



and 9,035 at the Open University of Kaohsiung). To encourage lifelong learning and recognize the results, as well as to promote the link between formal and informal education, the MOE has been issuing certificates for the completion of informal education curricula and learning achievements since 2006. Lifelong learning institutions are encouraged to offer integrated curriculum. Since 2017, certificates are awarded for digital courses, providing more course-taking choices.

F Management of Supplementary Education Services

There are more than 17,000 supplementary education institutions (a.k.a. cram schools) in Taiwan. To help people look for information to choose cram schools, the MOE has created the “Information System of Supplementary Education Institutions in Municipalities, Counties and Cities.” In addition, the MOE provides yearly subsidies and incentives for local governments to conduct inspections and organize training, which are included as part of the general education review in order to enhance management and guidance of cram schools.

G National Language Education

- 1 The MOE has defined the phonetics and fonts of national languages in Taiwan and formed the “Committee for the Promotion of National Language Education” in order to discuss with other government agencies how to preserve national languages, reward the use of the languages, and organize promotion activities. More teaching resources for national languages will be established in the future.
- 2 With the implementation of the “Development of National Languages Act” and “National Languages Development Plan,” the transmission, revival, and development of the national languages have a legal basis. Local native language education is promoted with integrated resources nationwide. In addition to formal courses, there are also accompanying measures, such as Taiwanese Language Proficiency Certificate Examinations, national language contests, creative innovation incentives, learning websites, and the corpus of local languages. ■



Special Education



A Principles, Laws, and Funding

In order to allow citizens with disabilities and giftedness to receive adaptive education and fully develop their abilities, Taiwan has already passed the “Special Education Act” and relevant branch laws for diagnosis procedure, counseling services, appeal services, examination services, support services, interdisciplinary teams, education subsidies, and assistive educational devices. Taiwan is also upholding the spirit of equal opportunities present in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) under the United Nations. The “Phase 2 Special Education Medium-term Plan,” passed on August 1, 2023, is based on inclusion and nurture by nature. Additionally, the Special

Education Act amended in 2023 introduced the spirit of the International Bill of Human Rights. Taiwan promotes inclusive education and the least restrictive environments while offering full support services under the concept of special education. The key points of the revised law include:

- 1 The personality and rights of students and preschoolers receiving special education should be respected and protected.
- 2 There shall be no discrimination in the treatment of students in special education in terms of the rights to learn and participate in educational activities.
- 3 Special education and related services and facilities shall conform to the principles of universal design, reasonable accommodation, and accessibility.
- 4 Students in special education have the right to express their views.