

An Overview



The Ministry of Education(MOE) is a cabinet-level governmental body of the Executive Yuan, responsible for formulating educational policies and managing public schools throughout Taiwan.

Headed by the Minister, who is supported by one Political Deputy Minister and two Administrative Deputy Ministers, the MOE organisation includes the departments of Higher Education, Technological and Vocational Education, Secondary Education, Elementary Education, Social Education, Physical Education and several other agencies. They are in charge of the promotion and implementation of school education at all levels, as well as adult education, physical education and other educational affairs.

In addition there are the Bureaus of Education in the municipal governments, and, in the case of county (or city) governments, their jurisdictions

cover local educational administrative affairs.

Taiwan's education system features the following components: basic education; senior secondary education; and higher education.

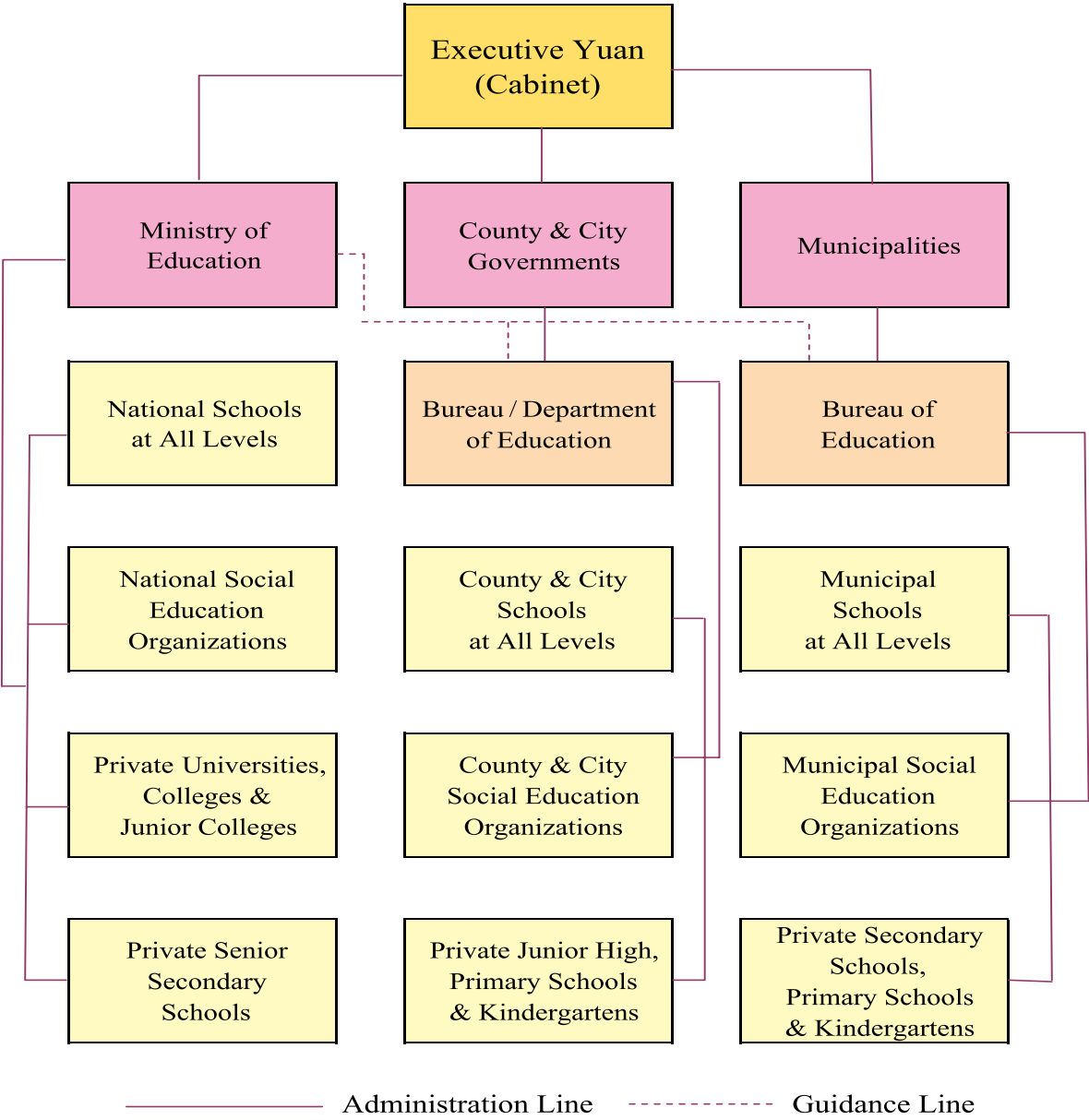
Basic education covers kindergartens, primary schools and junior high schools. Senior secondary education includes senior vocational schools and senior high schools.



Higher education includes colleges/universities, as well as graduate schools and post-graduate programmes.

According to statistics released at the end of 2008, there are a total of 5.17 million students studying in 8,096 schools of various levels.

THE EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM



Preschool education, such as kindergarten, is not a part of Taiwan's compulsory education, but the government is engaged in offering education opportunities for underprivileged children and to improving the quality of preschool education.

Compulsory education consists of six years of elementary education and three years of junior high school education, but the curricula of the two educational levels have been integrated into a New Grade 1-9 Curriculum.

Upon completion of compulsory education, students may choose to follow either an academic track or a vocational track.

The academic track involves three years of senior high school education, plus four years of college/university education, graduate schools and post-graduate programmes.

The educational goal at these levels is to nurture high-quality professionals with a global outlook.

The vocational track includes senior vocational schools, junior colleges, institutes of technology and universities of technology. The purpose of the track is to cultivate technical manpower for the country.

As for gifted students and physically- or mentally-handicapped students, their needs can be met by special education.

In addition, the MOE actively promotes supplementary education and community education in the hope of providing everyone with abundant opportunities to pursue lifelong learning.

From 1999 to 2008, the total number of schools at all levels increased by 181; at the same time the number of teachers grew by nearly 5%.

Since 1976, the gross enrollment rates in elementary and junior high schools have remained at a level of more than 99%.

The illiteracy rate in Taiwan has dropped from 7% in 1991 to 2.2% at present.

These statistics can serve as the best evidence to show that the quality of education in Taiwan is improving.

Looking towards the future, the Ministry plans to extend compulsory education to twelve years, to cover senior secondary education, in the hope of creating a more complete educational structure.

