

“나라를 단단하게 국민을 든든하게” 2023 정부 업무보고



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact
Point

Policy Planning Bureau

Planning Division

Director

Park Daerim (044-203-6026)

Senior Deputy
Director

Park Bongseo (044-203-6029)

Education reform, the first step to Korea's new leap forward Ministry of Education's beginning-of-the-year report for 2023

KEY POINTS

The year 2023 will be the year of national education reform
driven by four priorities and ten major policies.

《 Four Priorities and Ten Major Policies 》

①
Student-
centered

- (1) Introduction of a digital textbook platform as the foundation for individualized education
- (2) Capacity-building for school improvement and dramatic transition of classroom instruction
- (3) Supporting teachers with various means to focus on teaching activities

②
Family-
centered

- (4) Creating the Taskforce on Consolidation of Early Childhood Education and Childcare to thoroughly prepare for the merging of the two services in full swing
- (5) Pilot operation of *Neulbom* School by selecting four provincial offices of education

③
Community-
centered

- (6) Ensuring autonomy of higher education institutions and communities through regulatory innovation and delegation of authority
- (7) Pilot operation of RISE with five local governments → Fostering “glocal” higher education institutions
- (8) Reviving the community energy through the mixed-use of school facilities

④
Industry/
society-
centered

- (9) Full-fledged operation of national-level human capital development system in leading-edge industries:
 - Launching of the National Human Capital Cultivation Strategy Meeting
 - Announcing a plan on human capital development in leading-edge industries such as bio-health, space, aviation, etc.

Legislation

- (10) Legislation for education reform:
 - Amending *Local Education Autonomy Act* and *Public Official Election Act* (Enacting *Running Mate Act*),
 - Preparing grounds for legislation on Education Autonomous Region, and amending *Higher Education Act* and *Private School Act*

- On January 5, the Ministry of Education (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho) reported its work plan for 2023, titled, "Education Reform, the First Step to Korea's New Leap Forward," at *Yeongbin-gwan, Cheong Wa Dae*.
- The Ministry will consider 2023 as the year to initiate education reform in ways to see eye to eye with the Korean people. To this end, in accordance with the direction of education policies it announced at the last national priority monitoring meeting on December 15, 2022, the Ministry will concentrate its efforts to complete the education reform within the tenure of the Yoon Suk Yeol government by devising concrete implementation plans.
- Under the vision of the "Education Reform, the First Step to Korea's New Leap Forward," the Ministry has outlined its four priorities and ten major policies to initiate education reform and has set the following goals: ①"an education that drives the national development; and ②"an education that fosters the growth of all citizens based on freedom and creativity" for the welfare of all citizens.
- Starting in 2023, the Ministry will concentrate its efforts on four priority areas and ten major policies to initiate education reform. The specifics are as follows:

1 Student-centered Education Reform

(1) Digital-based innovation of teaching and learning

- The Ministry will initiate digital transformation in the education sector to tap into leading-edge technologies to assist teachers with their classroom instruction to offer optimized learning opportunities to individual students.
- It will include the development and announcement of "digital-driven education reform plan" in January, which aims for the introduction of

a digital textbook platform in 2025, which will operate AI-driven courseware along with the conventional paper-based textbooks.

* Courseware is a compound word consisting of "course" and "software." It's a computer software designed to create conducive teaching/learning environment for effective education.

- ☐ Moreover, testbeds* will be expanded and "edutech promotion plan" will be developed in the first half of 2023 to ensure that digital technology can be used for trouble-shooting in school.

(2) Capacity-building for school improvement

- ☐ Schools will be supported to advance their educational capacity to offer student-tailored education. For instance, already exceptional schools around the country will be supported for further improvement, and the overall capacity of general high schools will also be enhanced, while classroom instruction and assesment in school will be revamped.
- In February, a supplementary plan for high school credit system will be developed in February to innovate the way classroom instruction and assessment are carried out, and a classroom instruction innovation plan will be developed in the first half of this year to introduce project- and debate-based learning and AI/edutech-driven classes, etc.
- In addition, plans for high school capacity-building are set to be unveiled in the first half of this year, which will outline the capacity-building of national high schools as the exemplary model for the innovation of public education, and raising school autonomy with the cooperation of schools, provincial offices of education and local governments, and diversifying high schools in a bid to offer individualized education to all students.

(3) Supporting teacher innovation

- Teachers will be supported to build their capacity and their working environment will be enhanced to encourage innovation in classroom instruction.
- In January, a committee will be organized consisting of in-service teachers and education experts to devise a plan to pilot-operate a "specialized graduate school of education" in April, which will bring innovation to teachers' colleges and universities of education by supporting the capacity-building of teachers at the graduate school level based on intensive research and practicum in order to help them hone key skills of the future.
- In August, a plan to innovate teacher evaluation and personnel system as well as a plan to reduce school workload and raise work efficiency will be developed to help teachers solely focus on their teaching activities as the driver of learning revolution in partnership with schools around the country and teachers' associations.

2 Family-centered Education Reform

(4) Consolidation of early childhood education and childcare

- Early childhood education and childcare will be consolidated to reconstruct kindergartens and nurseries as "renewed, high-quality educational institutions" that take into account distinctive changes in children at different developmental stages.
- In January, the Committee on Consolidation of Early Childhood Education and Childcare and the Taskforce on Consolidation of Early Childhood Education and Childcare will be set up within the Ministry to merge the central and regional management systems of the two services into one in a step-by-step manner with the education pillar taking the central role.

- To give equal opportunity of quality education and childcare for all children, an integrated plan for management system and a plan to reduce gap in service will be unveiled in the first and second half of this year, respectively.

(5) **Neulbom School**

- "Neulbom (meaning "all-day") School" will be introduced to offer tailored education and care ("educare") service to all elementary school students who want to participate by tapping into various educational resources in and around school.
- After-school programs will be individualized by using AI and leading-edge softwares to offer culturally, physically and artistically active learning experiences to students, and "educare" service will be diversified to cover broader time slots, such as in the morning or intermittently and temporarily throughout the day with extended service hours to 8pm.
- To reduce the work burden on school staff and teachers, more personnel will be deployed to support their work and their workload will be shifted to provincial offices of education. This year, four provincial offices of education will be selected on a pilot basis to receive more funding and personnel, which will spread across the country in 2025.

3 Community-centered Education Reform

(6) **Regulatory innovation, authority delegation, and structural reforms in higher education institutions**

- The Ministry will grant increased autonomy to communities and schools through promoting regulatory innovations and delegating

authority to regions, and at the same time, pursuing structural reforms in higher education institutions.

- Regulations on student quota, academic system, and financial management in higher education institutions will be lifted, and the government-led standardized evaluation will be discontinued. Instead, a financial diagnosis tool developed by the Korean Advancing Schools Foundation as well as accreditation evaluations created by the Korean Council for University Education and the Korean Council for University College Education will be utilized to support general funding, and higher education institutions in crisis management will be actively sought out for structural reforms.
- The Ministry's authority to open and close foreign higher education institutions in the Free Economic Zone, as well as the authority to develop plans to support local higher education institutions and foster local talent will be delegated to local governments by the end of this year.
- In the first half of the year, plans to designate and operate "Education Autonomous Regions" will be unveiled, where schools in the region have eased regulations on organization and operation of schools to provide public education that is tailored to the local community. A pilot operation will be implemented in 2024.

(7) Establishment of RISE (Regional Innovation System & Education) to support community-driven higher education system

- ☐ In order to advance the competitiveness nature of local higher education institutions, greater authority will be delegated to local governments over supporting higher education institutions, dramatically lifting regulations, and employing a funding scheme that concentrates

on priority areas.

- Starting in 2023, five local governments will be designated as RISE pilot program regions, which will then be spread across the country in 2025. In accordance with the designation of RISE, special rules will be applied to the pilot regions called the “higher education innovation specialized regions”, and they will be delegated with the authority to provide funding for the program.
- Through this effort, the Ministry will foster communities and enhance the competitiveness of local higher education institutions, specializing local communities in line with regional development strategies to foster internationally competitive "glocal" higher education institutions.

(8) Promotion of mixed-use of school facilities

- ☐ Educational facilities such as buildings for elementary, middle, high schools, universities, and colleges will be opened to residents to revive the thriving energy of communities.
- In February, the Ministry will announce a plan to “promote the mixed-use of educational facilities,” which will provide ways to expand financial resources and ease regulations on further elevating the mixed-use of school facilities.
- In particular, plans to utilize school facilities by integrating various policies across the Ministries, such as *Neulbom* (educare) Schools (Ministry of Education), Urban Regeneration Projects (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport), and Relocation of Public Institutions (Presidential Committee for Balanced National Development) will be carefully examined.

4 Industry/society-centered Education Reform

(9) Human capital development in leading-edge industries

- ☐ The Ministry will cultivate human capital in leading-edge industries to be globally competitive in the area of technological supremacy.
- Chaired by the President of Korea, the Human Capital Cultivation Strategy Meeting will be launched in February to set forth a pan-governmental human capital cultivation system.
- Relevant Ministries will announce their plan in sequential order on fostering human capital in leading-edge industries such as bio-health, environment/energy, space/aviation, and advanced materials, followed by last year's digital and semi-conductor industrial sectors.

(10) Legislation of four education reform laws

- ☐ Lastly, the Ministry will guarantee the autonomy of education, which is considered the driving force of national and regional growth, and promote legislations on reforms to enhance the capacity of local education.
- The Ministry will cooperate with the National Assembly to introduce the Governor-Superintendent Running Mate System (i.e., amend *Local Education Autonomy Act* and *Public Official Election Act*), in order to overcome barriers of the current superintendent election system and to implement tailored education.
- The legislation grounds for Education Autonomous Region will be prepared for the stable introduction and operation of schools with greater autonomy in their organization and operation.

- In order to fully guarantee the autonomy and creativity of higher education institutions and to support their innovation, the Ministry will also completely revise the *Higher Education Act* and the *Private Schools Act*, creating a basis for the future-oriented foundation for institutions that looks ahead to 20-30 years.
- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho stated, “Not only the public holds high expectations for education reform, but various concerns are raised by relevant stakeholders, and thus, the Ministry will work hard to fully explain its reform tasks during the process, and collect in-depth opinions.”
- He also continued, “Our solidarity and cooperation with local governments, relevant Ministries, educational institutions, and private sectors are prominent in the process of education reforms. As the Ministry led by Deputy Prime Minister for Social Affairs, it will aim towards establishing a horizontal partnership with various stakeholders by collaborating and working together hand-in-hand.”

2023 Work Plan of the Ministry of Education

Vision

**Education Reform,
the First Step to Korea's New Leap Forward**

Goal

Growth

Education as a driver of national development

Welfare

Education that fosters all citizens
based on freedom and creativity

National Agenda

4 Priorities

10 Major Policies

Goals

82.
Learning
revolution to
cultivate all
citizens as future
talent

1

Student-centered

**Individualized
education that leaves
no one behind**

- ① Education innovation via "High Touch High Tech" scheme
- ② School capacity-building
- ③ Teacher innovation system



Revitalizing
school
education via
focusing on the
essence of
education

84.
Closing the gap
in education with
government taking
full responsibility

2

Family-centered

**Government-guaranteed
education and childcare to
achieve equity at the
starting line**

- ④ Preparation for consolidation of early childhood education and childcare
- ⑤ *Neulbom* (educare) school



Equity at the
starting line for
all children

83.
Granting greater
autonomy for
higher education
to establish a
dynamic &
innovative hub

3

Community-centered

**Education that rebuilds
communities with full
support, without
regulations**

- ⑥ Promotion of regulatory innovation and structural reforms in higher education institutions
- ⑦ Establishment of RISE
- ⑧ Support the mixed-use of educational facilities



Reviving the
community
energy through
education

85.
Promoting local
higher education
institutions

4

Society/Industry-centered

**Education that promptly
responds to the human
capital cultivation essential
for society**

- ⑨ Cultivation of human capital in leading-edge industries and launch the Human Capital Cultivation Strategy Meeting



Nurturing
human capital
to lead the
world in a
rapidly changing
world

5

Operational System

Education Reform Legislation

- ⑩ Enact *Running Mate Act*, *Education Autonomous Region Act*, *Higher Education Act*, *Private School Act*, etc.

Cooperative Partnerships

- ▶ Hold a Ministers' Meeting for Strategic Social Affairs
- ▶ Promotion of communication channel for the public