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## Education Ministry Designates 33 Future Education Districts for 2023

- The Ministry of Education (headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho) has designated 33 districts across 14 regions (i.e. si- and do-levels) as the Future Education Districts for 2023 through an open call.

Region	Designated District
Seoul	Guro, Seodaemun
Busan	Geumjeong, Donggu, Sasang, Saha, Youngdo, Jingu
Daegu	Namgu, Seogu
Incheon	Gyeyang, Yeonsu
Gwangju	Gwangsan
Ulsan	Junggu
Sejong	Sejong
Gyeonggi	Goyang, Siheung, Anyang, Osan, Hwaseong
Gangwon	Chuncheon
Chungbuk	Jecheon
Chungnam	Nonsan, Dangjin, Gongju
Jeonbuk	Gangjin, Gurye, Goksung, Suncheon, Yeongam
Gyeongbuk	Uiseong
Gyeongnam	Goseong

- The Future Education Districts is an open call project of the Ministry of Education aiming to bring together local offices of education and local government to establish a sustainable system of collaboration to respond to residents' wide-ranging educational needs such as childcare service under the

partnership of the public, private and education authorities.

- The project began in 2020 with 11 districts\* selected as the Future Education Districts, and for the past three years, the project has contributed to the strengthening of public and private governance cooperation by assisting district offices of education and local governments to establish joint cooperation centers. However, some have also argued that the project disproportionately focused on supporting elementary and middle school students, inevitably leaving behind high school students.

※ 11 districts (2020) → 22 districts (2021) → 33 districts (2022)

- To respond to this criticism, the Ministry of Education has redesigned the project for 2023 in line with the new government's priorities to achieve a balanced regional development to build upon what the project has achieved over the past three years.
- More specifically, the Ministry has recommended the project to be linked to other projects under different ministries, and to promote the capacity-building of general high schools as priorities in 2023, so that the Future Education Districts can advance the educational capacity of the high schools in their own districts. The Ministry also suggested other ministries to reconstruct their projects in ways that promote regional education.
- The renewed project is expected to allow the Future Education Districts to serve as an educational framework supporting high school students by utilizing local colleges, companies and experts in the region. Increased access to AI, IoT and AR/VR (metaverse) under this project will offer rich educational experience to high school students within their districts.
- Moreover, projects under other ministries, namely the Ministry of the Interior and Safety, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, will be more closely linked to each other to encourage local education authorities and local governments to jointly design and implement education agenda in lockstep to promote local education.

## Plan for capacity-building of general high schools under the Future Education District project in 2023 (Provisional)

### [Osan, Gyeonggi]

#### ▲ Early Bird Program:

The operation of school-specific subjects (i.e. career exploration and career designing fields) will be promoted, as well as AI-driven subjects (in cooperation with Seoul National University of Science and Technology).

#### ▲ AI Education Support:

AI-focused high schools will be operated on a pilot basis, based on which an AI educational model will be developed for Osan (in cooperation with Kwangwoon University).

### [Nonsan, Chungnam]

#### ▲ Global Training:

2<sup>nd</sup> year high school students within the district will be supported to go on a global human capital development training.

#### ▲ Employment-linked Program: Nonsan City and Korea Polytechnics will sign an MoU on bio-campus.

#### ▲ Future Education System: Chungnam Nonsan Gyeryong Office of Education, Nonsan City and Konyang University will work together to offer training opportunity of future skills and metaverse for high school students within the district.

- ☐ The Ministry of Education will provide 100 million won in funding to support the designated Future Education Districts to support their development, and also offer systematic consulting for educational projects jointly developed by local education authorities and local governments in 33 districts.
- To further support, the Ministry of Education will also form a "growth support group of Future Education Districts" consisting of experts in primary, secondary, lifelong education, and regional education to organize region-specific counseling, future education academy and development training, etc.
- In particular, district-specific counseling will begin in December and end in January next year to allow local education authorities and local governments to devise joint visions and goals in line with their local contexts and to complement the plan for 2023 in more detail.

### Timeline of the Future Education District Project in 2023 (provisional)

Activities	Prior counseling per district	Training of district focal points Development of growth support manual	Training of the growth support group Training of district focal points	Future Education Academy (4 sessions); growth support (3 sessions per district); publication of news letter (10 periodicals); and regular monitoring of districts	Growth monitoring briefing session; and publication of reports
Date	Dec. 2022-Jan. 2023	Feb.-Mar.	Mar.-Apr.	Mar.-Nov.	Dec.

- Mr. Goh Young-jong, Director General of the School Innovation Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Education, said, "In order to overcome the crisis of the excessive population concentration in the metropolitan area coupled with the extinction of small provincial cities, cooperation among schools, regional communities, local education authorities and local governments has become a must."
- He added, "The Ministry of Education will support the Future Education Districts to ensure that the project's outcome translates into various educational activities for students and to advance the educational capacity of all regions across the country."