

**EDUCATION SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN.
NEW EDUCATIONAL REFORMS**

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Abstract: *The education system in Uzbekistan is currently managed by two ministries: Ministry of Preschool and School Education and Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education. The education is the sector with the highest government expenditures, 20.5 percent of public expenditures and 4.9 percent of the national GDP, according to the UNESCO Institute of Statistics. This is considerably more than other countries in the Central Asia region and elsewhere with a similar income level. This article will provide information based on education system of Uzbekistan.*

Key words: *Education system, higher education, secondary education, primary school, Presidential school.*

The Ministry of Preschool and School Education adopted the second education sector plan (2019-2023). The plan was developed with the participation of the different divisions of the MoPE, MoPSE, other line ministries (Finances, Economy, Health, and Employment and Labor Relations), as well as the State Inspection for the Quality of Education, State Statistics Committee and international development partners.

The 2019-23 ESP has an overall vision that reflects the recent reforms introduced by the Government of Uzbekistan and is consistent with the it's national development strategy 2017-2021. Primary Education In Uzbekistan 11 years of education are compulsory and free, beginning with 4 years at primary school, and followed by 2 phases of secondary education taking 5 and 2 years respectively. Primary school begins at age 6 and there is no specific leaving examination after the 4 years are complete.

Secondary Education

The next 5 years are spent at general secondary school from ages 10 to 15. Following that, there is a choice of between 2 to 3 years of upper education at either general or technical vocational schools. The former provides a certificate of completed secondary education and the opportunity to enter university, the latter a diploma of specialized secondary education, through a network of secondary vocational institutions.

Vocational Education

Unemployment remains relatively high, and there are many people desperately in need of new or more appropriate skills. There are a number of stateand donor programs in place to address the structural training shortfall. Eventually, the goal is to meet European union standards.

Tertiary Education

Non-university -level tertiary education is provided by national enterprise training centers and a number of business schools, as well as lycea that train professionals in new economic and service fields. Higher education is available from several universities and over 50 higher education institutes. The flagship is the Taskent Islamic University opened not many years ago. On its grounds still stands the mausoleum of the grandfather of the Mughal Emperor Basbur dating from the 15th Century. There was adopted at the beginning of a new stage of reforms in Uzbekistan in February 2017, the "Action Strategy for the Five Priority Areas of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021" , one of the priorities is "to continue the course of further improving the system

of continuing education, increasing the availability of quality educational services, training highly qualified personnel, in accordance with the modern needs of the labor market". The development of improving the competitiveness of education in the country on the national and international labor markets was also included in the Concept of Integrated Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030. Education from early childhood prior to the start of the new stage of reforms, preschool education in Uzbekistan did not receive much attention. The situation changed in 2017 when the Ministry of Preschool Education (MDE) was created. If earlier the coverage of children with this form of education was only 27%, then by the end of 2019 it had already increased to 44.5%. During this period, the number of state preschool institutions (preschool institutions) increased by 1.5 times (from 4940 to 7500), and private preschool institutions - 3 times (from 269 to 783). The gross enrollment rate for general primary and secondary education remained at 99%.

Decentralization of education

In the course of reforms in secondary education, schools have restored instruction in grades 10- 11. The share of teachers with higher education in general education schools exceeded 80%, which can be considered as an indicator of the quality of education. The education reform was accompanied by an increase in the salaries of secondary school teachers, which were increased in three stages and, as a result, increased by an average of 50%. During the reform, 4 academic lyceums were also abolished, the educational and material base of which did not meet modern requirements. And 54 lyceums, located far from universities and having low rates of graduate admission to universities, have been gradually transformed into professional colleges. At the same time, new innovative technologies of scientific and technical education are being introduced more and more in the world. In Uzbekistan, preconditions and conditions are being created for the transition to such teaching technologies, which is reflected in the Concept for the development of the public education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030. Of great importance in this direction is the creation of a system of

presidential schools, where gifted children who graduated from the fourth grade according to test results are selected. Presidential schools are already operating in Tashkent, Namangan, Nukus and Khiva, schools have been opened in Bukhara, Jizzakh, Samarkand, Fergana and other regions of the Republic this year.

Specialized educational institutions with in-depth study of ICT, exact sciences, as well as aerospace and astronomy are being created. Thus, by decrees of the President, the school named after al-Khorezmi and the boarding school named after Mirzo Ulugbek were established in Tashkent at the Astronomical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan. There are also private specialized schools. And in 2017, the private school Artel global school was opened, focused on in-depth study of mathematics, physics, and chemistry. Robotics, 3D modeling and programming are also taught here. Reforms aimed at dramatically improving and improving the quality of school education with the creation of decent conditions for teachers will be accelerated, the president said. In the New Year, 2 trillion sums will be allocated from the budget for the construction of 30 new schools, repair and improvement of the material and technical base of 320 schools.

In the next two years, 250 billion soums will be allocated for the introduction of a unified system of "electronic education". "In order to radically improve the quality of education, first of all, it is necessary to bring curricula, teaching aids for teachers in line with advanced international standards," the head of state emphasized. - To develop children's analytical and creative thinking skills, you need to create meaningful and understandable textbooks for them. In this regard, in the next academic year in the elementary grades, on the basis of the best foreign experience, a "National Curriculum" will be introduced, which will not overload the child". The quality of school education should be equally high both in the capital and in remote villages, the president emphasized in his message. For this, it is necessary to implement a program to provide schools in remote areas with qualified personnel and improve the quality of education. As it has been stated above, Presidential schools operating in Uzbekistan have great

opportunities for students' further development, all the comforts to make students get qualified knowledge. There have been invited around 100 guest lecturers to teach students of these schools with the help of modern technologies, new innovative methods, internationally accepted assessment criteria is also used here. In conclusion, all given data in the article offers an overview of the education system in Uzbekistan, focusing on the management by two ministries, the Ministry of Preschool and School Education and the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education. It highlights the significant government expenditures allocated to the education sector, as well as the various levels of education provided in Uzbekistan, including primary, secondary, vocational, and tertiary education. Additionally, the article mentions the second education sector plan (2019-2023) adopted by the Ministry of Preschool and School Education, developed in collaboration with different divisions and international partners. It outlines the compulsory and free 11-year education system in Uzbekistan, starting with primary school at age 6 and progressing through general secondary education and vocational training. The focus on addressing unemployment through vocational education and training programs is emphasized, with the goal of meeting European Union standards. The availability of non-university tertiary education through enterprise training centers, business schools, and higher education institutes is also highlighted.

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