



Introduction to the Republic of Korea

Chapter 6 provides general information about elementary, middle, and high school education. It also introduces international exchange opportunities in which young people from multicultural families can participate.

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01 Educational System of Korea

1. Overview of the Educational System of Korea

The educational system of Korea consists of six grades of primary school, three grades of middle school, three years of high school and four years of university (or two years of college). The six-year curriculum of primary schools and the three-year curriculum of middle schools are operated as mandatory education, and tuition is free during this period.

2. Operation of the Educational System of Korea

In Korea, the school year is divided into two semesters. The first semester is from March 1 to the date set by the school principal, considering the number of school days, holidays, and the school curriculum. The second semester starts the day after the last day of the first semester and ends on the last day of February the following year. Generally, the first semester starts in early March, and the second semester starts between late August and early September. The education curriculum for elementary, middle, and high school is divided into two sections: curricular and creative experiential activities.

3. Educational Assistance for Multicultural Students

☉ Korean Education (Visiting Korean Education)

Kindergartens, elementary, middle, and high schools that are designated as Korean classes provide Korean classes to support Korean language and culture education for students such as immigrant children, etc., who lack Korean language skills. A total of 217 schools (as of 2019) are in operation nationwide for 326 Korean classes. When the school does not operate the program, you can still get Korean language education through 'visiting Korean education.' You can check for local Korean classes through Education Offices of si(city) or do(province), or on the Multi-cultural Education Portal (www.edu4mc.or.kr).

☉ Bilingual Education

To encourage bilingual education, bilingual textbooks and e-books are developed and distributed. The Bilingual Speech Contest is held every year. You can visit the Mirae Asset Park Hyeon Joo Foundation (foundation.miraeasset.com) or the National Center for Multi-cultural Education portal (www.edu4mc.or.kr) to download the bilingual textbooks (Language to learn with Mom and Dad*, etc.) The Bilingual Speech Contest selects students through school and local contests to hold the national contest every late October to early November.

* 10 languages including Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Filipino, English, Indonesian, Thai, Cambodian, Mongolian, etc.

☉ University/College Student Mentors for Multicultural Students

1:1 matching with a university/college student to support the adaptation to school and basic learning skills. The university/college student mentor visits the school of the multicultural student to help with study after school or during vacation. You can get mentoring for approximately 20 hours per week (40 hours per week during vacation). You can participate in this program through school or local children's center.

Useful Information

Multicultural Alternative Schools

Multicultural alternative schools: support multicultural students who want to receive personalized education or who have stopped school education. The school's achievement is recognized officially.

School Name	Level	Feature	Tuition	Inquiry
The School of Global Sarang (Guro-gu, Seoul) (www.globalsarang.com) Elementary	Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-language specialized education, learning Korean, English, and a second foreign language at the same time 	Free	02-6910-1004
Seoul Dasom Tourism High School (Formerly, Seoul Dasom School, Jongno-gu, Seoul) (www.sds.hs.kr)	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocational education for enhancing career capabilities, and Korean education Tourism Contents major and Tourism Service major 	Free	070-8685-7798
Korean Polytechnics Dasom School (Jecheon, Chungcheongbuk-do) (dasom.kopo.ac.kr)	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocational education for better career education and technology acquisition Computer machine major, plant facility major, smart electric major All students live in the dormitory 	Free (Free dormitory)	043-649-2800

School Name	Level	Feature	Tuition	Inquiry
Incheon Hannuri School (Namdong-gu, Incheon) (www.hannuri.icesc.kr)	Elementary · Middle · High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate Korean education courses and various specialized programs (improving academic ability, career course, field activities) Students in grade five or higher can live in dormitory 	Elementary-middle : Free High: Charged (Additional expense for dormitory)	032-442-2104 032-442-2109
Hae Mill School (Hongcheon-gun, Gangwon-do) (haemillschool.com)	Middle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small dormitory school (20 students per grade) Integrated education for multicultural and non-multicultural students Korean education and bilingual education (Chinese, Japanese) Work-oriented activities such as tending kitchen gardens, etc. 	Free (including boarding expenses)	033-433-8761

International Schools

International schools (foreign schools) are for non-Korean children and children of Korean parents who lived abroad for at least three years with their children and returned to Korea. They are designed to provide education for those who are not able to continue their studies at an ordinary Korean school due to the lack of Korean language skills. There are 40 international/foreign schools in Korea, 19 being in Seoul, 6 in Gyeonggi-do, 5 in Busan, 2 in Incheon, 2 in Gyeongsangnam-do, 2 in Daegu, and one school each in Daejeon, Gwangju, Ulsan, and Gangwon-do.

◎ Entrance Qualifications

- At least one of the prospective student's parents is a foreigner
- Korean citizens who have lived in foreign countries for over 3 years (including people with multiple citizenship)
- Children of naturalized Korean citizens who have difficulty continuing education at regular schools (review by school steering committee required)
 - Students not capable of keeping up with classes due to the lack of Korean language skills
 - Students having a hard time fitting into Korean school due to cultural differences
 - Students not being able to continue studies in their school due to other reasons

◎ Screening for Admission

- Admission screenings are carried out by schools. Detailed methods for screening vary by school,

but many emphasize document reviews and interviews. It is usually possible to apply any time throughout the year.

- Required documents for admission differ by school, but required documents typically include: immigration certificate, passport, medical records register, certificates of enrollment from previous schools, academic transcripts, and official language test score from corresponding country, etc. Please check with your school of interest for more detailed admission information.

◎ Overall guidance homepage for international education institutes and schools

- At the overall guidance homepage for international education institutes and schools (<http://www.isi.go.kr>), detailed information, such as admission procedures and tuition by each school, is provided.

02 Elementary School Education

Elementary school is organized in 6-year courses (curriculums). Children must enter elementary school on March 1 of the year after they turn 6 in international age (6 years old in Western age is equivalent to 8 years old in Korean age. In Korea, a baby is considered to already be 1 year old on the day of his or her birth; the child turns 2 on January 1 of the following year. A baby born on December 31, 2016 turns 2 years old in Jan. 1, 2017.) However, children may also enter elementary school the year after they turn 5 or 7 in international age. Elementary education is compulsory, so no tuition is required. By law, parents must enroll their children in an elementary school, or otherwise make sure that their children graduate with an elementary school education. Parents who fail to do so can be fined or otherwise penalized.

1. Content of Education

Elementary education focuses on building the fundamental abilities and basic habits necessary for learning and daily life, and developing proper character. Each class takes 40 minutes. 1st and 2nd graders learn basic life habits and capabilities such as Korean, math, good living habits, wisdom for life, etc. Students from the 3rd to the 6th grades learn Korean, social studies/ethics, math, science/domestic science, physical education, arts (music/fine art), English, etc.

Class	1st~2nd Grade Courses	3rd~6th Grade Major Courses
Korean	Korean, mathematics, good living habits, life for wisdom, joyful life	Listening speaking, reading, writing, grammar, literature
Social studies/Ethics		(Society) politics, laws, economics, social and geographical awareness, places and regions, natural environment and human life, human environment and life, sustainable world, general history, political and cultural history, social and economic history, (ethics) relationship with oneself, relationship with others, relationship with society and community, relationship with nature/supernatural
Mathematics		Numbers and arithmetic, figure, measurements, regularity, continuity, data, probability
Science/Domestic science		(Science) movement and energy, matter, life, earth and space, (domestic science) human development and family, family life and safety, resource management and self-reliance, technology system, technology applications
Physical education		Health, challenge, competition, expression, safety
Arts (Music/arts)		(Music) expression, appreciation, everyday life, (art) experience, expression, appreciation
English		Listening, speaking, reading, writing

2. Creative Experience Activities

Creative experiential activities are extracurricular activities divided into four types of activities: autonomous activities; club activities; career development; and volunteer activities. Schools can selectively organize activities by grades (groups), considering the development of students and school conditions. The types and activities of creative experiential activities are as follows:

Item	Activities	Focus of Education
Autonomous activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-governing and adaptation activities Creative theme activities 	Adaptation to school at the beginning of school, adolescent adaptation activities, understanding and practicing the basic principles of democratic decision-making various themed activities for a pleasant school life
Club activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts and sports Academic cultural activities Youth group activities 	Talent discovery through various experiences and cultural activities, experiencing body sensory and direct manipulation, cultivation of fellowship and solidarity
Volunteer work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping neighbors Environmental protection Campaign activities 	Understanding and practice of meanings and values of volunteer work
Career development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-understanding Career exploring Career planning 	Forming positive self-concept, understanding importance of work, exploring jobs, and development of basic career skills, etc.

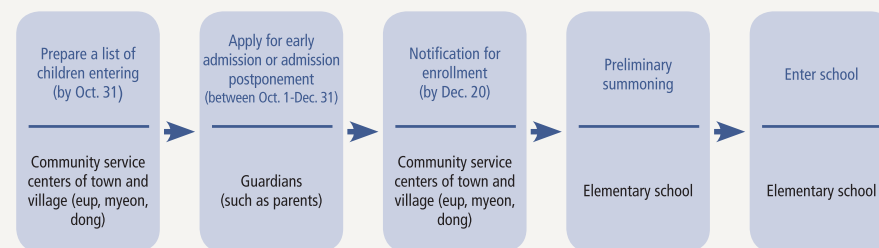
3. Guide to Elementary School Admission

(1) Eligibility for enrollment (for entering school)

- Children who are a full 6 years of age are eligible to enroll at an elementary school in March of the following year.
- This includes non-enrolled children from the previous year including those who postponed enrollment obligation and excludes children already at school due to early enrollment.
 - New students enrolled in 2020 are children born anytime from January 1 to December 31, 2013
 - For new students in 2021, this means children born anytime from January 1 to December 31, 2014.

(2) Enrollment procedures for elementary school

Enrollment procedures for elementary school is as follows.



National or private elementary schools select students directly without going through the above admission procedure. Invitation periods for these schools may vary by school and/or region. If parents wish to enroll their children in a national or private elementary school, they must inquire directly to the school, or apply online via the school homepage.

- National elementary schools are affiliated elementary schools of universities or colleges of education. A list of private schools may be obtained by inquiring at your local office of education.

(3) Early admission (enrollment), application for deferred admission

Parents who want early admission or delay in admission for their child must visit the local eup or myeon office or the community service center from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31 annually to apply.

- Subjects for early or deferred admission
 - Early admission: children who are a full 5 years old in age and intend to gain early admission to an elementary school (a maximum of 1 year early admission is possible)
 - For 2021 early admission, children born from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2015 can apply.

- Deferred admission: children who are a full 6 years old in age and intend to defer admission to an elementary school for a year.
- ※ A delay in 2021 admission can be applied to children born from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2014 whose parents intend to enroll them in 2021 (admission on 3/1/2021).
- ※ Early or deferred admission is a decision made by the parents that must be considered carefully.

(4) Admission of children who have difficulty going through the general admission process

- ◉ Korea secures the right to receive education when the child reaches the age of admission to elementary school regardless of the child's nationality or qualification to stay.
- ◉ An applicant for admission applies to the head of the competent elementary school for the person's residence by attaching documents to prove immigration or alien registration and documents to verify the student's academic background*.
 - When documents proving immigration or alien registration is unavailable, documents verifying residency such as a tenancy agreement or warranty of an acquaintance on residency can substitute for them.
- * Academic Supporting Document: a diploma, proof of enrollment, transcript, etc.
- ※ A guide to admission-transfer of children for multicultural parents, 'Sending my child to school' booklet, is in 12 languages. You may download them at the Multi-cultural Education portal (www.edu4mc.or.kr) or request at the Multicultural Family Support Center.

4. Preparing to Enter School

Entering school can be both a joyful and a stressful event for a child. At home, parents should encourage the child to prepare for school life with a joyful heart.

- ◉ **Clothing (Garments)** : Dress the student in plain and casual clothing that will make his or her school life comfortable before sending him/her to school.
- ◉ **Backpack** : The child's backpack should not be too big and should be easy for the child to carry. It is better to prepare a backpack that is simple and neat, rather than one that is too trendy or has complex patterns.
- ◉ **Pencil, Pencil Case, and Eraser** : A pencil case should be simple rather than complex, and cases that include games should be avoided. At the beginning of the school year, a 2B pencil (dark lead) is recommended. Prepare two or three pencils and one eraser. In the upper years, mechanical pencils are recommended.

- ◉ **Notebook** : Prepare a notepad for 1st-2nd graders. Prepare a home notice notebook and a general notebook in advance, and follow the guidelines of the classroom teacher regarding other notebooks (dictation notebook, home notice notebook, general book, etc.)
- ◉ **Crayons and Color Pencils** : 1st graders typically need about 12 colored crayons.
- ◉ **Shoe Bag and Indoor Shoes** : The shoe bag should be large enough to hold running shoes. There are many kinds of indoor shoes in colors such as pink, sky blue, etc. Avoid indoor shoes that are uncomfortable to walk in or are too big. Shoes can be bought in the shoe store or at the stationery shop in front of the school. No shoe bag is required if the student keeps his/her indoor shoes in a locker. practice how to arrange school supplies and his/her backpack, giving the child a sense of independence and autonomy (wash face, arrange things on own, know how to use the rest-room, etc.).



Useful Information

Things for your Child to Learn before Starting School

- Learn the school name and how to say it.
- Learn to write his/her own name and the names of family members.
- Study Korean consonants and vowels.
- Learn simple numbers (1-10)
- Learn how to use a pencil, crayons, scissors, and an eraser.
- Learn to draw circles, horizontal lines, and vertical lines with a color pencil.
- Learn the names of colors.
- Be able to distinguish his/her own things from those of others.
- Know his/her home address and phone number and how to make and receive calls.
- Learn basic table manners.

5. Preparing Your Child for the Beginning of the School Year

⦿ **Giving a Good Impression of School**

- Some children may be afraid of school. For these children, let them know that school is a fun place by visiting the school and taking a tour around the 1st grade classrooms and other places.
- Tell them in advance about the rules to observe at school.
- Tell them that he/she can make many friends in school.

⦿ **The Teacher: Helping your Child Navigate School Life**

- Tell children that a teacher is someone who tells children what they want and need to know.
- Talk to your child about how to behave in the classroom (following rules, keeping promises, etc.)

⦿ **Being Independent**

- Give a list of objects to the child, and let him/her put them in the backpack in order. Have him/her practice how to arrange school supplies and his/her backpack, giving the child a sense of independence and autonomy (wash face, arrange things on own, know how to use the rest-room, etc.).

⦿ **Attend School in Good Health**

- Get teeth, eyes, ears etc. checked, and receive treatment for any illness in advance.
- It is advisable to inform the classroom teacher in advance if the child has any food allergies or illnesses (milk allergy, atopic skin, enteritis, etc.)

⦿ **Know the Safe Way to School**

- If possible, it's best to walk to school. Check the route to school a number of times.
- Make sure to walk on the left side of the road, use the crosswalk, and understand traffic signals in order to commute to school safely.
- If taking the bus, get on the bus in an orderly fashion.
- Don't walk in front of or behind the bus after getting off the bus.
- Cross the road using the overhead bridge or underground passage in areas where there's an overhead bridge or underground passage.
- Don't run on crosswalks.
- Follow the instructions of the crossing guard if there is one present.
- Get back on the curb if the crosswalk signal switches when you start to cross the street. Cross quickly if you are already beyond the center line.



Useful Information

Support for Extra-Curricular Activities

These forms of support help elementary students with after-school education/activities and homework through after-school programs (elementary care class), regional children's centers, after-school academies, community-based childcare programs, after-school care (nursery facility), etc. Students of primary schools may attend the after-school classes, local children's centers, after-school academies for teenagers and after-school childcare facilities, and students of primary, middle and high schools may use the after-school educational programs and home assignment support services. Families with financial difficulties can use these institutes for free via counseling.



Useful Information

After-School Child Care and Education Service Centers

Classification	Ministry of Education	Ministry of Health and Welfare		Ministry of Gender Equality and Family
Project Name	Elementary Care Class	Community-Based Childcare Program	Local Children's Center	Youth After-school Academy
Target	Elementary Grade 1-6	Children aged 6~12	Children under age 18	Grade Elementary 4 ~Middle 3
Qualification (Income)	Mainly for working parents (None)	Mainly for working parents (None)	Mainly for socially vulnerable group (Less than 100% national median income)	Priority for socially vulnerable in childcare
Support Type	Free (Partial charges for snacks, etc.)	Charged (Within KRW 100,000, actual expenses separate for snacks)	Free (Charges by income, within KRW 50,000)	Free

Classification		Ministry of Education	Ministry of Health and Welfare		Ministry of Gender Equality and Family
Operating hours	During school term	After school ~ 17:00 (Some operate night care)	14:00 ~ 19:00	14:00 ~ 19:00	After school ~ 21:00
	During vacation	Freely operated depending on conditions	09:00 ~ 18:00	8 hours including 12:00 ~ 17:00	Freely operated depending on conditions
Supported Services		Protection, education, and some meals and snacks	After-school care, programs, etc.	Protection, education, culture, emotional support, link to communities, etc.	Experiential activities, compensatory learning, meals, counseling, etc.



Useful Information

‘e-learning center’ online learning website

The e-learning center website provides contents in 1st year elementary to 3rd year middle school course contents that are compatible with school curriculum, teaching and learning materials, and exam questions for free. Students can study by themselves anywhere and teachers can open up an online class to use for online and offline lessons.

03 Middle School Education

The middle school curriculum is a three-year curriculum. Students are assigned to schools by lottery in each region and school group. For areas in which commuting is extremely inconvenient, the schools to attend are assigned according to the middle school groups designated by the superintendent of education. Likewise with elementary school, middle school education is mandatory and free. Parents who do not send their children to middle schools are subject to fines.

1. Content of Education

Based on accomplishments of elementary school education, middle school curriculum focuses on developing basic abilities necessary for learning and daily life and fostering proper character and democratic citizenship.

Students learn at least eight subjects each semester and the subjects are as follows:

Course (category)	Course hours for 1st to 3rd graders	Major learning areas
Korean language	442	Listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar, literature
Social studies (including history) and ethics	510	Politics, law, geographical awareness, history, relationship with oneself, etc.
Mathematics	374	Number and calculation, letters and formulas, functions, geometry, probability and statistics
Science, industrial arts, and home science/ information	680	Force and motion, matter, biology, earth, family, technology applications, information culture, etc.
Physical education	272	Health, challenge, competition, expression, safety
Art (music, fine arts)	272	Expression, appreciation, habituation, experience
English	340	Listening, speaking, reading, writing
Optional	170	Chinese characters, environment, information, environment and green growth, foreign languages (German, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Arabic, Vietnamese), public health, career and occupation, etc.

2. Creative Experience Activities

Creative experiential activities are extracurricular activities divided into 4 types of activities; autonomous activities, club activities, career development, and volunteer activities. Schools can utilize the activities flexibly considering the development of students and academic demand. The types and activities of creative experiential activities in middle school are as follows.

Item	Activities	Activities
Autonomous activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-governing and adaption activities • Creative theme activities 	Forming amicable relationships with peers, fostering independent and rational problem-solving ability, experiencing research process in wide variety of topics, etc.
Club activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts and sports • Academic cultural activities • Youth group activities 	Forming artistic discrimination, healthy physical and mental development, increasing research and problem-solving capability, understanding and studying various cultures, fostering knowledge for a social leader
Voluntary activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping neighbors • Environmental protection • Campaign activities 	Practicing volunteer works utilizing students' interests and specialties
Career activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-understanding activities • Career exploring • Career planning 	Enforcing positive self-concept, career exploration



Useful Information

School Violence

School violence refers to acts including, but not limited to: assault, blackmail, enticement, defamation, threats, coercion, forcing favors, sexual violence, bullying, cyber bullying, and physical, mental or property damages caused by harassment through exposure to pornographic or violent information on computer networks. Behaviors that some may view as not serious/student pranks may still constitute school violence and be subject to corresponding penalties.

Signs of a victim student

- The child oversleeps, pretends to be sick to avoid going to school.
- The child's school grades fall suddenly or gradually.
- The child looks unwell and is in lower spirits than usual.
- The child reacts sensitively when you try to talk about school life or relationship with friends.
- The child often leaves school early on excuse of being sick or for no apparent reasons.

- The child gets irritated more often or becomes violent toward people around him/her.
- The child often sits idle and can't concentrate on anything.
- The child doesn't want to go out and tries to stay home all the time.
- The child can't sleep well, or goes to the bathroom often.
- The child talks about changing school or after-school academy.
- The child asks for more money than usual, the smartphone charges are high, or the child looks nervous checking his/her smartphone.
- The child doesn't want to have school meals, and doesn't want to go on group activities such as training, volunteer works, etc.
- The child gets startled easily.

- by The Blue Tree Foundation

Signs of victims of cyber-bullying

- The child looks nervous, checks communicative devices often, and reacts to them sensitively.
- The child repeatedly receives psychological attacks by a group in a group chatting.
- The child asks for more pocket money or the charges on his/her online devices are too high.
- The child extremely hates it when a parent touches or sees his/her communication devices and reacts sensitively.
- The child gets disconcerted or emotionally distressed after going online and checking text messages or messengers.
- The child gets called by demeaning nicknames or swear words online, and there are many taunts and slanders.
- The status messages or photos on the child's SNS become melancholy or negative.
- The child spends too much time using a computer or communication devices.
- People who are not very close to the parents know stories and rumors about the child.
- The child unregisters from an SNS account or does not have an ID.

- by The Blue Tree Foundation

Signs of an aggressor

- The child has few talks with parents and gets angry often
- The child considers relationship with friends important and he/she returns home late or irregularly.
- The child often hits other students or abuses animals.
- The child has often excuses for his/her problem behaviors, and has too much pride.
- The child is impatient, impulsive, and violent.
- The child gives excuses for his/her misbehavior.
- The child tries to stand out with outfits, wearing too much makeup, tattoos, etc., to create sense of threat among his/her peers.
- The child cannot distinguish between violence and jokes, and often gets involved in conflicts.
- The child often uses swear words or expressions to belittle his/her friends.
- The child posts remarks that belittle or attack other people on SNS.

- by The Blue Tree Foundation

How To Report School Violence

The victim should immediately request counseling from his or her homeroom teacher, and report any damages. If it is difficult, the victim may call the ☎117 School Violence Report Center for emergency rescue, protection, or counseling 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

(1) Schools

• School Violence Exclusive Unit

The parents must report to the homeroom teacher if the child has been a victim of school violence. After being notified by the parents, the homeroom teacher must report to the school violence exclusive unit. The exclusive unit conducts an investigation of the matter and reports to the school principal. The exclusive unit deliberates self-resolution by heads of schools. If the case falls under the conditions for self-resolution and the victim and the parents agree, the school principal may resolve the case autonomously. However, if the case does not fulfill the conditions for self-resolution or if the victim and the parents do not agree to it, the school must request deliberation by the school violence deliberative committee established in the district office of education under the jurisdiction.

• Wee Class (school counseling center)

This primary counseling class was created for students in crisis who are experiencing difficulty with school life due to various reasons. The class provides a counseling service to assist students in adapting to school life.

(2) Office of Education

• Autonomous Committee for Countermeasures against School Violence

The autonomous committee for countermeasures against school violence is a legal committee in the office of education to deliberate matters related to the prevention of and countermeasures against school violence.

The autonomous committee deliberates on the prevention of and countermeasures against school violence, protection of victim students, guidance and punishment of aggressor students, mediation of disputes between victim students and aggressor students, etc.

• Wee Center (student counseling support center)

Wee Center is the secondary counseling organization established at the office of education level for students in crisis who cannot be helped by the school. The center provides one-stop services that are customized for students, and offers a combination of professional diagnosis, counseling and therapy.

• Wee School

Wee School is the tertiary counseling organization established at offices of education of cities and counties for students who require long-term therapy and education due to serious crises that result in a suspension of education. It operates various counseling and therapy as well as commissioned educational services including alternative learning programs at boarding schools.

(3) Social Organizations and Enterprises

• SOS Support Team on School Violence

SOS support team on school violence, operated by The Blue Tree Foundation, provides various programs such as school violence prevention, problem solving, and recovery for school violence victims and attackers, families, and schools. Call for phone counseling (1588-9128) or visit the website (www.btf.or.kr).

- School violence integrated support center: Provides a multilateral integrated service including psychological, medical and legal services for victims and attackers; offers support by linking with a professional institution related to school violence
- School violence-specialized counseling center: Provides psychological counseling, treatment, interview counseling, group counseling, cyber counseling, visiting counseling, camps, education, etc.
- School violence dispute settlement & conflict resolution center: provides settlement, dispute resolution program, conflict management, coaching, consulting, legal advice, etc. for recovering relationships between victims, attackers, families and schools, and resolving conflicts.

• Help Call 1388 for Youth

Help Call 1388 is a counseling service for youth operated by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family. You may receive counseling on various things, including school violence or peer relationship with a professional counselor, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call for phone counseling (1388), visit on-line (www.cyber1388.kr), or use with text message or kakatalk (#1388).

• Sangdami Ssam

Sangdami Ssam is a mobile psychological counseling service in which KB Kookmin Bank, the Ministry of Education, kakao, and the Korean Open Doctors Society support counseling and treatment costs related to school violence. Search "Sangdami Ssam" from 'KakaoTalk' add as a friend, and send a message to get professional counseling. (Available hours: 10:00~24:00 weekdays, not available on weekends and holidays) About 10 students deemed to be a victim, an inflictor, or in high risk of school violence can get KRW 800,000 support for psychotherapy through screening every month.



Click 'Search Friend' icon from Friends list.

▶ Enter 'Sangdami Ssam' in the search field and click the 'Add Friend' icon.

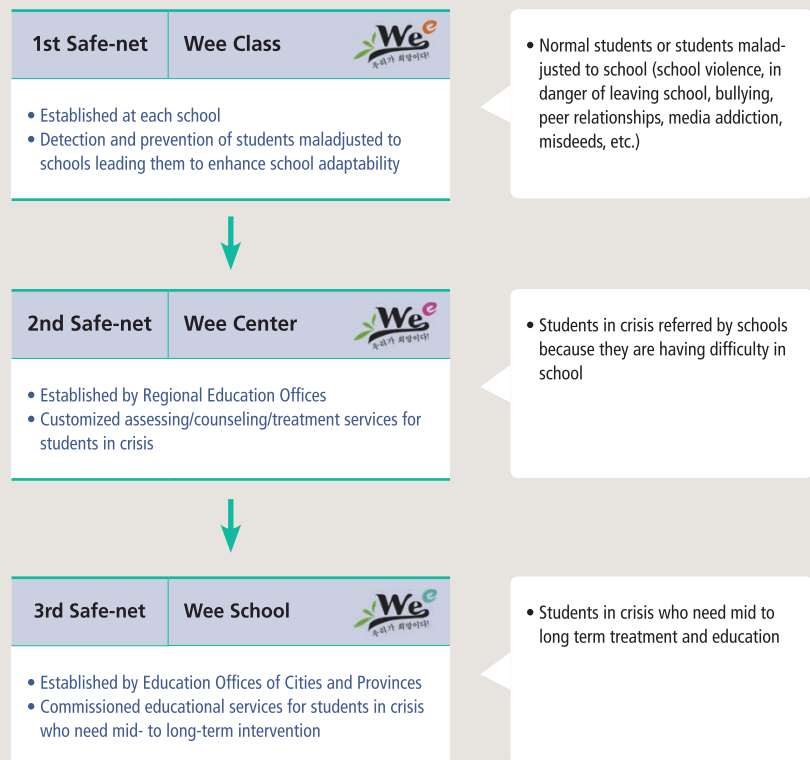
▶ Counseling will start when you enter 'request counseling' in the chat window.



Useful Information

"Wee Project" for Students Maladjusted to School or in Crisis

"Wee" stands for "WE + Education", and "WE + Emotion"



04 High School Education

High school is comprised of a 3-year curriculum. Students who have graduated from middle school or have passed an equivalency test may enroll in high school. High schools are largely classified into general, special purpose, specialized, and autonomous. Methods of admission differ by cities/provinces or schools. To ease the burden of school expenses, high school education with free admission fee, tuition, school operation fee, and textbooks is in progress for 2nd and 3rd year students in 2020, and will be extended to all students in 2021. Some private schools (autonomous private schools, special purpose schools, etc.) where admission fees and tuition are decided by the head of the school are excluded from free education. Students of families experiencing financial difficulties may receive assistance or be exempted.

1. Content of Education

High school focuses on exploring career paths for the student's aptitude and skills, fostering the qualities needed for a democratic citizen to communicate with the world, building on his or her middle school education. One class takes 50 minutes, and the curriculum students learn covers the national language, mathematics, English, social studies (including history/ethics), science, physical education, arts, technology, homes/ second language/Chinese literature/liberal arts, etc. Subjects are divided into common and elective subjects. Students can choose the subjects they want to learn from the electives. Creative experiential activities are extracurricular activities such as autonomous activities, club, career development, and volunteering activities that students participate in voluntarily. These activities are expected to help students develop their potential and talents, while nurturing community spirit.



2. Types of High Schools

(1) General High School	High schools which provide general education throughout various areas. This type accounts for the largest proportion of the high school types. Students are allocated and chosen by lot using a computer according to their region, or are selected by the principal based on test scores or grades (GPA).
(2) Special Purpose High School	This type of high school aims to provide specialized education in special areas. Special purpose high schools include schools for nurturing science talents (science high school), schools for talents competent in foreign language (foreign language high school), schools for nurturing international talents (international high school), schools for nurturing artists (arts high school), schools for nurturing athletes (sports high school), and schools that are directly linked with a specific industry (customized industry high school). Students are selected based on an assessment of their independent learning abilities, which looks at school records, teacher recommendations, interviews, practical exam grades, etc. Significantly, science, foreign language, and international schools select 20% of their student from the group requiring social care.
(3) Specialized High School	This type of school aims to nurture talents in specific areas, grouping students with similar talents, aptitudes, and abilities. It also provides experience-oriented professional education, including field study. Students can take various vocational trainings, such as agriculture, biotechnology, industry, commercial information, fishing, shipping, housekeeping, business, etc., according to the characteristics of school, in addition to regular courses such as Korean language, mathematics, English, social studies, etc. Students are selected based on school grades, interviews, and a practical test.
(4) Autonomous High School	This type of school is granted autonomy and accountability in school management, and provides various specialized educational programs. Types include the “autonomous public high school” and the “autonomous private high school.” In an autonomous public high school, students are allocated, chosen by computer depending on the region, or selected based on school grades or test scores. Autonomous private high schools select students based on an assessment of each student’s self-directed learning ability; this can include the consideration of school records, teacher recommendations, interviews, etc.

3. Welfare Services for Students

※ Financial support available for students varies by region or type of educational expenses.

(1) Education cost support for elementary school, middle school, and high school students from low-income families

◎ Qualifications

- Students who receive support for school supplies, tuition and admission fee by registering at their local community center as subjects for basic living security or students from single-parent families.
- Students who are acknowledged as belonging to one of the two lowest income classes at their local community centers (eup, myeon, dong)
- Students within the median income of 50%~60% based on family income and property (differs by city, province, and type of educational expenses)
- Students from low-income families who do not meet the income and property criteria but are personally recommended by the principal due to their economic difficulties that cannot be documented

◎ Assistance Items

- (High school tuition) Funding for high school admission fee, tuition, and school management support cost
- (Meal expenses) Full funding for lunches at elementary, middle, and high school (180 lunches a year, excluding free lunch regions)
- (After-school courses) Maximum funding of 600,000 won per year for elementary/middle/high school students to take after-school courses from private educational institutes
- (Education information) Internet usage funding of 17,600 won per month, 1 PC provided to each low-income household

Subjects	Recipients for basic living expenses	Legally single-parent	Legally next lowest income level	Income-asset inquirer	Recommended by class teacher
High school expenses	○	○	○	△	△
Meal expenses	○	○	○	△	△
After-school courses	○	○	○	△	△
Internet-PC	△	△	△	△	△

※ ○: full assistance when requested, △: determine whether to assist by reviewing assistance criteria

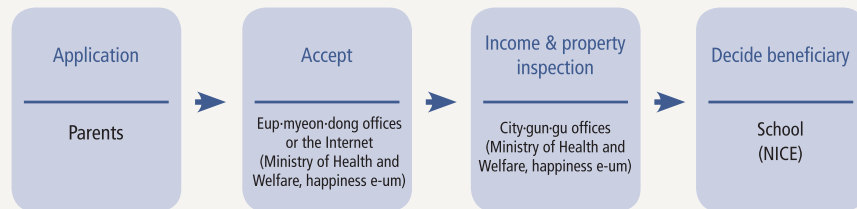
※ For more information about the educational assistance, check at your local community service center or educational assistance OneClick application online. (☎ Inquiry : Central Counseling Center for Educational Cost Support 1544-9654)

Required Documents

Qualifications	Required documents
Recipients of national basic living security Subjects of single-parent family protection (legally determined) Subjects of protection, belonging to the next lowest income level (legally determined) Subjects of income and assets inquiry	① Application for Social Security Benefit ② Declaration form for income-property ③ Consent form for providing financial information, etc. ④ Documents verifying income-assets
Principal's recommendation	① Reference (recommendation) by class teacher (person in charge) ② Other references (liabilities, death, job loss, bankruptcy and divorce) ※ The teacher in charge or person in charge must prepare a written statement.

Application procedure

- Registration period is offered early in the year (Every school will be sending an application guidelines through School Newsletter, etc.).
- Parents apply for education expenses through online (Educational Cost OneClick Application System) or by visiting eup, myeon, or dong community service centers. Depending on results of income and property, beneficiaries are selected by the school.
 - Beneficiaries are exempted from the payment at the school.



05

University Education

Korea has both four-year universities and two to three-year colleges. Four-year universities usually provide major programs for advanced studies, while two-year colleges usually provide training programs focused on vocational ability. To be admitted to a university or a

college, an applicant can apply for the special entrance program focusing on school records, essay writing, and practical tests, or the official entrance program focusing on the university entrance examination results. Screening systems vary by school, entrance program, and recruitment quota; thus applicants should carefully read the screening standards and requirements of each school of their choice. Some universities operate special selection of students who are 'children of multicultural families.' Students 'whose parents are both foreigners' and overseas Koreans, foreigners, and marriage immigrants 'who completed education courses that are equivalent to elementary, middle, and high school in Korea,' may apply for a special entrance program for overseas Koreans and foreigners.

1. Types of Higher Education

Colleges are classified into university (4-year course), industrial college, college of education, air & correspondence college, cyber college, and professional and technical college (2-year course).

Type	Description
University	Offers a variety of majors and has the highest high school graduate admission rate
Vocational colleges	Targets industrial training
College of education	Colleges or universities training elementary and middle school teachers
Specialized colleges	Trains students to develop expertise in various fields
Broadcast & correspondence college and cyber colleges	Remote college education in which students can study anywhere via telecommunication media such as TV and computer
Technical college	College at which industrial workers can learn professional knowledge and skills in an industrial setting

2. Scholarships

Tuition for college varies according to the type of college (national universities, public universities and private universities), and students must pay the tuition. The government and individual colleges operate various scholarship programs to support students facing financial difficulties.

Government-funded scholarship programs include the national scholarship program and the student working scholarship program. Korean students who are attending Korean universities may apply for these national scholarship programs. For more information, please visit the Korea Student Aid Foundation (www.kosaf.go.kr).

To apply for scholarships provided by universities and external organizations, contact your university's office in charge of scholarship affairs and request information on the types of scholarships available and how to apply.

※ *Average tuition in 2019 (4-year universities, based on information disclosed by universities): National/public universities: KRW 4,160,000/Private universities: KRW 7,460,000

(1) Overview of National Scholarships

- ◎ **Qualifications** : College students who are Korean citizens and are enrolled in Korean colleges, and are in the 8th lower quartile or below of financial aid
 - * Financial aid quartile is set according to the recognized monthly income calculated based on the income, properties, debts of the student and members of household (social security information system)
- ◎ **Amount of support** : Graded support by lower quartile of financial aid, targeting students whose income is in the 8th lower quartile or below (up to KRW 5.2 million per year)

Annual Type I National Scholarship by Quartile in 2020

(Unit : KRW 10,000)

Items	Basic	1st Lower Quartile	2nd Lower Quartile	3rd Lower Quartile	4th Lower Quartile	5th Lower Quartile	6th Lower Quartile	7th Lower Quartile	8th Lower Quartile
Supported Amount	520	520	520	520	390	368	368	120	67.5

- ◎ **How to apply** : Korea Student Aid Foundation Website (www.kosaf.go.kr)
- ◎ **Period of application** : Semester-end, before and after the new semester of every year
 - ※ Period of application for the 1st semester of 2020: (1st round) Nov. 19 ~ Dec. 17, 2019 (2nd round) Feb. 3 ~ Mar. 23, 2020
 - ※ Period of application for the 2nd semester of 2020 (tentative) : (1st round) May ~ June, 2020 (2nd round) Aug. ~ Sep., 2020

(2) Overview of student working scholarship program

- ◎ **Qualifications** : College students in the 8th lower quartile or below of financial aid, and who achieve a minimum GPA of a C0 (over 70 out of 100)
- ◎ **Benefits** : Financial support for tuition and living expenses for college students to support stable learning conditions and the development of vocational skills, provided according to working hours
 - Unit amount per hour: (In-college) KRW 9,000, (External) KRW 11,150
 - Maximum working hours acknowledged: (During semesters) 20 hours per week, (During vacations) 40 hours per week
 - ※ Up to 40 hours during semesters for nig
- ◎ **How to apply** : Korea Student Aid Foundation Website (www.kosaf.go.kr)

06 International Youth Exchange (Support for Participation of Multicultural Families)

To promote international partnerships and foster global leaders through youth exchange, the government of Korea provides youth with various international opportunities and encourages multicultural families to participate in these programs.

1. Overview of International Exchange Programs

Programs	Qualifications	Duration	Contents
International Youth Exchange	Youth between the ages of 16 and 24	About ten days * Japan: Approximately 15 days	Improving the ability of Korean youth to understand foreign cultures through exchanges with youth from contracted countries, home stay, cultural experiences
Overseas Youth Volunteer Group 'Drift into Dreams and Love'	Youth between the ages of 15 and 20	About ten days	Helping to realize the potential of youth and reinforce their global competencies through overseas volunteer activities
International Conference & Event Participation Group 'Encouraging Youth to Become Global leaders'	Youth between the ages of 16 and 24	About ten days *Varies by conference	Acting as representatives of Korea at international conferences and conventions, including the 3rd Committee of the United Nations, and having discussions and exchanges with youth representatives from foreign countries

2. Preferential Treatment for Multicultural Families

- Preferences are given to multicultural youth when selecting participants.
 - When participating in international youth exchanges, youths who apply to go to the countries of their parents will get additional points
 - Benefits
 - Encourage multicultural children to participate in international exchanges by providing financial support
- * Round-trip airfare, traveller's insurance premium, daily travel expenses and payment for the release of visa are all given financial free (however, local transportation fee should be paid personally)

3. How to Apply

- Public announcement via the website
 - International Youth Exchange Network (www.youth.go.kr/iye) and Korea Youth Work Agency (www.kywa.or.kr)
- Apply at the recruitment notification
 - Add @Youth Exchange Center from KakaoTalk Channel
- Subscribe to the International Youth Exchange Network (www.youth.go.kr/iye) and submit the online application
 - ※ Required documents: family certificate (if not applicable, basic certificate or certificate of family registry)



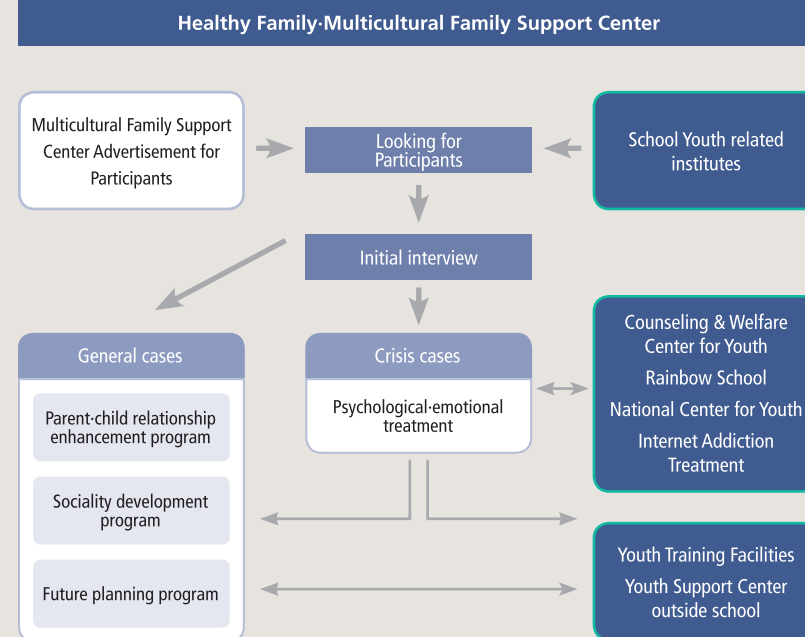
Useful Information

Support for children's development for multicultural families

Support for children's development for multicultural families contributes to healthy growth of children and parent and children relationship by providing various programs to children in growth period such as identity recovery, sociality enhancement, leadership development, and career experience. In addition, the centers have established networks with relevant institutions in the region to provide systematic and integrated services to the children and parents of multicultural families. Through these efforts, the Multicultural Family Support Center provides various services for multicultural children to grow to become talented members of the society that contributes to the nation's competency.

- **Target:** School age children and parents of multicultural families, and immigrant youths, etc.
- **Relevant centers:** 206 operating institutes of integrated services of the Healthy Family Support Center and the Multicultural Family Support Center
- **Main content**
 - **Program to promote a better relationship between parents and children:** Self-identity establishment, family counseling, parent education (parent role, communication skills with children, conflict management, etc.), family camp operation
 - **Program to develop social skills:** Diagnosis of social skills, youth club (self-help group), voluntary works, leadership camp, field activities, etc.
 - **Program to design the future:** Encouragement of motivation, aptitude test, career path education, career design, job experience activities, etc.
 - **Program for support to overcome crisis:** Counseling of youth, parents, and individuals, psychological and emotional treatment, art/music/play treatment
 - **Regional community network:** Connect with relevant institutions such as the youth counseling welfare center, rainbow school, youth training center, youth support center outside the school, etc.

• Main content



※ For more information, check at a nearby multicultural family support center, or search on the website (<http://www.liveinkorea.kr>) ; Call 1577-1366 (Danuri Helpline) for inquiries.



【 The Story of Culture in Cartoon 6 】

Greeting Expressions in Korea



Misunderstandings sometimes occur due to lack of knowledge of the meaning of a greeting. Koreans frequently use the expression "I'll keep in touch" or "Let's have lunch sometime" when saying goodbye. In addition to its literal meaning of wanting to make an appointment for lunch, it is how Korean people express their regret to say goodbye.

For more information on cultural differences between Korea and other countries, please visit the Danuri portal (www.liveinkorea.kr).