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Tatar Language and the Education System in the Republic of Tatarstan

Since 1992, the Republic of Tatarstan (Russia) has had two official languages, Russian and Tatar, meaning that school-age children of all ethnic backgrounds are required to learn both languages. This mandate brought Tatar back to the school system after decades of Russian-only instruction, requiring educators to develop a Tatar-language program from scratch. In this presentation, I discuss the successes and persisting problems in Tatar-language instruction in Tatarstan, and I explore the topic of Tatar as a possible model for other minority or endangered languages in the process of developing their own educational programs.