



## 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. To improve the efficiency of our government, recent organizational restructuring has been carried out with the Ministry of Education Organization Act passed Feb. 3, 2012 and set to go into effect Jan. 1, 2013.*

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. Kindergarten age is roughly four to six, and although kindergarten attendance is not part of compulsory education, the government provides assistance to toddlers in poor families to enter the school system early, which has led to an increase in the number of pupils in kindergarten. On Jan. 1, 2012, kindergartens and nurseries were integrated as preschools in the education

system. Elementary school lasts for six years, from age 6 to 12; junior high school three years, from age 12-15; (compulsory education was extended from 6 years to 9 years in 1968, to include junior high school; in 2014 the period will be extended to 12 years to cover senior high school) senior high school three years, age 15-18; 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.

Currently the total number of schools at all levels (including kindergartens and nurseries) is about 8,100, making for a distribution ratio of 224 schools per 1,000 square kilometers. The total number of students is 4.86 million, making for an average of 209 students per 1,000

in the general population. The total number of teachers is about 270,000, meaning each teacher teaches an average of 18 students. In recent years the density of schools has increased, while the number of students per teacher has decreased, and the total number of students at the college level or above has increased. At the same time, the literacy rate of the population 15 years old and above reached 98.2% at the end of 2011, of which 69.7% had an education level of senior high school or higher.

Different stages of education ought to focus on different aspects of development. Therefore we

hope to achieve “healthy and happy growth for pre-schoolers”, “a happy and lively learning experience for elementary school students”, “balanced and well-rounded development for junior high school students”, “increased general knowledge for senior high school students”, “development of basic skills for vocational high school students”, “professional knowledge acquisition for university students”, “professional skills nurturing for vocational college students”, “independent research skills for graduate students”, “lifelong learning for the general public”, and “cultural adaptation for new migrants”.

### THE EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM 2012

