

Russia to Drop Ukrainian Language From School Curriculum – Kommersant

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Dmitry Yagodkin / TASS

Russia plans to remove Ukrainian language and literature education from the national school curriculum, including in occupied Ukrainian territories, the Kommersant business daily [reported](#), citing a draft Education Ministry order.

The Education Ministry cited the “changed geopolitical situation” as the reason for its decision, according to Kommersant.

Ukrainian has until now been a mandatory offering for Ukrainian children at schools in the partially occupied Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions of Ukraine.

In other Russian regions and occupied Ukrainian territories, Ukrainian language lessons have been made available upon request by parents. In the 2023–2024 school year, these lessons were requested in annexed Crimea, the partially occupied Donetsk and Luhansk regions and the republic of Bashkortostan.

Currently, students in regions where Ukrainian is taught study the language for a total of 736 hours from elementary through high school.

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The [draft order](#) also excludes Ukrainian literature as a subject from first through ninth grades, where it had accounted for 282 hours of instruction. Ukrainian literature would remain as a subject only in grades 10 and 11.

“It’s hard to believe that the same people who are trying to eradicate the Ukrainian language in captured territories are demanding respect for the Russian language in territories which they are unable to capture,” independent political analyst Abbas Gallyamov [wrote](#) of the move on his Telegram channel.

Since launching its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Russia has been accused of carrying out a mass campaign to erase Ukrainian identity and culture on the lands it has captured.

As recently as November 2024, President Vladimir Putin said that the Ukrainian language “has its own charm and beauty, as does all Ukrainian culture,” but accused Kyiv of allegedly forcing native Russian speakers to learn Ukrainian.

He [urged](#) authorities to refrain from forcibly imposing the Russian language on people in the occupied regions, saying that language policy should be “gentle and natural.”

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In the first year of the invasion, Putin cautioned officials against any attempts to ban the Ukrainian language, noting that some 3 million Ukrainians live in Russia.

“How could we deny them their language and culture? We have no such desires,” [he said](#).

In the spring of 2025, the new literature textbook for Russian schools reportedly [omitted](#) references related to Ukraine, including information about the writer Nikolai Gogol’s Ukrainian origins.

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