



## SPECIAL EDUCATION

To provide more complete and up-to-date educational training for students, with mental and physical challenges, the MOE setup a pre-school special education program to help these students better prepare for their primary school education experience.

In SY 2010, a total of 304 pre-school courses were attended by 11,280 students with special needs, 3-6 years of age. To ensure the continuation of this successful program, the MOE allotted NT\$155 million dollars to kindergartens, so that they would be able to arrange courses that fit the needs of their students, purchase necessary learning resource materials and for the creation of safe learning environments for the children.

In the near future, Taiwan will implement a 12-year compulsory education system. The welfare of students with special needs remains a priority for the Ministry of Education. Therefore, in order to be prepared to meet the ever-growing needs of these children, the MOE in 2009, asked high schools and vocational schools to arrange specific courses to meet the needs of special education children attending their schools and school districts. The response was the development of 818 courses and by SY2010, this number rose

to 894 courses meeting the needs of 21,526 students.

To support special needs students that would like to attend institutions of higher education, the MOE works closely with 15 educational institutions to provide qualified students with avenues for admission. In SY 2010, the number of granted admissions for students totaled 702, thus making the total number of students with special needs attending institutions of higher education 10,853. Additionally, grants are also available to students at some private institutions of higher education.

### Special Education for Talented and Gifted Students

*The Special Education Act* provides opportunities for those talented or gifted students whose exceptional abilities lie in the areas of the fine arts, sports, science or other academic areas.

Once a student has been identified, he/she will be able to have early admittance to school, which is normally at the age of seven years, can enroll in courses beyond their grade level and advance to grade levels suitable for their abilities. Students possessing potential talent, especially

in specific areas, will receive recommended admission to schools at an advanced level and perhaps, scholarship support.

Unlike gifted students, the evaluation standards for students with special talents are based on: entering international contests and winning prizes, having outstanding performances at a science event hosted by academic research institutions; or to undertaken original research, producing outstanding published articles; or demonstrating recognized outstanding leadership capabilities recommendations by related academic institutions.

