

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.

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 from 6 years to 9 years in SY1968, to include junior high school; in SY2014 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.

In SY2013, the total number of schools, including preschools is 11,428, which is an average of 316 schools per thousand square km with a total of 4.86 million students, an average of 208 students per thousand people. There are about 300,000 teachers nationwide. The percentages of teachers with master's degree or above in elementary schools, junior high schools and senior high schools are 44%, 41% and 52% respectively. The percentage of teachers in universities, colleges and junior colleges with Doctoral degree and above is 73%, which is an increase

of 24% compared to 10 years ago. The improvement in the quality of teachers benefits the students' education. In addition, the number of students per class in junior high schools and elementary schools are 30 and 24 students, respectively, with 13 students per teacher. The gross enrollment rate is 83.9%. The literacy rate for those aged 15 and above was 98.4% at the end of 2013, among which, 40.7%

have received higher education. All educational indicators are experiencing positive growth.

In the face of globalization of education, the government recently is trying to promote the export of higher education in recent years. Foreign student enrollment is increasing because of measures that attract foreign students, such as the establishment of a friendly

study environment, a subsidy for overseas promotion by universities, colleges and junior colleges, encouragement for schools to increase their enrollment quota, and additional scholarships for foreign students. As of 2013, the number had reached a new height with 78,261 students, which is about 5.8% of the total universities, colleges and junior colleges enrollment and an increase of 3.5% over 6 years. ●



The Education Administration System 2014

