



# PRESS RELEASE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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## Renewed Education Policies in 2023

Pan-government booklet published to inform the public  
of changes in national policy in 2023

### ◆ Key points

- ☐ Launching of public online school
- ☐ Full-scale implementation of the First Comprehensive Plan to Guarantee Basic Academic Level
- ☐ Teachers' Pension to have greater authority for reviewing pension payout to surviving beneficiaries of deceased pensioners and pension recoupment
- ☐ Expanding leave of absence due to family affairs and illness for educational officials
- ☐ Stronger support for college (graduate school) students with disabilities
- ☐ Simplifying vaccination status registration for 1<sup>st</sup> year elementary/middle school students
- ☐ Revising the education allowance payment system from bank transfer to credit/debit card points
- ☐ Establishing school steering committee in Miscellaneous Schools
- ☐ Higher education institutions of distance learning permitted to offer doctoral degree and intensive major courses
- ☐ Student loan for learners of academic credit bank system
- ☐ National university-affiliated hospitals set to cultivate cross-disciplinary medical professionals

## Launching of public online school

National Curriculum Support Team, MoE (☎ 044-203-6280)

- ☐ Public online school will open in Daegu, Incheon, Gwangju, and Gyeongnam in 2023.
- The public online school is a new form of educational institution that offers hourly instruction. Although it doesn't work on enrollment basis, it has classrooms and teachers, and high school students can study the subjects of their choosing in the online school.
- The Offices of Education of Daegu, Incheon, Gwangju and Gyeongnam will prepare for the opening of the online public school and begin offering the curriculum in 2023. The operating model of the public online school will be developed and expanded subsequently to other offices of education around the country.

### <Public online school>

- ☐ **Background:** To establish public online school which offers tailored learning opportunity to individual students regardless of regional or school context
- ☐ **Key Points**
  - The public online school will offer hourly instruction in school subjects to high school students
  - Teachers will provide instruction in real time virtually, and students will study the subjects they require.
  - Four Offices of Education will be selected for pilot operation in 2023, which will then be proliferated throughout the country.
- ☐ **Starting Date:** 2023

## Full-scale implementation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Comprehensive Plan to Guarantee Basic Academic Skills

Basic Academic Skills and Career Education Division, MoE (☎ 044-203-6522)

- ☐ With the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan to Guarantee Basic Academic Skills (2023-2027) in 2023, students will be better supported and diagnosed on their academic levels.
- All schools will be required to identify the students who need remedial work to meet the basic academic level (i.e. students who need to receive additional educational support) within two months of the beginning of the new year via systematic diagnosis\*.
- \* Basic academic level diagnostic test (on cognitive skills, emotional/mental health, behavior and learning environment, etc.) + teacher observation and counseling
- Regular classes offer immediate remedial guidance using various instruction models that tap into cooperative learning techniques and edutech.
- ※ After-school supplementary classes and tutoring programs will be offered in line with regular class.
- A consultative body will be set up in school to offer compositive support to students to advance basic academic skills, which will operate in connection with school programs for educational welfare and school-wide efforts to manage at-risk students.
- ※ [Process] Diagnosis on basic academic skills (cognitive skills, emotional/mental health, behavior and learning environment, etc.) → review by the consultative committee to support at-risk student to make final decision on their academic status and come up with support measures
- Moreover, 170 comprehensive learning clinic centers at the Offices of Education will work closely with out-of-school expert institutions (i.e. for medical and counseling) to offer in-depth diagnosis and tailored support.
- ※ If the result of in-depth diagnosis and analysis shows that special education is required for a given student, then their parents (guardians) will be informed of the matter to help the student receive support.

### The First Comprehensive Plan to Guarantee Basic Academic Skills

- ☐ **Background:** In accordance with the First Comprehensive Plan to Guarantee Basic Academic Skills (2023-2027), all students will receive systematic support to meet the basic academic level.
- ☐ **Key Points:**
  - With spot-on diagnosis, students who need support will be selected, and multi-safety net will be set up to support students to meet the basic academic level in close cooperation of classroom, school and the office of education, thereby providing intensive support to respond to the learning loss caused by COVID-19.
- ☐ **Starting Date:** January 1, 2023

## **Teachers' Pension to have greater authority for reviewing pension payout to surviving beneficiaries of deceased pensioners and pension recoupment**

Teacher Policy Division, MoE (☎ 044-203-6179)

- ☐ Starting in 2023, with an aim to restrict the surviving beneficiaries of deceased pensioners (i.e. retired teachers) who had failed to provide the due support before their passing from inheriting the deceased pensioners' postmortem pension payout, Teachers' Pension, the organization that manages pension for private school teachers, will be able to have its pension committee review the adequacy of postmortem pension payout to examine if the surviving beneficiaries are qualified to receive the remaining pension benefits on behalf of the deceased pensioners.
- With the enactment of the *Public Officials Pension Act*, which includes the reviewing of the adequacy of pension payout, the same rules apply to the teachers' pension system.
- Moreover, Teachers' Pension is given the authority to request relevant institutions for the earned income documents of those who are ordered to pay back the benefits they have received through fraudulent means.
- In a similar context, the surviving parents of deceased pensioners who didn't provide childhood care are prevented from receiving the full amount of pension benefits, and Teachers' Pension will have greater authority to request relevant institutions for income documents to more efficiently recoup pension benefits in fraud cases.

### **Teachers' Pension to have greater authority for reviewing pension payouts to surviving beneficiaries of deceased pensioners and pension recoupment in the case of fraud**

- ☐ **Background:** Teachers' Pension will be given greater authority for reviewing pension payouts to the surviving beneficiaries of deceased pensioners and for requesting relevant income documents in the case of fraud for recoupment.
- ☐ **Key Points:**
  - Teachers' Pension will be given authority for reviewing pension payouts to the surviving beneficiaries of deceased pensioners via its pension committee
  - They will also have greater authority for requesting relevant institutions for income documents in the case of fraud for pension recoupment
- ☐ **Starting Date:** January 19, 2023

## **Expanding Leave of Absence due to Family Affairs and Sick Leave for Educational Officials**

Teacher Policy Division, MoE (☎ 044-203-6970)

- ☐ With the amendment of the Educational Officials Act, the leave of absence due to family affairs and sick leave will be expanded.
- ☐ Educational officials can now take a leave of absence if they have a family member (i.e. the parents or children of direct bloodline) who need intensive caring and nursing, unlike in the past that it was only allowed for cases where a family member suffers from an illness or injury.
- ☐ If an educational official needs to be medically treated for an extended period time due to an illness or injury caused while performing official duties, they can take a sick leave for a total of five years, a two-year extension from the previous rules.
- ☐ The amendment will take effect in April 19, 2023.

### **Expansion of leave of absence and sick leave for educational officials**

- ☐ **Background:** To promote the welfare of educational officials through the expansion of leave of absence
- ☐ **Key Points:**
  - ☐ [Leave of absence due to family affairs] Without having to prove that a family member needs nursing, an educational official can take a leave of absence for caring/nursing purposes.
  - ☐ [Sick leave] In the case an educational officials needs to take a sick leave due to an illness or injury incurred while performing official duties to receive medical treatment for an extended period, they can take a leave of absence for up to five years.
- ☐ **Starting Date:** April 19, 2023

## **Stronger support for college (graduate school) students with disabilities**

Lifelong Education for Students with Disabilities Team, MoE (☎ 044-203-6312)

- ☐ As of April 19, 2023, the national and institutional systems to support college (graduate school) students will be strengthened to advance their right to education.
- A national-level center will be established to support those with disabilities to study higher education by offering comprehensive assistance.
- The role of the special support committee set up on campus will be more clarified to provide professional assistance to students with disabilities, and to become the head of the center for students with disabilities support, they will be required to have the qualifications stipulated by presidential decree.
- In addition, students with disabilities will be surveyed to identify their needs, based on which colleges will be obligated to provide support to their students with disabilities in accordance with the individualized educational support plan that colleges are required to develop.

### **Stronger support for college (graduate school) students with disabilities**

#### ☐ **Background:**

- To establish a professional and stable system of supporting students with disabilities enrolled in colleges (graduate schools) to guarantee their right to education in a practical manner (e.g. amendment of the *Act on Special Education for Persons with Disabilities*, etc.)

#### ☐ **Key Points:**

- To establish the center for supporting students with disabilities in higher education, to clarify the rules pertaining to the organization of the special support committee in college and the qualifications requirement for the head of the center for supporting students with disabilities in higher education, and to develop individualized educational plans to support students with disabilities, etc.

#### ☐ **Starting Date:** April 19, 2023

## **Simplifying vaccination status registration for 1<sup>st</sup> year elementary/middle school students**

Student Health Policy Division, Ministry of Education, MoE (☎ 044-203-6547)  
Division of Immunization, Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency  
(☎ 043-719-8387)

- ☐ In 2023, the process of registering the vaccination status of the 1<sup>st</sup> year elementary and middle school students will be simplified.
- Previously, the heads of elementary and middle schools had to request the parents (or the city mayor or governor) for student vaccination status to register the information in the educational administration system within 90 days of student admission.
- Now, by connecting the educational administration system (operated by school) and the integrated vaccination management system (operated by Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency), student vaccination history is automatically registered for more convenient data management.
- Thanks to this improvement, the registration of student vaccination history and responding to unvaccinated students can be undertaken more swiftly to effectively prevent the outbreak of communicable diseases in school.

### **Simplifying vaccination status registration for 1<sup>st</sup> year elementary and middle school students**

- ☐ **Background:** To reduce the burden on parents and school by simplifying the registration process of the vaccination status of the first year elementary and middle school students
- ☐ **Key Points:**
  - By connecting the educational administration system and the integrated vaccination management system under the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency to automatically register and manage students' vaccination history.
- ☐ **Starting Date:** March 2, 2023

## Revising the education allowance payment system from bank transfer to credit/debit card points

Educational Welfare Policy Division, MoE (☎ 044-203-6521)

- ☐ The education allowance (i.e. grants given to individuals to support their educational activities) payment method will be revised to shift from bank transfer scheme to credit/debit card points scheme, thereby encouraging the beneficiaries to more conveniently use the benefits on diverse educational activities by receiving it in points on their own credit/debit cards.
- ☐ Those who have difficulty issuing credit/debit cards can apply for a prepaid card, and the points can be used freely for a variety of educational activities with the exception of non-educational activities such as entertainment, gambling, etc.
- ☐ The revised system will take effect in the academic year of 2023, after March 1, 2023.
- ☐ For more information, a press release will be issued, and Korea Student Aid Foundation website (<https://e-voucher.kosaf.go.kr>) and the hotline (1599-2000) will also be available.

### Revised education allowance payment system

- ☐ **Background:** Education allowance system will be revised to help recipients more conveniently make use of the benefits for various educational purposes by shifting the payment method from bank transfer to a voucher format, such as in the form of credit/debit card points.
- ☐ **Key Points:**
  - ☐ Revising education allowance payment system from bank transfer to credit/debit card points
    - (Rule) Education allowance is to be paid in points on the credit/debit cards of beneficiaries.
    - (Exception) The recipients who cannot issue a credit/debit card due to delinquency can receive the benefits in the form of a prepaid card.
- ☐ **Starting Date:** Academic year of 2023 (after March 1, 2023)



## **Establishing school steering committee in Miscellaneous Schools**

Educational Autonomy and Cooperation Division, MoE (☎ 044-203-7081)

- ☐ In 2023, schools that fall under the Miscellaneous Schools category will be mandated to set up a steering committee.
- As a matter of fact, elementary, middle, high and special schools are all mandated to have a school steering committee, but schools that fall under the category of Miscellaneous Schools under law were not required to have one.
- However, as the number of Miscellaneous Schools increases, it's been pointed that they also have to be reined in on their handling of school expenses through the steering committee.
- Based on this view, the Act on Primary and Secondary Education Act has been amended to mandate Miscellaneous Schools to set up a steering committee, which is anticipated to contribute to greater autonomy and accountability for school operation.

### **Establishing steering committee in Miscellaneous Schools**

- ☐ **Background:** To promote the autonomy and accountability of Miscellaneous Schools by mandating the establishment of a steering committee
- ☐ **Key Points:**
  - Miscellaneous Schools are mandated to go under review on their handling of operational expenses by the steering committee.
- ☐ **Starting Date:** April 19, 2023

## Higher Education Institutions of Distance Learning permitted to offer doctoral degree and intensive major courses

Lifelong and Vocational Education Planning Division MoE (☎ 044-203-6421)

- ☐ Going forward, higher education institutions of distance learning (i.e. Korea National Open University and cyber universities) are allowed to offer doctoral degree and intensive major courses.
- Before this change, unlike general higher education institutions, the institutions of distance learning were only allowed to establish special graduate schools that offer master's degree courses, although they too are under the Higher Education Act.
- Now, higher education institutions of distance learning can establish not only "special graduate schools," but also "general graduate schools and professional graduate schools (i.e. schools of medicine, dentistry, Korean medicine and law)," which will allow them to offer doctoral degree courses.
- Moreover, the cyber universities that offer associate degree (2-year) courses are now allowed to offer intensive major courses that grant a bachelor's degree, so that adult learners can have continued education opportunities.

### System improvement to expand autonomy of higher education institutions of distance learning

- ☐ **Background:** To provide practical work experiences by offering various types of degree courses and programs that reflect various learner's demands, including those already in employment.
- ☐ **Key Points:**
  - **Higher education institutions of distance learning are permitted to establish general/professional colleges**
    - By allowing higher education institutions of distance learning to establish general/special colleges, they are prepared for growing demand for distance learning and to play a pivotal role in an increasingly contact-free society.
  - **Cyber universities (2-year colleges) are permitted to establish intensive major courses**
    - Adult learners will be allowed to continue their education to hone vocational/occupational skills, and distance learning can be promoted with the establishment of intensive major courses that take into account distinctive strengths of each institution.
- ☐ **Starting Date:** April 19, 2023

※ The changes will be introduced in the academic year 2024 after gathering opinions from stakeholders and securing teaching staff ahead of opening new courses.

## Student loan for learners of academic credit bank system

Youth Scholarship Support Division, MoE (☎ 044-203-6271)

- ☐ The student loan system will be revamped to allow learners of academic credit bank system to take out student loan starting in the first semester of 2023, which used to be allowed only for college (graduate school) students.
- The student loan that the learners of academic credit bank system are allowed to take out is "general loan paydown scheme," which allows lenders to take out a student loan at a fixed interest rate (to be posted in January 2023) to cover the entire tuition fee required to acquire a degree and allowed to back-load for a certain period of time after starting to repay the loan.
- Eligible learners are those who are studying (or planning to study) accredited courses at an educational institution under the academic credit bank system, and the institution must be accredited by the Minister of Education to take out student loan.
- In early January, the Minister of Education will post the list of educational institutions whose learners can take out a student loan and the interest rate. Those eligible can submit their application on the Korea Student Aid Foundation website in January 2023.

### Student loan for learners of academic credit bank system

- ☐ **Background:** To allow all new or existing learners enrolled in educational institutions of the academic credit bank system be eligible for student loan as accredited by the Minister of Education
- ☐ **Key Points:**
  - Income thresholds: none
  - Eligible age: younger than 55 years old
  - GPA criteria: - GPA of the previous semester should be above 70/100 (grade C)  
- those with disabilities and those who are enrolled in the course for the first time are exempt \* no credit acquisition requirement needed
  - Credit requirements: delinquents of student loan and financial defaulters are restricted from taking out student loan
  - Interest rate: Minister of Education will post the interest rate every semester by taking into account the available fund (fixed rate)
  - Loan limits: entire tuition fee required to get a degree (up to ₩40 million/person)
  - Loan term: maximum of 18 years (e.g. 8 years of back-load and 10 years of repayment)
  - Application method: application can be submitted at [www.kosaf.go.kr](http://www.kosaf.go.kr) (Korea Student Aid Foundation) no later than deadline
- ☐ **Starting Date:** January 2023

## **National University-affiliated Hospitals set to cultivate cross-disciplinary medical professionals**

National University Hospital Support Team, MoE (☎ 044-203-6020)

- ☐ As of March 28, 2023, relevant laws\* will be amended to allow national university-affiliated hospitals to offer education and conduct research in the fields of cross-disciplinary medicine.

\* *Act on the Establishment of National University-affiliated Hospitals and Act on the Establishment of Seoul National University-affiliated Hospital*

- The amended laws define cross-disciplinary medicine as "an applied discipline that cuts across a variety of disciplines including medicine, engineering and more," and will lay the foundation for medicine to be combined with diverse disciplines, including not only natural sciences and engineering, but also humanities, social sciences, as well as arts and sports.
- In this context, professionals equipped with diverse sets of academic competence can now be cultivated, beyond the limits of the conventional clinical medicine, which can effectively contribute to the national advancement of the bio-health sector.

### **National university-affiliated hospitals set to cultivate cross-disciplinary medical professionals**

- ☐ **Background:** To contribute to the national competitiveness of the bio-health sector by moving beyond the limits of conventional clinical medicine to cultivate medical professionals equipped with diverse sets of academic competence.
- ☐ **Key Points:**
  - Inclusion of "education and research of cross-disciplinary medicine" in the scope of work of the national university-affiliated hospitals
  - Facilitation of research and development of diverse treatment methods based on cross-disciplinary medicine
- ☐ **Starting Date:** March 28, 2023