

Decision of the GAC of the Central People's Government on Reforming the School System (Adopted at the 97th Meeting of the GAC on August 10, 1951)

The original school system in our country (i.e., the system of schools of all levels and types) has many shortcomings. Among them, the most important are that cadre schools for workers and peasants, as well as various remedial schools and training classes, have no place in the school system; the method of six years of primary school and the division into primary and senior levels makes it difficult for the children of the vast majority of working people to receive a complete primary education; and technical schools lack a fixed system and cannot meet the requirements of cultivating talents for national construction. These shortcomings urgently need to be corrected. At present, although there are still some difficulties in the complete unification of the school system in the country, it is necessary and possible to determine the appropriate status of existing and newly established schools of all types, reform various unreasonable years of study and systems, and connect schools of different levels to each other, so as to improve the cultural level of the vast majority of working people, promote the advanced study of worker and peasant cadres, and promote the cause of national construction. The school system in our country at present is hereby stipulated as follows:

#### (I) Early Childhood Education

The organization that implements early childhood education is the kindergarten. Kindergartens admit children aged three to seven, ensuring their healthy physical and mental development before entering primary school.

Kindergartens should be established first in cities with suitable conditions, and then gradually expanded.

#### (II) Primary Education

Primary education includes primary education for children and primary education for youth and adults. Primary schools provide primary education for children and should provide them with comprehensive basic education. Schools that provide primary education for youth and adults who have dropped out of school from a young age include workers' and peasants' accelerated primary schools, part-time primary schools, and literacy schools (winter school, literacy classes).

##### A. Primary School:

The duration of primary school is five years, with a continuous system, abolishing the segmentation of junior and senior high school. The standard age for enrolment is seven years old. After graduation, students must pass an examination to enter middle school or other secondary schools.

To ensure that primary school graduates who cannot continue their education receive appropriate education, primary schools may attach various remedial classes or professional training classes. Students who have received education in such remedial classes or training classes can pass an examination to enter the appropriate class in a secondary school.

##### B. Elementary Schools for Youth and Adults:

1. Workers' and Peasants' Accelerated Elementary Schools: The duration of study is two to three years. They enrol workers and peasants, cadres, and other out-of-school laborers, and provide education equivalent to primary school level. After graduation, students can take an examination to enter workers' and peasants' accelerated secondary schools or other secondary schools.

2. Part-time Elementary Schools: These enrol workers and peasants, laborers, and other youth and adults, and provide part-time education equivalent to primary school level. The duration of study is not specified, and graduation is based on completion of the prescribed courses. After graduation, students can take an examination to enter part-time secondary schools or other secondary schools.

3. Literacy Schools (Winter Schools, Literacy Classes): These aim to eliminate illiteracy, and the duration of study is not specified.

### (III) Secondary Education:

Schools that implement secondary education are various types of secondary schools, namely secondary schools, workers' and peasants' accelerated secondary schools, part-time secondary schools, and secondary vocational schools. Secondary schools, workers' and peasants' accelerated secondary schools, and part-time secondary schools should provide students with comprehensive general cultural knowledge education; secondary vocational schools implement various types of secondary vocational education according to the needs of national construction.

#### A. Secondary School:

The duration of secondary school is six years, divided into junior and senior levels. Each level is three years long and can be established independently. The curriculum follows a consistent approach while also accommodating segmentation needs.

Junior secondary school admits primary school graduates or those with equivalent qualifications, with an admission age of twelve years old. After graduation, students can take an examination to enter senior secondary school or other equivalent vocational secondary schools.

Senior secondary school admits junior secondary school graduates or those with equivalent qualifications, with an admission age of fifteen years old. After graduation, students can take an examination to enter various institutions of higher learning.

Graduates of junior and senior secondary schools who do not pursue further education should seek employment under government guidance.

#### B. Workers' and Peasants' Accelerated Secondary School:

The duration of work in workers' and peasants' accelerated secondary school is three to four years. It admits workers, peasants, and industrial workers who have participated in revolutionary struggles and production work for a prescribed number of years and have an education equivalent to primary school graduation, providing them with education equivalent to secondary school level. After graduation, students can take an examination to enter various institutions of higher learning.

#### C. Part-time Secondary Schools:

Part-time secondary schools are divided into junior and senior levels, each with a study period of three to four years. They can be established independently, respectively enrolling graduates of part-time primary schools or part-time junior secondary schools, or those with equivalent qualifications, providing part-time education equivalent to junior or senior secondary school levels. There is no uniform age requirement for admission.

Graduates of part-time junior secondary schools can enter senior secondary schools, part-time senior secondary schools, or equivalent secondary vocational schools through examinations; graduates of part-time senior secondary schools can enter various institutions of higher learning through examinations.

#### D. Secondary Vocational Schools:

##### 1. Technical Schools (Industrial, Agricultural, Transportation, etc.):

Technical schools have a study period of two to four years, enrolling junior secondary school graduates or those with equivalent qualifications. There is no uniform age requirement for admission.

. Junior technical schools have a study period of two to four years, enrolling primary school graduates or those with equivalent qualifications. There is no uniform age requirement for admission.

Graduates of junior technical schools and technical schools should serve in production sectors; after completing the required service period, they can enter technical schools, senior secondary schools, or various institutions of higher learning through examinations.

Various technical schools may attach short-term technical training classes or technical remedial classes.

##### 2. Teacher Training Schools:

Teacher training schools have a three-year study period and enrol junior high school graduates or those with equivalent qualifications. There is no uniform age requirement for admission.

Junior teacher training schools have a three- to four-year study period and enrol primary school graduates or those with equivalent qualifications. There is no uniform age requirement for admission.

Both teacher training schools and junior teacher training schools may attach accelerated teacher training programs, with a one-year study period, enrolling junior high school graduates or those with equivalent qualifications; and may attach primary school teacher training programs to absorb in-service primary school teachers for training.

Early Childhood Teacher Training Schools have the same study period and admission requirements as teacher training schools. Both teacher training schools and junior teacher training schools may attach early childhood teacher training departments.

Graduates of junior teacher training schools, teacher training schools, and early childhood teacher training schools should serve in primary schools or kindergartens; after serving the prescribed number of years, they may take examinations to enter teacher training schools, senior high schools, teacher training colleges, or other institutions of higher learning, respectively.

3. For medical and other secondary vocational schools (trade, banking, cooperative, art, etc.), the length of study and admission requirements shall be in accordance with the regulations for technical schools.

#### (IV) Higher Education

Schools implementing higher education are various institutions of higher learning, namely universities, specialized colleges, and junior colleges. Institutions of higher learning should provide students with advanced specialized education on the basis of comprehensive general cultural knowledge education, cultivating construction talents with advanced specialized knowledge for the country.

The length of study for universities and specialized colleges is generally three to five years (four years for teacher training colleges), and they enrol graduates of senior high schools and equivalent schools

or those with equivalent academic qualifications. There are no uniform age requirements for admission.

Specialized schools have a study period of two to three years and admit graduates of senior high schools or equivalent schools, or those with equivalent academic qualifications. There is no uniform age limit for admission.

Various institutions of higher learning may establish specialized courses with a study period of one to two years and admit graduates of senior high schools or equivalent schools, or those with equivalent academic qualifications. There is no uniform age limit for admission.

Universities and specialized colleges may establish research departments with a study period of more than two years and admit graduates of universities and specialized colleges, or those with equivalent academic qualifications, to cooperate with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and other research institutions to train teachers and scientific research personnel for institutions of higher learning.

Various institutions of higher learning may establish preparatory classes or remedial classes to facilitate the admission of worker and peasant cadres, ethnic minority students, and children of overseas Chinese.

The jobs of graduates of institutions of higher learning are assigned by the government.

#### (V) Political Schools and Political Training Classes at All Levels

Political schools and political training classes at all levels provide revolutionary political education to young intellectuals and old intellectuals. Their school levels, study periods, and admission conditions are stipulated separately.

In addition to the aforementioned types of schools, governments at all levels may establish various levels and types of supplementary schools and correspondence schools to meet the needs of extensive political and professional learning. Governments at all levels should also establish special schools for the deaf, blind, and other children with disabilities, providing education for children, youth, and adults with physical impairments.

The Ministry of Education of the Central People's Government shall, based on this decision and taking into account the actual conditions of various regions, especially the characteristics of ethnic minority areas, formulate implementation plans for the school system and regulations for various schools, which shall be implemented upon approval by the GAC of the Central People's Government.