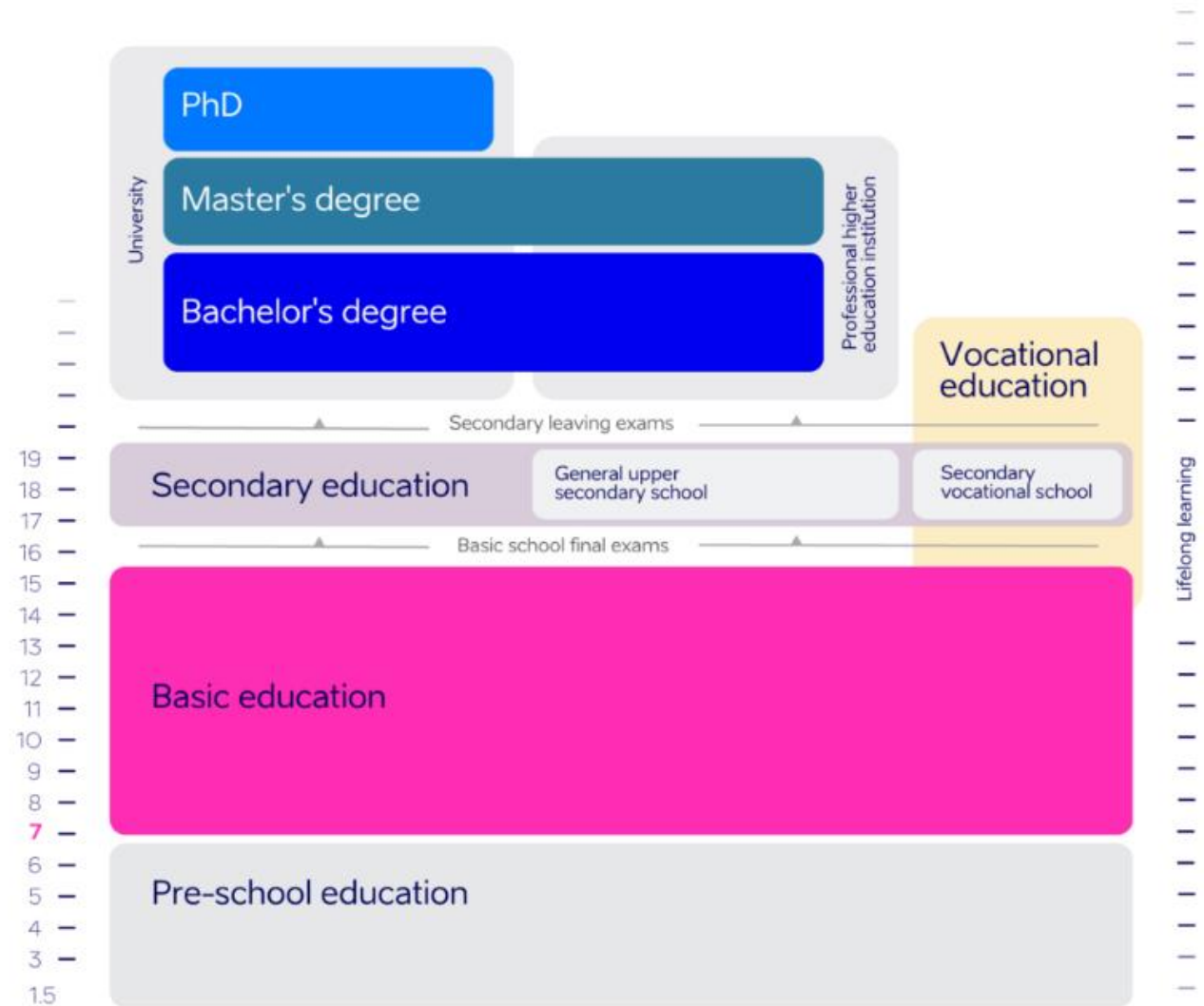
Vanusegrupp	Asuküla	Haapsalu linn	Haeska	Omavalitsuse täpsusega	Paralepa	Parila	Sinalepa	Uuemõisa
0 kuni 10 eluaastat	71	737	10	737	70	40	75	
11 kuni 20 eluaastat	64	951	10	951	83	54	67	
21 kuni 30 eluaastat	28	631	9	631	41	38	54	
31 kuni 40 eluaastat	73	936	15	936	68	55	86	
41 kuni 50 eluaastat	81	1058	14	1058	99	35	84	
51 kuni 60 eluaastat	81	1244	16	1244	77	55	94	
61 kuni 70 eluaastat	61	1388	13	1388	75	65	70	
71 kuni 80 eluaastat	35	1186	8	1186	50	34	57	
81 kuni 90 eluaastat	13	632	7	632	18	17	20	
Kokku	509	8882	102	8882	584	397	611	1

Vanusegruppide jaotus



Estonian education system

- 94% of 4- to 7-year-olds participate in the activities of pre-school institutions.
- PISA 2018 ja 2022: Estonian students rank 1st in Europe.
- All schools and pre-schools use e-solutions.



Pre-schools

- **Municipalities** are **obliged** to guarantee a place in a pre-school institution of the child's residence for all children between **1,5 and 7 years of age**.
- Not only childcare, but also part of learning with a **curriculum** and **methodological** activities.
- Most children know how to **read** and **write** when they start first grade at school.
- Child's development are documented in a **certificate** *school readiness card*, which must be submitted to the school the child attends.
- Learning and teaching activities are in **Estonian**.
- **Access** to speech therapists, special education teachers, psychological counselling.





Pre-schools in Haapsalu

Municipal kindergartens	
Kesklinna Lasteaiad Pääsupesa maja	109
Kesklinna Lasteaiad Tarekese maja	109
Kesklinna Lasteaiad Vikerkaare maja	109
Vanalinna Lasteaiad Päikesejänku maja	118
Vanalinna Lasteaiad Tõrukese maja	88
Uuemõisa Lasteaed-Algkool	42
Ridala Põhikooli Lasteaed	47
number of children	622
Private childcare	
MTÜ Lepatriinu Mängumaa	23
Total number of children	645

Parents **pay** for pre-schools (in Haapsalu):
for attendance – 49,2€ per month;
for food – about 2€ per day.

Today there are 21 children from
Ukraine in Haapsalu kindergartens.

Home language different from estonian – about 70



Basic education

- **Mandatory minimum** of general education (or the child reaches the minimum school leaving **age of 17**, soon **18**).
- Lasts from **grades 1 to 9**, three basic school graduation **exams**.
- Local government has a **duty** to provide basic education for all children **for free**.
- **Educational materials** are free for parents, also schools **meals**. Pencils, notebooks are bought by the parent.
- At least **four holidays** lasting a total of 12 weeks (including a summer holiday of eight weeks) during an academic year.
- Students are accepted to the school of their place of residence **without entry tests**.

Challenges in education:

- inclusive education and special needs;
- transition to Estonian-language education (eastern Estonia and Tallinn);
- teachers salary and lack of teachers.

Teachers' **minimum** salary in 2025 is 1820€

The estimated **average salary** of a teacher is 2184€

Lääne county **average salary** (II quarter 2024) is 1536€

Estonian **average salary** (II quarter 2024) is 2007€

Estonian **minimum salary:**

2024 – 820€

2025 – 886€



HAAPSALU
1279

Basic education in Haapsalu

Municipal schools	students
Haapsalu Linna Algkool (1-6 grades, primary school)	263
Haapsalu Põhikool (1-9 grades, elementary school)	642
Uuemõisa Algkool (1-6 grades, primary school)	148
Ridala Põhikool (1-9 grades, elementary school)	134
Total	1187

Budget of 2025

The cost of education from all expenses - **52,9%** (13 091 462€)

The schools are quite full, except the school in the rural area.

The **number of students** is quite stable. There have been no drastic increases or decreases, except at the beginning of the Ukrainian war (max +70 students in schools).



The educational **network is optimized**.

Fundamental structural changes have taken place, which were initiated by the **state**. The idea was that the municipality organizes and consolidates its education network, the state takes over the management of the gymnasium, and the municipality can apply for funding to build a new school building and/or renovate the old one.

We gave to the state management of 2 gymnasiums and an gymnasium for adults.

The Russian-language school was merged with the elementary school.

Haapsalu got a new school building.

The primary school building was renovated.

Accessibility and demographic trends

The town is small and a lot of people get around on **foot** or by **bicycle**.

There are 5 school **bus routes**, financed by the municipality. **Public transport** tries to take into account the start of school.

If the child's home is **more than 3 km** from the bus stop on **foot**, the municipality must ensure access (compensation for the use of a car).

We are monitoring **demographic trends** regularly.

For example, the Uuemõisa area is growing, we added one more group to the kindergarten, the effect will soon reach the school.

At the same time, the number of children in the Ridala area is decreasing and does not seem to be increasing soon. This school will probably need to be optimized in the future (combined classes, maybe 1-6 classes – no decision yet).

In many ways, it is a political decision.

Two schools have wheelchair accessibility to all floors.



Teamwork, cooperation and databases

At least once a month, a meeting of directors is held in the city government. We are in the same information room. It is a team, but **principals have the autonomy to decide school life.**

We carry out major projects and procurements **together.**

Cooperation with other schools, hobby schools and kindergartens in the county is also good.

Relationships and a **transparent funding policy** are important, we harmonize conditions in all schools (salary, support services, etc.).

Estonia has **national databases** (education portal, population register), which are **interconnected** and monitored by both the **state** and the **municipality.**

There is not much paper movement, we have **e-business.**

Information is collected about teachers, students, infrastructure etc.

State funding is based on the same databases.

The local government distributes state grants and money to schools, mainly based on the number of students.



Our problem areas

Inclusive education and special needs:

- teachers' readiness to deal with difficult students
- not all students are fitting to system
- the buildings are made according to regular students

Our solution:

Haapsalu Education Support Services Center:

speech therapists, special education teachers, social pedagogues, psychologists.

One institution distributes specialists between schools.

- Lack of teachers in some subjects (mathematics, physics, chemistry)
- Age of teachers (willingness to adapt to change)
- Project-based life (lack of stable money, but one-off projects)
- Changes in population





UUEMÕISA
LASTEAI-
ALGKOOL



Haapsalu
Põhikool



RIDALA KOOL
1959



HAAPSALU
1279

Secondary education in Haapsalu

- Secondary education is voluntary.
- Gymnasiums are mostly state-owned.
- The study programme at upper secondary school is arranged into **mandatory** and **voluntary** courses. Studies last for **3 years**.
- At the end of their studies, students must pass **three state exams, school examination and student study or practical work**.
- Attaining general secondary education entitles students to **continue** their studies at a **higher educational institution** or to obtain vocational education.



- nature-real direction
 - economic direction
 - humanitarian direction
 - social direction
 - health direction
- About 300 students

www.lyg.edu.ee



Vocational education in Haapsalu



Haapsalu
Kutsehariduskeskus

- Vocational schools are mostly state-owned.
- Vocational education is **free** and can be obtained **after basic school** as vocational secondary education (length: 3-4 years) or as vocational skills only without **general education** (length: 3 months to 2.5 years).
- Moving from vocational education to higher education and vice versa is becoming increasingly popular.

Haapsalu Vocational Training Centre:

- ICT
- Tourism, accommodation and catering
- Construction (building and decoration)
- Woodwork and handicrafts
- Social care and childcare
- Accounting and office work
- Basic and secondary education for adults

<https://hkhk.edu.ee/>



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1279

<https://www.educationestonia.org/vet/>

Higher education in Haapsalu

Levels of study:

- Bachelor's Degree
- Master's Degree
- Doctoral Degree

Professional higher education is a first cycle degree that has the purpose of providing the necessary competence for work in the relevant **profession** or for **continuing** studies at the **master's** level. The nominal length of studies is 3–4,5 years.



Tallinn University Haapsalu College:

- Community work in an aging society
- ICT
- Craft technologies and design
- Health management
- Traffic safety

www.tlu.ee/haapsalu



<https://studyinestonia.ee/study/higher-education-system-estonia>

Youth work

- **Municipalities** are responsible of youth work.
- **State** is a partner – financing projects, some fundings, regulations, legislation, statistics, umbrella organizations (youth workers, hobby schools etc).
- **Private sector (NGOs)** can offer hobby activities, camps, schools and youth centers if requirements are completed.
- **Youth** – between **7 and 26 years** of age.

- **Youth work:**
 - Hobby schools (based of curriculum)
 - Activities (based of interest)
 - Youth centers (registered, special requirements, municipal owned in Haapsalu)



Hobby schools (curriculum) in Haapsalu

Municipal hobby schools:		Students	Fee per month for kids
C. Kreegi nim Haapsalu Muusikakool	MUSIC	180	16-30€
Läänemaa Spordikool	SPORTS	316	15-20€
Haapsalu Kunstikool	ART	127+52 ADULTS	14-24€
Haapsalu Noorte Huvikeskus	different specialties	201	10-25€
	+ 4 YOUTH CENTRES		
	TOTAL	876	

Private hobby schools:		Students	Fee per month
Tehnoloogiakool INNOKAS	TECHNOLOGY	96	36€
Haapsalu Tennisekool	TENNIS	100	20-40€

About **1600** residents are 7-17 year olds.

About **1080** participate either in a hobby school or in some activity



Hobby activities

Activities at school

Choir and ensemble (singing)

Folk dance

Sports – volleyball, sport games etc

Culture – art, ceramics, handicraft, traffic, reading, board games, acting, Spanish, musical instruments etc

Infotechnology – robotics, programming etc

Financed through the school (city budget), free of charge for parents.

Private activities

Music – singing (choir, ensemble, solo)

Sports – horse riding, sailing, swimming, football, motocross

Dance – ballet, modern dance, street dance, folk dance, circus

Infotechnology, robotics

Camps and summer/vacation activities.

Organized mainly by non-profit associations.

Parents pay the fee.

Municipality supports the organizations:

- through funding received from the state
- and from the city budget.



Thank you!

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Haapsalu City Government
23.11.2023

