

Basic Policy for the Comprehensive and Effective Implementation of Measures to Promote Japanese Language Education [Outline]

Provisional translation

- The Act on Promotion of Japanese Language Education (Act No. 48 of 2019) was promulgated and entered into force on June 28, 2019.
- Under Article 10 of the Act, this policy (decided by Cabinet on June 23, 2020) has been formulated by Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and Minister for Foreign Affairs as the basic policy for comprehensively and effectively implementing measures to promote Japanese language education.

Chapter 1 Basic Direction for Promoting Japanese Language Education

1 Purpose of Promoting Japanese Language Education

Realizing a society of harmonious coexistence; encouraging exchange with other countries; contributing to maintaining and developing friendly relations with other countries

2 National and Local Government Responsibilities

- The government will comprehensively formulate and implement measures to promote Japanese language education and take the necessary legislative and financial measures.
- Local governments will formulate and implement measures to promote Japanese language education tailored to local circumstances.

3 Responsibilities of Employers

Employers will cooperate with national and local government measures to promote Japanese language education and endeavor to provide foreign nationals, etc. and their families with Japanese language learning opportunities.

4 Strengthening Partnerships between Relevant Ministries and Agencies and Related Organizations

Chapter 2 Content of the Promotion of Japanese Language Education

1 Expansion of Japanese Language Education Opportunities

(1) Expansion of Japanese language education opportunities within Japan

Japanese language education for preschoolers and schoolchildren, international students, employees, and refugees; Japanese language education in regional areas

(Improvements based on the provisions of the Law Concerning Class-size and the Standard of the Number of School Personnel of Public Compulsory Education Schools in respect of the number of teaching staff required to provide Japanese language instruction; training and use of Japanese language instruction assistants and support staff who speak children's native tongues; securing opportunities to attend school by ascertaining school enrollment status and formulating guidelines; Japanese language education to assist international students in finding employment in Japan; support for Japanese language learning in specialist fields through training and the development of teaching materials; support for the development of frameworks for Japanese language education in regional areas; development and supply of Japanese language learning materials for self-study (ICT-based teaching materials))

(2) Enhancement of Japanese language education overseas

Japanese language education for foreign nationals, etc.; Japanese language education for Japanese children resident overseas and for the descendants of migrants

(Dispatch of experts in Japanese language education, etc.; development and supply of teaching materials; support for Japanese-language educational institutions overseas; fact-finding and support relating to Japanese language education for Japanese children resident overseas, etc.; dispatch of teachers to overseas educational institutions)

2 Promotion of Understanding and Interest among the Populace

3 Maintenance and Improvement of the Level of Japanese Language Education

(1) Maintenance and improvement of Japanese language education standards at Japanese language educational institutions

Guidance for Japanese language education institutions and the active implementation of on-site investigations; mandatory notification of training course for Japanese language teachers

(2) Improvement of skills and abilities of those who engage in Japanese language education

Design of a system of qualifications to prove the skills and abilities of Japanese language teachers; development and implementation of a curriculum for cultivating personnel

4 Formulation of Curriculum Guidelines

Consideration and compilation of a Framework of Reference for Japanese Language Education to be the Framework of Reference for Japanese language education ; provision of the JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education; development and dissemination of teaching methods and of online and other teaching materials

5 Assessment of Japanese Language Proficiency

Consideration and compilation of criteria for assessment of the Japanese language proficiency based on the Framework of Reference for Japanese Language Education; implementation of the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test and JFT-Basic

6 Research and Provision of Information on Japanese Language Education

Chapter 3 Other Important Matters Concerning the Promotion of Japanese Language Education

1 Promotion Frameworks

2 Development of Systems Concerning Organizations Providing Japanese Language Education

The government will undertake deliberations on the development of a system regarding those organizations providing Japanese language education that have the competence required to maintain and improve the level of Japanese language education, and will take the necessary measures based on the results of those deliberations.

3 Review of the Basic Policy

The government will examine the Basic Policy every five years or so and make changes if deemed necessary.