

Educational Reform

Creative Taiwan, Eye on the World



Taiwan's educational system has grown and expanded and now needs to take steps to upgrade the quality of education. Globalization has greatly influenced education, economy and politics. Like other nations of the world, Taiwan is zealously working to improve national competitiveness.

Looking at the present situation of Taiwan's society, the Ministry of Education has come up with the overall educational goal summed up in "Creative Taiwan, Eye on the World." Three core approaches support the implementation of this motto: adaptability in nature and ability, embracing globalization, and supporting the disadvantaged.

From 1998 to 2002, the Ministry of Education appropriated a budget of NT\$150 billion to implement 12 key points in educational reform. The educational system at every level looks after the citizenry's right to a good education. The following thirteen administrative and governing directions were decided in 2004.



1. Education for the Citizenry: Reduce the number of students in each high school class, introduce the nine-year compulsory education's curriculum, incorporating local subjects in classroom studies.

2. High School Education: Implement multi-channel entrance program at the senior high school level, introduce a 12-year compulsory education plan.

3. Teacher Training: Reduce education courses for teachers, encourage elementary and high school teachers to seek further training while on job.

4. Vocational Education: Strengthen collaboration between private firms and schools, foster international exchanges, and enforce stricter technical schools' evaluation standards.

5. Higher Education: Improve the international competitiveness of colleges and universities, invite foreign professors to visit as faculty members, hire local specialists to fill teaching positions, modify and improve the educational loan system, bring higher education and economic development together.

6. Social Education: Promote lifelong learning, bolster functions of public social education systems, promote cultural activities, provide adult education classes for female immigrants, including China.

7. Physical Education and Health Education: Foster physical education classes in schools, hold

sports competitions, strengthen the health education plan.

8. International Cultural Education: Establish Taiwan scholarships, promote cooperation and exchange with overseas educational institutions, foster participation in international scholarly symposiums, publicize overseas study programs and counseling, encourage overseas study trips for students in senior high school or vocational school.

9. Training and Counseling: Promote human rights on campus, counseling for dropouts, gender equality education, organize college/university volunteer teams, hold fairs for senior high school organizations.

10. Internet and High Technology Education: Improve auxiliary education, encourage working for digital education certificates, establish community education network.

11. Science Education: Revamp science education, hold science-based competitions at college or university level, promote life-long science learning.

12. Environmental Protection Education: Promote nationwide safety and hygiene training, school safety protection, and establish sustainable campuses.

13. Special Education: Formalize accreditations for physically and mentally challenged students, subsidize special education in 25 counties and cities, improve the quality of education for indigenous people.

