

Education Policies



The Ministry of Education (MOE) implements educational policies to develop the full potential of individual citizens and to improve the overall qualities of the citizenry. As mentioned earlier, with the launching of the Alliance for the Education Reform Movement in 1994, the members of the alliance pushed for education modernization and helped forge a consensus for education reform among the general public. The government reacted immediately with concrete measures to meet the demands of society.

Higher Education

World-class research centers as well as first-class and outstanding universities and colleges are pursued goals. The MOE encourages the establishment of cross-school research centers as well as the invitation of academic experts and researchers from all over the world. Moreover, it oversees the merging of universities or encourages cooperation between institutions to develop a world-class university.

To maintain and improve the quality of higher education, the MOE has put in place the mecha-

nism of university evaluation. It also encourages more flexibility among local higher educational institutions to boost their autonomy and competitiveness.

Vocational Education

Reviewing vocational education policy and system, the MOE increased subsidies for the private vocational education institutions. Subsidies were also granted on a competitive basis.

The MOE promotes the "last-mile course," which prepares students to enter the job markets. It also encourages and assists vocational education students to obtain certificates. The MOE actively promotes cooperation and exchange between schools as well as with the industrial sector. International exchanges in vocational education are promoted, too.

Upper Secondary Education

There are two types of institutions for students above the junior high school level. They are senior high and senior vocational schools, both taking three years to complete. Senior vocational schools offer courses in areas such as agriculture, industry, business, maritime studies, marine products drama and art.

The MOE is also planning to extend the compulsory education to twelve years to improve the qual-

ity of education and to boost the literacy rate.

Primary and Junior High Education

Depending on the needs of local governments, schools and teachers, Taiwan government now empowers them to decide the curriculum and teaching materials for their students. This empowerment manifests the most important value of the Nine-Year Integrated Curriculum with Multi-edition Teaching Materials.

Merging Kindergartens and Nurseries

The MOE favors merging kindergartens and nurseries to open up sufficient learning opportunities for children under five years of age and to give them a better learning environment.

Special Education

Regarding special education, the MOE focuses on the pre-school education needs of the challenged children. Teachers and civic groups are expected to bring their functions to full play in developing special education.

Fostering Teachers Qualifications

To strengthen teachers' qualification in primary and junior high schools, the MOE has been actively developing and adjusting available courses for teachers.

Moreover, it assists teacher training colleges and normal universities in introducing reforms. The MOE also provides teachers in primary and junior high schools opportunities for their practical training and life-long learning.

Life-long Learning

To build a life-long learning network and system, the MOE engaged in putting in place the non-formal learning certification system and encouraged employers to provide on-the-job training.

The MOE not only focuses on marriage and the family as part of adult education, but also encourages the improvement of the quality of social education institutions and community colleges, which provide life-long education.

International Exchanges

To encourage international exchanges, the MOE has seen to an increase in the two-way flow of students. Its policies help to attract foreign students to study in Taiwan.

Reform in the system of government funding allocation makes it easier for Taiwanese students to study overseas.

Strengthening National Identity

To bring about greater awareness of Taiwan's national identity, the MOE has been implementation policies like focusing on improving learning about the arts as well as physical education.

The MOE also assists in improving education in schools attended by minorities. It carries out the policy of providing equal education opportunities, including the nine-year compulsory schooling, for children born to couples who are partly foreigners.

Improving Study Environment

The MOE will encourage the building of a healthy and harmonious learning environment, tapping and integrating resources of local government, universities and colleges.

The MOE will get schools to address concerns regarding campus safety and cleanliness as well as environmental protection, including greening of campus, based on sustainable management.

Digital learning will be enhanced by strengthening the competence of teachers and students in the use of computers and the Internet. A better distribution of resources, depending on needs, will help bridge the learning environment gap between the urban and the remote rural areas.



Major Education Policies for 2006

Embracing Globalism

This concept requires vastly expanded international exchanges. The MOE has overseen an increase in the two-way flow of students by promoting the learning of foreign languages, and Taiwan's advanced technology, becoming a model for Taiwan's southeastern neighbors. In this manner, Taiwan has become an exporter of ideas.

Foreign Students Learn Mandarin Here

The Mandarin Enrichment Scholarship Program is expected to benefit 270 students from over 37 countries this year. Foreign students could receive NT\$ 25,000 per month that also covers the pre-requisite one-year Mandarin course before university.

The Ministry of Education has made available the Taiwan Scholarship for foreign students interested in studying in Taiwan. The MOE will also subsidize tuition fees and accommodations of Mandarin teachers in promoting the learning of Mandarin in foreign primary, secondary and post-secondary schools. MOE will provide Mandarin teachers employed overseas with US\$1,000 for living expenses and US\$300 for educational materials (in addition to the salary paid by the foreign educational institution).

New Face of a Campus

To build a progressive, stable, clean and healthy environment, the Ministry of Education made a plan that includes ecological creation and green construction. By understanding a campus's location, culture, history and ecological uniqueness, a multi-dimensional campus could be constructed with practical educational functions. The Ministry of Education's Four Year plan has as one of its primary objectives that of creating a healthy campus. The aim is to develop a friendly campus where teachers are reliable and know how to use their hearts, and students are happy.

Nurturing Versatility

One important development in Taiwan's educational system is nurturing versatile human talent. Education is becoming more diversified and internationalized around the world. Taiwan's TAV education leads in having cooperation between industrial enterprises and schools where education is aimed at increasing students' skills in the working world after graduation.

The plan to nurture versatility includes expanded foreign language education for senior high school students; boosting the competitiveness of technological and vocational (TAV) education by increased cooperation between industry and schools; and training artistic talent by encouraging students to join international art and design competitions.

The Current School System

