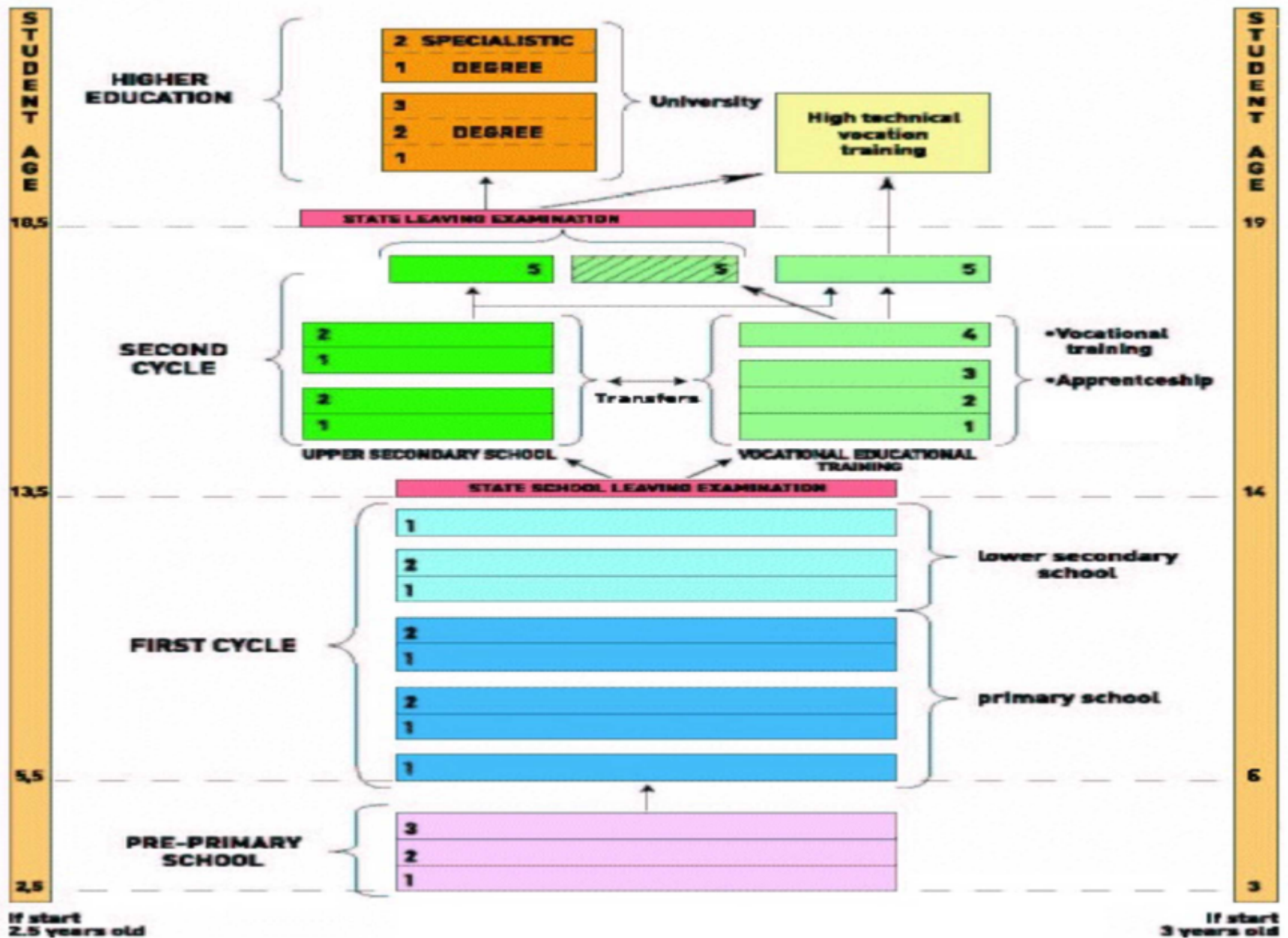




MINISTERO DELL'ISTRUZIONE DELL'UNIVERSITA' E DELLA RICERCA

The Italian Education System







First cycle of education

The first cycle of education is compulsory and is made up of primary and lower secondary education.

- Primary education (scuola primaria) starts at 6 years of age and lasts 5 years
- Lower secondary education (scuola secondaria di I grado) starts at 11 years of age and lasts 3 years

The aim of this level in the education system is to provide pupils with basic learning and the basic tools of active citizenship. It helps pupils to understand the meaning of their own experiences.



Second cycle

The second cycle of education, starting from 14 years, is made up of general and vocational upper secondary schools:

- General upper secondary schools, (5 years), with 6 types of Liceo (with a specialisation in Arts, Classical studies, Sciences, Languages, Dancing, Music, Humanities);
- Vocational education and training schools, (5 years), made up of Technical (Economy/Technology) and Professional Institutions (Services/Crafts and Industry)
- At the end of this cycle, students should pass an Upper Secondary Education Leaving Examination (State Examination) and according to their pathways they receive a Diploma liceale, a Diploma di istruzione tecnica or a Diploma di istruzione professionale. These qualifications will give them access to higher education in Universities or higher vocational Institutions.



Second cycle

- At the end of the first cycle, students can also start a vocational training pathway (3-4 years) run by vocational training Agencies accredited by the Regions.
- Three-year vocational training courses lead to the qualification of 'worker in +', while four-year courses lead to the qualification 'technician in +'.
- There is also a pathway which alternates between work experience and the classroom (apprenticeship) starting from 15 years which allows young people to acquire basic knowledge plus skills they will be able to put into practice on the job market.



MINISTERO DELL'ISTRUZIONE DELL'UNIVERSITA' E DELLA RICERCA

Higher Education

- General Education:
Universities
Polytechnics
Arts and Music High Education
- Vocational Education:
Higher Technical Institutes ITS