

# *New School Year Begins in Cuba*

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Havana, September 1 (RHC) — A new academic year begins today September 1st in Cuba, with almost two million students going back to school at the elementary, high school and university levels.

Teaching and support staff are committed to continue raising the quality of instruction and focusing on the comprehensive development of students, with a commitment not only to rigorous academic standards but also the acquisition of values and tools with which to understand the world -- that is the development of civic-minded, ethical individuals capable of transforming current realities.

The Ministries of Education and Higher Education recently reported that the material conditions at educational facilities across the country are prepared to receive increased enrollments in technical professional and high schools, as well as 2,700 more children at preschool day care centers.

Officials also reported that 17.5 million dollars were spent to import school supplies, and that renovations, maintenance and repairs at 2,584 schools have been completed.

These efforts include the installation of Physics, Chemistry and Biology labs in secondary schools, meeting the needs of 89% of these schools. It was noted that 100% should have these facilities by 2016.

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