

# An Overview



The Ministry of Education is part of the Executive Yuan and is responsible for national academic and educational administration, including education policy planning and legislation and supervision of educational matters. As the originator of education policies, the Ministry is committed to the adaptation and innovation of the education system. First of all, in concert with Taiwan's "New Southbound Policy," based on the core value of "people-orientation, bilateral interaction, resource sharing," the Ministry will develop and strengthen cooperation with the New Southbound Policy countries; secondly, in order to promote the "Youth Education and Employment Development Personal Account Project," through subsidies, it will offer the students the opportunity to explore occupations and establish the right professional value system; thirdly, in order to implement the policy ideal of "complete exam-free admission and nearby enrollment," the Ministry will promote 12-year Basic Education in a stable way and look forward to the promotion of new policies bringing new opportunities for

the development of education. In addition, the Ministry will present 13 key policy points to make education policies able to link up with the current practice of education, serve as a partner to local governments and schools, and continue to strengthen communication and dialogue with each sector of society while improving the coordination and efficiency of each system.

Education has always been highly valued in Taiwan. Our education system is currently a 6-3-3-4 structure which offers compulsory education as well as teacher training and vocational education. Although preschool education is not part of the compulsory education and educational system, the government provides assistance to toddlers in financially disadvantaged families to enter the school system early, which has led to an increase in the number of pupils attending preschools enrolling children from age 2-6. On Jan. 1, 2012, kindergartens and nurseries were integrated as preschools into the education system. Elementary school lasts for six years, from age 6-12; junior high school three years,

from age 12-15; compulsory education was extended to 9 years in SY 1968, which includes elementary and junior high school; in SY 2014 the period was extended to 12 years to cover senior secondary school. Senior secondary school lasts for three years between the ages of 15 and 18; university undergraduate education is four years, masters level graduate education one to four years, and doctoral education two to seven years. In addition, to offer the general public a broader range of continuing education options, there is also supplementary education and continuing education as well as special education for students with special needs due to extraordinary talent or mental/physical disability. Widely available lifelong learning courses give the general public an opportunity to extend their learning experience.

Education is a learning process that advances and improves without interruption. In Taiwan, the student is the core and subject of education, and the education values the individual differences and learning progress of the learner, allowing the multifaceted learning and the right of control to return into the hands of the learner, while moving toward multicultural and multiple value educational development. The hope is that the new generation of young people can pay attention to public issues, respect each other, and reflect the civic education of participation in public affairs. As each type of education policy needs cooperation between the Ministry and each sector, expect that under the joint continued pragmatic promotion, even more resources and effort will be invested to jointly develop the new pattern of Taiwan's education. ■

## The Education Administration System 2017

