

Bill to Amend the Fundamental Law of Education

Preamble

We, the people of Japan, desire to further develop the democratic and cultural state we have built through our untiring efforts, and contribute to the peace of the world and the improvement of the welfare of humanity.

To realize these ideals, we shall esteem individual dignity, long for truth and justice, honor the public spirit, and endeavor to bring up people who are rich in humanity and creativity, while promoting an education which transmits tradition and aims at the creation of a new culture.

We hereby enact this Law, in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution of Japan, in order to establish the foundations and promote an education that opens the way to Japan's future.

Chapter 1: Aims and Principles of Education

(Aims of Education)

Article 1

Education shall aim for the total development of personality and shall strive to nurture people sound in mind and body, who are imbued with the qualities necessary for the builders of a peaceful and democratic state and society.

(Objectives of Education)

Article 2:

To realize the aforementioned aims, education shall be carried out in such a way as to achieve the following objectives, while respecting academic freedom:

Current Law

Preamble

Having established the Constitution of Japan, we have shown our resolution to contribute to the peace of the world and welfare of humanity, by building a democratic and cultural state. The realization of this ideal shall depend fundamentally on the power of education.

We shall esteem individual dignity and endeavor to bring up people who love truth and peace, while education which aims at the creation of culture general and rich in individuality shall spread far and wide.

We hereby enact this Law, in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution of Japan, with a view to clarifying the aim of education and establishing the foundation of education for a new Japan.

Article 1: Aim of Education

Education shall aim for the full development of personality, striving for the rearing of the people sound in mind and body, who shall love truth and justice, esteem individual value, respect labor and have a deep sense of responsibility, and be imbued with an independent spirit as builders of a peaceful state and society.

Article 2: Educational Principle

The aim of education shall be realized on all occasions and in all places. In order to achieve the aim, we shall endeavor to contribute to the creation and development of culture by mutual esteem and co-operation, respecting academic freedom, having a regard for actual life and cultivating a spontaneous spirit.

1. Acquire wide-ranging knowledge and culture, foster a disposition to seek the truth, cultivate a rich sensibility and sense of morality, while developing a healthy body.
2. Respect the value of individuals, develop their abilities, cultivate their creativity, and foster a spirit of autonomy and independence, while emphasizing the connections with profession and daily life, and nurturing respect for the value of labor.
3. Foster a disposition to value justice, responsibility, gender equality, mutual respect and cooperation, and actively contribute, in the public spirit, to the building and development of society.
4. Foster a disposition to respect life, care for nature, and contribute to the protection of the environment.
5. Foster a disposition to respect Japanese tradition and culture, love the country and homeland that nurtured them, together with respect for other countries and a desire to contribute to world peace and the development of the international community.

(Principle of Lifelong Learning)

Article 3

Measures shall be taken to create a society in which all people can contribute to learn throughout their lives, at every opportunity and in every setting, and apply the outcomes of lifelong learning appropriately to improve themselves and lead a fulfilling life

[Added]

(Equal Opportunity in Education)

Article 4

The people shall be all be given equal opportunities to receive education according to their abilities, and shall not be subject to educational discrimination on account of race, creed, sex, social status, economic position, or family origin.

(2) The national and local governments shall provide educational support to persons with disabilities, to ensure that they are given sufficient education in accordance with their condition.

(3) The national and local governments shall institute measures to provide financial assistance to those who encounter economic difficulties in receiving education in spite of their ability.

Chapter II: Fundamentals of Education Implementation

(Compulsory Education)

Article 5

The people shall be obligated to have children under their protection receive a general education in accordance with separate legislation.

(2) The objectives of general education, given in the form of compulsory education, shall be to cultivate the foundations for an independent life within society while developing the abilities of each individual, and to foster the basic qualities necessary for the builders of our state and society.

(3) In order to guarantee the opportunity for compulsory education and ensure adequate standards, the national and local governments shall assume responsibility for the implementation of education on the basis of mutual cooperation.

Article 3: Equal Opportunity in Education

The people shall be all be given equal opportunities to receive education according to their ability, and they shall not be subject to educational discrimination on account of race, creed, sex, social status, economic position or family origin.

[Added]

(2) The state and local bodies shall take measures to give financial assistance to those who have, in spite of their ability, difficulty in receiving education for economic reasons

Article 4: Compulsory Education

The people shall be obligated to have boys and girls under their protection receive a nine-year general education.

[Added]

[Added]

(4) No tuition fee shall be charged for compulsory education in schools established by the national and local governments

[deleted]

(School Education)

Article 6

The schools prescribed by law shall be of a public nature and, besides the national and local governments, only the juridical persons prescribed by law shall be entitled to establish such schools.

(2) The aforementioned schools shall, in order to fulfill the objectives of education, provide a systematic education suited to the mental and physical development of the recipients. It shall be carried out in a way that emphasizes instilling the recipients with respect for the discipline necessary to conduct school life, and strengthening their own motivation to learn.

[See (Teachers) Article 9

(Universities)

Article 7

Universities, as centers of scholarship, shall cultivate advanced learning and specialized skills, while contributing to the development of society by inquiring deeply into the truth of things, creat-

No tuition fee shall be charged for compulsory education in schools established by the state and local public bodies

Article 5: Co-education

Men and women shall esteem and cooperate with each other. Co-education, therefore, shall be recognized in education.

Article 6: School Education

The schools prescribed by law shall be of a public nature and, besides the state and local public bodies, only the juridical persons prescribed by law shall be entitled to establish such schools.

[Added]

(2) Teachers of the schools prescribed by law shall be servants of the whole community. They shall be conscious of their mission and endeavor to discharge their duties. For this purpose, the state of teachers shall be respected and their fair and appropriate treatment shall be guaranteed.

[Added]

-ing new knowledge, and disseminating the results of these activities broadly throughout society.

(2) Each university's autonomy, independence and other unique characteristics regarding education and research shall be respected.

(Private Schools)

Article 8

Taking into account the public nature of private schools and their important role in school education, the national and local governments shall endeavor to promote private school education through subsidies and other appropriate means, while respecting their autonomy.

(Teachers)

Article 9

Conscious of their noble mission, teachers of the schools prescribed by law shall continuously devote themselves to research and self-improvement, and endeavor to fulfill their duties.

(Education in the Family)

Article 10

Mothers, fathers, and other guardians, having the primary responsibility for their children's education, shall teach them the habits necessary for life, encouraging a spirit of independence, and endeavor to nurture the balanced development of their bodies and minds.

[Added]

(From Article 6, above)

(2) Teachers of the schools prescribed by law shall be servants of the whole community. They shall be conscious of their mission and endeavor to discharge their duties. For this purpose, the status of teachers shall be respected and their fair and appropriate treatment shall be guaranteed.

[Added]

(2) The national and local governments shall strive to adopt policies supporting education in the family, by providing guardians with opportunities to learn, relevant information, and other necessary means, while respecting the autonomy of family education

(Early Childhood Education)

Article 11

Considering the importance of early childhood education in the foundation of one's lifetime personality, the national and local governments shall strive to promote it by providing an environment favorable to the healthy growth of young children, and other appropriate measures.

(Social Education)

Article 12

The state and public bodies shall encourage education carried out among society, in response to the demands of individuals and the community as a whole.

(2) The national and local governments shall endeavor to promote social education by establishing libraries, museums, public halls and other community education facilities, utilizing school facilities, providing opportunities to learn, relevant information and other appropriate means.

(Cooperation between Schools, Families and Local Residents). Article 13

Schools, families and local residents, and other relevant persons shall be aware of their respective roles and responsibilities regarding education, and endeavor to develop relations of mutual understanding.

[Added]

Article 7: Social Education

The state and local public bodies shall encourage education carried out at home, in places of work and elsewhere in society.

(2) The national and local governments shall endeavor to attain the aim of education by the establishment of such institutions as libraries, museums, citizens' public halls, etc., by the utilization of school institutions, and other appropriate methods.

[Added]

(Political Education)

Article 14

The political knowledge necessary for intelligent citizenship shall be valued in education

(2) The schools prescribed by law shall refrain from political education or other political activities for or against any specific political party.

(Religious Education)

Article 15

The attitude of religious tolerance, general knowledge regarding religion and the position of religion in social life shall be valued in education.

(2) The schools established by the national and local governments shall refrain from religious education or other activities for a specific religion.

Chapter III: School Administration

(School Administration)

Article 16

Education shall not be subject to improper control and shall be carried out in accordance with this and other laws; school administration shall be carried out in a fair and proper manner within a framework of appropriate burden sharing and cooperation between the national and local governments.

Article 8: Political Education

The political knowledge necessary for intelligent citizenship shall be valued in education.

(2) The schools prescribed by law shall refrain from political education or other political activities for or against any specific political party.

Article 9: Religious Education

The attitude of religious tolerance and the position of religion in social life shall be valued in education.

(2) The schools established by the national and local governments shall refrain from religious education or other activities for a specific religion.

Article 10: School Administration

Education shall not be subject to improper control, but it shall be directly responsible to the whole people.

(2) School administration shall, on the basis of this realization, aim at the adjustment and establishment of various conditions required for the pursuit of the aim of education.

(2) The national government shall comprehensively formulate and implement education policies in order to promote equal opportunities in education throughout the country, and to maintain and raise education standards.

[Added]

(3) The local governments shall formulate and implement education policies according to regional circumstances in order to promote education in their respective regions.

(4) The national and local governments shall institute funding mechanisms to ensure the smooth and uninterrupted implementation of education.

(Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education)

Article 17

In order to facilitate the comprehensive and systematic implementation of policies for the promotion of education, the government shall formulate a basic plan covering fundamental directions, required measures, and other necessary items. It shall present this plan to the Diet and release it publicly.

(2) Each local government, working from the aforementioned plan, shall endeavor to formulate a basic plan on policies to promote education according to regional circumstances.

Chapter IV: Enactment of Laws and Regulations

Article 18

The government shall enact laws and regulations necessary to implement the provisions stipulated in this law.

Article 11: Additional Rule

In case of necessity, appropriate laws shall be enacted to carry the foregoing stipulations into effect.