

# 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 from 6 years to 9 years in SY1968, to include junior high school; in SY2014 the period will be extended to 12 years to cover senior high school) senior high school three years, age 15-18; 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 life-long learning courses give the general public an opportunity to extend their learning experience.

Currently the total number of schools at all levels (including preschools) is 11,495, making for a distribution ratio of 318 schools per 1,000 square kilometers. The total number of students is nearly 5.01 million, an average of 215 students per 1,000 in the general population. The total number of teachers is about 300,000, meaning each teacher teaches an average of 17 students. In recent years the density of schools has increased, while the number of students per teacher has decreased, and the total number of students at the college level or above has increased. At the same time, the literacy rate of the population 15 years old and above reached 98.3% at the end of 2012, of which 71.3% had an education level of senior high school or higher.

Different stages of education ought to focus on different aspects of development. Therefore we hope to achieve "healthy and happy growth for pre-schoolers", "a happy and lively learning experience for elementary school students", "balanced and well-rounded development for



junior high school students", "increased general knowledge for senior high school students", "development of basic skills for vocational high school students", "professional knowledge acquisition for university students", "professional skills nurturing for vocational college students", "independent research skills for graduate students", "lifelong learning for the general public", and "cultural adaptation for new immigrants". ■

## The Education Administration System 2013

