
To Our Readers



Over the last few decades, the policies of the Ministry of Education (MOE) have kept evolving both in quantity and quality. The improvement of the general public's educational level directly helps boost the national economy, even contributing to the so-called "economic miracle." Therefore, the importance of education for national development cannot be overemphasized.

The goal of education is to allow every student to show his full potential and then make contributions to the society, the nation and mankind. Education equips children with important and necessary skills for future use.

Nowadays, society is changing rapidly and the flow of information through the Internet is unrestricted by national boundaries. Children grow up, facing competitions coming from all over the world. What students learn in the classroom is considered as only basic tools. What remains the most important is that education instructs and prepares the future generations to face challenges and work out solutions.

Thus, we have come up with three main expectations regarding education in Taiwan. The first

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expectation is to develop a concern for our homeland. Studies about Taiwan's culture, ethnic groups, geography, history, art, religion, folklore and the natural environment are emphasized to ensure that students of different backgrounds get along harmoniously. Secondly, there is a need to educate the students about what it means to be citizens in this society. They need to appreciate such common values as democracy, freedom, the rule of law and human rights, among others. The level of the basic skills of Taiwan's nationals must be raised. Further knowledge about science, technology and liberal arts should be promoted and attitudes of pluralism and long-term sustainability should be fostered. Lastly, education must adopt an international perspective. The English proficiency of primary and secondary school students should be improved.

In addition, we encourage all students of senior high schools and higher education institutes to study a second foreign language. The creation of a multi-language living environment boosts the study motives of students. Also, MOE is increasingly encouraging Taiwanese students to study abroad and attracting more foreign students to study in Taiwan by offering scholarships. Educational schemes are drawn up to fully pro-

mote international academic exchanges.

The success of a nation's education system influences the overall development and advancement of national competitiveness. Education policies, therefore, are extremely important to a nation. The components of the education policy are closely linked. Recalling the so-called butterfly effect, the slightest lack of attention or any error in any aspect causes chaos across the whole system. Each component of the education policy must be managed well. Only then can we gain greater benefits from education.

To adequately meet the education demands of our society, constant policy revisions must be made. It is only through the continued improvements gained from these revisions and reforms that we can create a more beneficial environment for the long-term development of education.



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