

# A Six-year Curriculum for Students to Attend the Nearest Suitable School

## Completely Exam-free Senior High School Admission Will be Expanded in the Academic Year of 2018

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To gradually achieve the goal of "Comprehensive Exemption of Entrance Exam and Attendance to the Nearest School" for the 12-year National Basic Education, the Ministry of Education will expand the pilot completely exam-free admission program among senior high schools in the academic year of 2018. This program will not only allow individual schools to participate, as it did in the academic year of 2017, but it will also be expanded in selected districts:

First, the pilot program in the academic year of 2017 has laid a solid foundation. The expansion of the program in the academic year of 2018 will continue to provide junior high school graduates with sufficient access to senior high as well as vocational schools.

In the academic year of 2017, the Ministry of Education implemented the program in a total of 15 public senior high as well as vocational schools. A total of 1,111 junior high school graduates participated in this program, and 1,099 of them were admitted with the acceptance rate of 98.92%. The actual number of enrolled students was 773 and the enrollment rate reached 70.34%, providing the junior high school graduates in the learning areas sufficient access to the nearest suitable school.

In the academic year of 2018, 11 individual senior high schools will participate in the program from a total of 38 schools in the seven districts and areas: Keelung, District 1 in Nantou, District 6 in Kaohsiung, District 2 in Pingtung, Taitung, Lienchiang County, and Penghu. In total, 49 public and private schools will be involved and 6,457 openings offered. As for the admission, the same method in the academic year of 2017 will continue to be adopted as students can select only one major for one school when ranking their preferences and will be assigned to a given school based on the final result; in addition, National Ren-ai Agricultural Vocational Senior High School will, for the first time, allow students to select multiple majors at once based on their preferences list, while both of the methods allow for waitlisted candidates.

The scores of the Comprehensive Assessment Program for Junior High School Students will not be included in the exam-free learning admission program. When the number of applicants is lower than the openings, all applicants will be admitted. However, if the number of applicants is higher than the number of the slots offered by the participating school, then the school may select students according to its excess enrollment policy. If more than one student obtains the same grades based on the policy, the school may refer to the “five-percent principle” to admit within five percent more students. The openings left from the learning admission program can be applied towards the current school district exam-free admission.

In the academic year of 2018, the senior high as well as vocational schools participating in this program will actively assist their corresponding junior high schools with effective teaching and learning. This will allow junior school students to learn about the curriculum features of a given senior high, vocational school, or specialized program and figure out their potential career paths through visits to participating

schools, hands-on activities, as well as dialogue in a diverse and flexible manner, which will enhance students' learning efficacy.

Second, a six-year curriculum system that incorporates the senior high school and junior high school programs will be developed to ensure the quality of students' learning and develop their practical ability.

This student-centered exam-free learning program complies with the principle: "autonomy, interaction, and mutual benefit," as depicted in the 12-year National Basic Education, to pave the way for the six-year curriculum system. As the Ministry of Education has worked to improve the quality of senior high as well as vocational schools, recreate vocational education, guide pioneering schools for the 12-year National Basic Education, the senior high as well as vocational schools now have the expertise and resources to lead the junior high schools in their own learning programs to stabilize the quality of students' academic ability and help students develop based on individuals' interests and ability.

Some participating senior high as well as vocational schools have actively guided their corresponding junior high schools to jointly develop special programs. For instance, Jin-Shan High School in New Taipei City provides its corresponding junior high school with a complete and excellent English learning environment by jointly offering the primary and advanced classes in English. Ren-ai Agricultural Vocational Senior High School in Nantou County, along with the teachers of its corresponding junior high school, have formed a community for agricultural studies to help the teachers of the junior high school to strengthen their agricultural expertise and train the students who are interested in agriculture. National Yu Li Senior High School and Yu Li Junior High School in Hualian County have jointly offered an archery program to train archers from junior high school through senior high school. Furthermore, Renai Junior High School in Nantou County motivates its students to understand their interests through a curriculum map of different subjects and skills so that they can pursue their own interests and goals as early as possible. Moreover, Nanan Junior High School in Ilan County offers flexible classes in bakery, simple Chinese cooking, and marine engines (collaboratively taught by teachers from National Suao and Fisheries

Vocational High School), livening up the junior high school curriculum and allowing the students to develop freely in their own way.

The Ministry of Education wants to relieve the pressure on junior high school graduates and allow them to learn and develop freely based on their own interests and orientation through the program. In the meantime, it plans to strengthen the connection of the curricular between junior high schools and senior high as well as vocational schools in the same learning program to develop a secondary school learning zone, with community resources incorporated to showcase the characteristics of each participating school, so that they will be better positioned in recruiting junior high school students to attend the nearest school. Students as well as their parents may pay attention to the enrollment information on the website of each school, or visit the school of interest to allow students to have further understanding of the features of the school curriculum and encourage students to think about their career options.

Please note that the detailed Information about the candidates, openings, application methods, and timetable for the pilot exam-free admission program in the academic year of 2017 will be included in the general enrollment information and will be announce on the website of each participating school as well as the exam-free admission information website (<http://120.101.173.193/>) during mid-January, 2018.