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## Documents of the National Archives of Armenia from 1918-1920 on Armenian language schools in Georgia

The documents of the National Archive of Armenia serve as an important source for the scientific study of the history of the Armenian-language educational institutions in Georgia, and especially valuable is Fund No. 441 of the Armenian National Council of Georgia.

In the beginning of the 1918-1919 academic year the Government of the Republic of Georgia decided to nationalize the state secondary schools that were to be divided into Georgian, Armenian and Russian schools according to the language of instruction. By the decision of the Ministry of Education two secondary schools in Tbilisi, Nº II for men and Nº III for women were completely devoted to the Armenian pupils and in Gymnasiums  $N^{\circ}$  IV and  $N^{\circ}$  V there were Armenian departments. There were 2868 Armenian pupils at these schools. In addition to the state Armenian secondary schools, there were non-state educational institutions of the same level in Tbilisi - Nersisyan, Hovnanyan (Ananyan) and Gayanyan. In the Georgian capital in the 1919-1920 academic year there were 18 Armenian primary schools run by the city municipality. Including 11 elementary schools of the lower type: in Avlabar № I, IV, V and Oriordats, in Navtlug, in Kukia № 1 and VI, in Sololaki, named after Pushkin № II, Tsaturyan, Izmaylovyan.

Through the efforts of local Armenians, a private Armenian grammar school was opened in the city of Telavi. There were three state Armenian primary schools in Kvemo Kartli province. Two in Shulaver and one in the village of Gushchi of Tsalka

district, which was the only educational centre for 13 purely Armenian villages of the district. There were a total of 10 Armenian language schools in Javakheti province during this period. The public school of Velistsikhe (Kakheti province, Sgnakh district) had 115 Armenian pupils. Only two functioning parochial schools remained in the Borchalu region: in Aghbulakh (now Tetri Tskharo) and Durnuk. In August 1918, the Armenian National Council of Georgia decided to transfer the schools belonging to the local Armenian Diocese under its jurisdiction. The board of the school in the village of Kavtiskhevi (Shida Kartli province) agreed to subordinate the school, which was previously funded by the Union of Armenian Priests, to the Armenian National Council of Georgia, as the latter undertook the payment of the school's teachers. Gradually about 50 Armenian Folk schools came under the management of the Armenian National Council of Georgia. In August 1919 the Armenian National Council of Georgia adopted «The Statute of Armenian Folk Schools of Georgia». According to it, education started at the age of 7. In addition, starting from the 1919-1920 academic year the Armenian National Council introduced co-education of boys and girls in its primary schools.