

02 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 to 9 years in SY1968, which includes elementary and junior high

school; in SY2014 the period was extended to 12 years to cover senior secondary school. Senior secondary school lasts for three years between the ages of 15 and 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 SY2014, the total number of schools, including preschools is 11,078, the record of the lowest number of students in 34 years, with a total of 4.73 million students, while the ratio of new immigrants' children exceeds 10% of the students' population. There are approximately 300,000 teachers nationwide. The percentages of teachers with master's

degree or above in elementary schools, junior high schools and senior secondary schools are 48%, 45% and 55%, respectively. The percentage of teachers in universities, colleges, and junior colleges with Doctoral degree and above is 74%, which is an increase of 20% compared to 10 years ago. Additionally, the higher education institutions have been trying to improve the international ambience of the campuses; there is an increase in the number of foreign educators recently. In SY2014, there is an increase of 8.8% in the number of foreign teachers compared to 2006, either full-time or part-time position.

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 2014, the number had reached a new height with 92,685 students, which is about 6.9% of the total universities, colleges and junior colleges enrollment. ▀

The Education Administration System 2015

