

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 SY2015, the total number of schools (including preschools) is 10,948, with a total



of 4.62 million students, the record of lowest number of students in after SY1981. The ratio of indigenous students is 3.0% of the student population, with a total number of about 140,000, and the ratio of new Immigrants' children is 5.5% of the student population, with a total number of about 250,000 students. There are approximately 300,000 teachers nationwide. In order to improve the quality

of education and under the impact of a low birth rate, the number of students per class in elementary school, junior high school, and senior secondary school are respectively 6.1, 6.9 and 3.2. The number of students per teacher has been decreasing for all educational levels except in universities, colleges and junior colleges. In SY2015, the net enrollment rate for primary education (from age 6-11) is 99.5%, 96.0%

for secondary education (from age 12-17) and 70.9% for tertiary education (from age 18-21), an increase of 13.5 % over the last decade. Higher education of Taiwan aims for global development, and the total number of non-citizen students study or research in Taiwan hit a record high of 110,182, accounting for 8.3% of all students in universities, colleges and junior colleges.^{III}

The Education Administration System 2016

