

School hours to be cut as part of 'major changes'

By George Psyllides

SCHOOL attendance is to be cut by one hour a day as part of a major overhaul in the education system, Education Minister Andreas Demetriou said yesterday.

Demetriou was speaking after a cabinet meeting where he briefly alluded to "big change" without getting into specifics.

"There will be "changes on many fronts," the minister said.

Demetriou said these concerned "changes in the new syllabus which is being prepared, printed, and will be published within the next few days."

"This is the heart of the changes in public education, from kindergarten to lyceum," Demetriou said.

Regarding primary education, there will be a change in the allocation of time with a significant decrease

in material and teaching times by six hours a week.

There will also be a cut in school hours by an hour every day, the minister said. The new state of affairs will do away with the unified lyceum, moving to a new lyceum involving study cycles.

The unified lyceum provided that students chose individual courses in accordance with their preferred area of study. The new system involves the choice of a field of study such as economics, science, humanities, engineering and foreign languages.

The first class of the new lyceum will be common for all, while in the last two students will choose out of 14 fields of study.

"The aim is for students to have a more critical mind, be more autonomous, more creative and speak better Greek," the minister said.

Demetriou also announced from the start of the new academic year trimesters will be changed to four-month periods for high-schools and lyceums.

"We have given our proposal to (the teachers union) OELMEK and essentially there is agreement on principle," Demetriou said. "The intention is for the new syllabus to be introduced in March this year, with a great extension of its implementation in September."

CYPRUS MAIL

Τετάρτη, 24 Φεβρουάριος 2010, p. 4

