

# Suriname

## *School Classes*

The primary method of academic evaluation in Suriname is via written and oral tests. Some subjects do also factor in homework or group assignments. Students are expected to do their daily homework and they must participate actively in class. In high school, students have different students in different classes taught by different teachers. Boys and girls both attend the same classes and can be seated next to each other.

## *School Relationships*

Students in Suriname have a strict formal relationship with teachers. They must call them by their last name.

## *Extracurricular Activities*

There are few, if any, extracurricular activities offered through school in Suriname. Most students will join community sports clubs for their extracurriculars. Most friendships are established through school, and not through participation in activities.

## *School Rules*

All schools have mandatory school uniforms. Policies regarding cell phone use or fighting in school carry similar consequences.

## *Return*

Returning YES Suriname student can go on to the next grade if the Ministry of Education has evaluated that the subjects studied in the U.S. had similarities with those of Suriname and that the necessary learning goals have been met.

## *Family Life*

In Suriname, the man is the primary financial provider and holds the most authority in the home. In Suriname, meals may be eaten all together as a family, or separately depending on family members' schedules.

While it is important to always be respectful, many Surinamese teenagers interact informally with all of their family members.

## *Teen Life*

According to Surinamese culture teens always ask permission before borrowing something.

## *Parental Involvement*

Many Surinamese parents are in direct contact with their children's school and are kept aware of their academic progress.

## *Pets*

It is not common for a family to have pets in the home in Suriname.

## *Personal Interactions*

### *Mixed Gender Socializing*

In school teenage boys and girls socialize together, but they remain separate outside of school.

### *Friendships*

Most students make friends at school, in the neighborhood and through family. Friendship means a lot to Surinamese teenagers.

### *Communication Styles*

In Suriname, parents are very strict and communication is very indirect and formal. Students do not typically express their own opinions to their elders. It is common to show negative emotions to their peers, but teens will not display negative emotions to elders.



## **COUNTRY FACTS:**

**Capital:** Paramaribo

**Population:** 486,618

**Area, sq. mi.:** 63,235

**Real GDP per capita:** 9,500

**Adult literacy rate:** 92% (male); 87% (female)

**Ethnic make-up:** Hindustani (also known locally as "East Indians"; their ancestors emigrated from northern India in the latter part of the 19th century) 37%, Creole (mixed white and black) 31%, Javanese 15%, "Maroons" (their African ancestors were brought to the country in the 17th and 18th centuries as slaves and escaped to the interior) 10%, Amerindian 2%, Chinese 2%, white 1%, other 2%

**Religion:** Hindu 27.4%, Protestant 25.2% (predominantly Moravian), Roman Catholic 22.8%, Muslim 19.6%, indigenous beliefs 5%

### ***Eye contact***

Traditionally, Surinamese youth would look down when talking with elders, however today, most make eye contact when talking, even to elders.

### ***Cultural Norms***

Surinamese households tend to be quite full and family time is very important. Students are not accustomed to spending time alone or to pursuing individual interests.

### ***Personal Hygiene***

Typically in Suriname students shower twice a day. Students are not accustomed to household chores including keeping the bathroom clean and dry. It is common to wear a shirt and pants two days in a row without washing. Students will typically change into house clothes when returning home from an outside activity.

### ***Religion***

In Suriname, religious events are family and often community affairs.

### ***Holidays***

New Year (Jan 1)

Christmas (Dec 25/26)

Easter (April)

Eid al-Fitr (Muslim)

Phagwa (Hindu)

Independence Day (Nov 25)

Labor Day (May 1)

Day of the Emancipation (July 1) – abolition of slavery