Education in Taiwan
2014 / 2015

The Current School System

Including non-school mode of experimental education

Note: The duration of medicine school is shortened from 7 years to 6 years since SY2013.

Education Reform

Implement White Paper on Human Resource Development to Actively Nurture Top Talents

Improve faculty quality for compulsory education, and implement teacher training and an evaluation system to improve the quality of education and care. 12-year Basic Education will normalize and revitalize the compulsory education system, create a sophisticated senior high school education and promote high quality, leadership and excellence in senior high schools. The Ministry has formulated the Technological and Vocational Education Act; established industrial colleges as a collaborative mechanism and platform for industry, government and academics; expedited the improvement and discontinuation of private universities, colleges and junior colleges; and studied the internationalization of education and deployment of global recruits. In addition, the Ministry has also established an effective evaluation tracking mechanism.

Fully Implement Early Childhood Education and Care Act to Promote Quality Preschool Education and Care

Establish and promote Temporary Guidelines for Preschool Activities and Curriculum and plan for the training of personnel in charge of the promotion of said Temporary Guidelines. Conduct workshops and observations on course outlines and strengthen the professional skills of education and care personnel. Study and compile educational resources related to the Temporary Guidelines and assist education and
care personnel to fulfill the spirit of the Temporary Guidelines and develop appropriate curriculum and teaching methods. Comply with the Early Childhood Education and Care Act, which aims at providing affordable and convenient education and care, reach consensus with local governments to increase the supply of public education and care services year by year, changing the ratio of public

**C Implement 12-year Basic Education to Revitalize Teaching and Promote Independent Student Learning with Differentiated Development**

12-year Basic Education has been developed based on multiple perspectives, including the country, society and students, with a core philosophy of helping students develop their skills according to their aptitudes, and to guide students through adaptive development with multiple options. The Ministry of Education promotes adaptive counseling in junior high schools and multiple admissions as well as adaptive development in senior high schools to fulfill career counseling in senior high schools and promote quality and sophisticated development in all senior high schools. In addition, there will be ongoing promotion of admission methods and adaptive counseling to introduce the philosophy behind exam-free admission and special examination admission and the importance of implementing adaptive counseling in junior high schools to help students choose what they love and love what they choose. Schools are also encouraged to hold special programs to such programs, to hopefully help students choose appropriate quality schools and achieve the goal of tailoring learning according to their aptitudes.

**D Enhance the Connection Between Industry and Academics to Build Quality Recruits**

Guide universities and colleges to be the creator of innovative technology for industries and form a closer partnership with industry in R&D, intellectual property and incubation. Encourage faculty and students to start their own businesses, help bring industry innovations and promote derivative businesses through personnel secondment, capital investment and technology infusion to turn the outcome of research and development into business and for derivative businesses to help schools continue to do research on technological innovation. Establish industrial colleges at universities and colleges of technology, (including non-profit) to private preschools from 3:7 to 4:6, and conduct by three operational models as well as increasing public preschools, non-profit ones, encourage private preschools from charitable organizations to transfer into non-profit preschools to help make childcare more affordable for young parents and families with double incomes and satisfy parents’ needs in education and care services.

**E Create Sophisticated Educational Quality and Internationalize Higher Education**

Deregulate higher education, fulfill university autonomy and diverse development, recruit international talent, establish a robust system for the school affairs fund, enhance the university evaluation system, and provide clear and diverse channels for faculty promotion. Starting in SY2015, national and top universities have to designate certain enrollment quota for disadvantaged students to meet their social responsibilities to reduce higher education’s M-form phenomenon. Establish well-rounded transition and exit strategies for universities, colleges and junior colleges to protect students’ rights to education and reasonably distribute educational resources in schools. Protect the rights of school staff and faculties, maintain the public nature of school properties and promote the revitalization and reuse of said properties. Enhance students’ mobility in all global service industries. Promote overseas education for students recommended by universities, colleges and junior colleges and actively promote the Study-in-Taiwan Enhancement Program to increase foreign student admissions.

**F Complete Teacher Training and Arts Education and Promote 2014 as the Year of Aesthetic Education**

Plan for the coordination of teacher training and arts education, coordinate and integrate the tasks of all agencies to fully apply integrated resources, to promote vertical integration and lateral connection. Establish a databank for teachers in senior high schools and below, properly adjust the scope of training, promote an inspection mechanism for pre-service teachers, enhance teacher qualification exams with the addition of mathematics, the inclusion of situational questions and grant additional credit for certificates. Establish a complete SOP for teacher certificate issuance and a sound inspection mechanism for teacher qualifications, and strengthen continuing education mechanisms for teachers to improve teachers’ professional skills and knowledge. Expand the evaluation of teachers’ professional development, promote the teacher evaluation system and implement the Phase I of the 5-year Aesthetic Education Plan.

**G Deepen Senior Citizens Learning and Family Education and Establish a Society with Lifelong Learning**

Promote measures related to family education to improve the public’s knowledge of family life and promote family values:

1. Continue to conduct various promotional activities for family education with key holidays such as Grandparents Day, International Day of Families and Family Value Month to call for public awareness on and advocate for family values with the development of core curricula in schools and series of special programs.

2. Subsidize and guide municipal, county and city governments to provide multiple styles of
Establish Friendly and Sustainable Campus to Promote Students’ Physical and Mental Health

Build a sustainable homeland with campuses as the base. Combine forces from communities and families and establish partnerships. With environmental issues as the focus, including disaster prevention, energy conservation, carbon reduction, climate change, environmental safety and health education, through professional teacher training mechanism and the design of school activities, make students and faculties and the surrounding communities, aware of environmental protection and capable of disaster prevention and emergency response. Achieve the goal of campus sustainability with approaches that are close to their daily lives. Establish a healthy campus environment and actively encourage work related to health promotion and campus health to strengthen school health care, including education on a healthy diet, create a healthy eating environment on campus, continue with health promotion programs in schools and a campus tobacco hazards prevention and control plan and implement sex education and AIDS prevention.

Integrate Educational Assistance for the Disadvantaged and Bring About Social Justice and Care

Since 2014, educational subsidies have been included as part of the approved funding for Ministry of Education Award for Private University Affairs Development. A percentage of financial assistance, living stipend, work study assistance, graduate scholarships and living discounts for students from low-income and the near-poor households will be subsidized to encourage schools to continue providing assistance. Starting from SY2014, applications and documents needed for financial assistance are simplified. A pilot program to waive tuition and fees for indigenous students was initiated. Their identities are matched from the data from the Ministry of the Interior. In the future, more areas will be simplified. Encourage universities, colleges and junior colleges to strengthen assistance for disadvantaged students with policy and funding. Promote multiple educational assistance measures, provide a sound educational environment for students with physical and mental disabilities, develop proposals related to education of the indigenous population and care for children of new immigrants, improve learning and academic performance for disadvantaged students, effectively distribute rural and urban educational resources and provide opportunities for disadvantaged youth students to gain workplace experience.
**Compulsory Education**

**A General Information**

The infrastructure of a country and the development of its economy are a function of the country’s cultivation of manpower and talent. This requires long term, continued investment and needs to start from the very bottom. The government set the length of compulsory education at 9 years in SY1968, and will further extend it to 12 years in SY2014, which will help nurture and develop the manpower needed for economic growth.

Ensuring that all toddlers receive proper preschool education is a major objective of our educational policy. Kindergartens are preschool institutions set up in accordance with relevant legislation for children aged 4 and above up until the eligible age for elementary school, and are supervised by education administrative authorities, whereas nurseries are welfare organizations set up in accord with Children and Youth Welfare Act that accept toddlers aged 2 to 6 and are supervised by social administrative authorities. The talks and negotiations for merging nurseries and kindergartens started in 1997, and culminated in the Early Childhood Education and Care Act passed on June 29, 2011, to be put in place beginning Jan 1, 2012.

**B Preschool and Compulsory Education Structure**

The Early Childhood Education and Care Act is a revolutionary move in our preschool system. After the bill was enacted on Jan 1, 2012, nurseries and kindergartens were redesignated “preschools”: in which toddlers from the age of 2 onwards are given complete and thorough education and care in the preschool until they enter elementary school. This bill consolidated the education and care of toddlers under a single administrative system, putting into practice a toddler-centered strategy that focuses on the toddler’s best interests. Taiwan is also the first country in Asia to consolidate the two systems.

According to statistics by UNESCO, there are over 40 countries in the world that have a basic education system that exceeds 10 years. The main reason for this is that many non-developed countries have noticed that basic education is directly connected to national competitiveness.

Put into practice in SY1968, Taiwan’s 9-year Compulsory Education system is compulsory, free and obligatory. Legislation states that citizens from the age of 6 to 15 should receive compulsory education; which is divided into two stages – the first 6 years at the elementary school level, and the latter 3 in junior high school. However, this system has been in place for over 4 decades. When first put in place, there were fewer than 10 countries worldwide with more than 9 years of compulsory education in place, making us one of the forerunners. Compared with developed countries, however, the number of years was not that high.

To solve the current educational conundrum and enhance the development of national manpower, a 12-year Basic Education system will be adopted in SY2014, a new landmark for our education system.