

Educational Reform

To help children grow up happily and healthily, the Ministry of Education has developed a road map aiming to offer a healthier and safer campus, provide a high-quality learning environment and create a pleasant learning atmosphere.

The blueprint includes hundreds of plans and projects that achieve innovative education, sustainable development and diverse values, and that cultivate competitive citizens with a global outlook.

The following fifteen administrative and governance directions were decided in early 2010.

1. Administrative Efficiency: Implementation and overhaul of the organizational structure; improve administrative efficiency; and recreate a flexible, effective ministry.

2. Preschool Education: The percentage of preschoolers climbed from 89.88 percent in 2007 to 92.12 percent in 2009. To provide equal education opportunities for preschool children, particularly those from disadvantaged families in remote areas, the MOE implemented the first phase of a project on free tuition for five-year-olds, which started in August 2010 on the outlying islands, such as Kinmen, Matsu, Penghu, the Green Island, the Orchid Island and



the Liuqiu Township, Pingtung County, plus some indigenous towns, including the Wulay Township, Taipei County, and the Heping Village, Taichung County.

3. Compulsory Education: Create a happy, diverse learning environment that helps students develop their individual personalities and strengthens the quality of education by downsizing the number of students in each class. The average numbers of students in a class at the elementary and junior high school levels were reduced to 27 and 33, respectively in 2009. Courses taught at schools should not only enable students to view Taiwan from an in-depth perspective, but should also help to build their characters and allow their aesthetic sensitivities to grow. Taiwan now offers compulsory education for nine years, from primary school to junior high school, but the ministry aims to extend compulsory education to cover both



senior secondary school and early childhood schooling to create a more complete educational structure.

4. Senior Secondary Education: Bridge the learning gap between rural and urban high schools. The ministry announced a new plan to level tuition fees for public and private high schools and to lay the foundations for 12-year compulsory education. This programme, starting in the SY 2010, aims to provide subsidies for students who study at public and private high schools or five-year junior colleges, whose annual household income does not exceed NT\$ 900,000.

5. Safe Campuses: Help schools resume classes after natural disasters such as typhoons or earthquakes; assist schools in the flood-stricken or quake-ravaged areas with the reconstruction of their campuses; provide emergency financial support and strengthen measures to ensure campus safety.

6. Swimming Education: In 2009, only 42 percent of graduates from nationwide elementary, junior high and senior high schools could swim. To cut the number of deaths by drowning, the ministry has promoted swimming education by building swimming pools in counties to narrow the gap between rural and urban swimming facilities.

7. Vocational Education: Improve the learning environment for vocational students; enhance cooperation between industry and academia; implement a system of professional certificates; and establish a proper evaluation of vocational schools.

8. Higher Education: Sharpen the global competitiveness of colleges and universities; continue to push for cooperation amongst academia and different teaching fields; establish research and development centers in collaboration with prestigious universities worldwide; bring higher education and economic development together to upgrade national competitiveness; and cultivate professionals who are willing to make a contribution to society.

9. Flexible Compensation Plans: Promote flexible compensation and benefit plans to attract distinguished



scholars; recruit and retain good faculty in Taiwan's colleges; and respect universities' autonomy.

10. Cross-strait Exchanges: Enhance cross-strait cultural and educational exchanges; allow Chinese students to study in Taiwan; increase international academic exchanges with initiatives such as a nationwide training and certification project for host families of international students in Taiwan; publicise overseas study programs and counselling; and encourage overseas study trips for students in senior high schools or vocational schools.

11. Tradition of Respecting Teachers: Resume giving awards to senior and outstanding teachers in 2010; and boost teachers' morale.

12. Private Schools: Establish a regulatory mechanism for pension funds at private schools; and ensure the rights of faculty and staff at private schools.

13. Underprivileged Students: Enhance the regulation and efficiency of the ministry's scholarship program; and provide financial support for underprivileged students.

14. Moral Education: Promote moral campuses; enhance moral culture; innovate moral-teaching methods; blend moral education with community service; implement a plan of life education; and strengthen all-around development for students.

15. Lifelong Learning: Promote the 2010 Vision for Lifelong Learning and encourage all citizens to develop a habit of doing exercise 30 minutes, learning 30 minutes and helping people every day.