모든아이는우리모두의아이입니다

교육부	**Press Release**				
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D I V I S I O N	Teaching and Learning Evaluation Division	Director 조훈희	Deputy Director	최원휘	(☎044-203-6471)
			Education Researcher	정상명	(☎044-203-6447)
	Student Health Policy Division	Director 조명연	Deputy Director	정희권	(☎044-203-6547)
	National Curriculum Policy Division	Director 조성연	Education Researcher	이현석	(☎044-203-7029)
	University Admissions Policy Division	Director 송근현	Deputy Director	김재극	(☎044-203-6367)
	e-Learning Division	Director 권지영	Deputy Director	이세연	(☎044-203-6475)
	Early Childhood Education Policy Division	Director 이지은	Education Researcher	안경찬	(☎044-203-6774)
	Special Education Policy Division	Director 이한우	Education Researcher	안상권	(☎044-203-6560)
	Educational Opportunity Promotion Division	Director 박지영	Deputy Director	정민주	(☎044-203-6520)
	Secondary Vocational Education Policy Division	Director 김새봄	Deputy Director	신민규	(☎044-202-6397)

◈ **The New School Year Begins with Online Classes**

- Online classes will begin in stages with third-year middle and high school students starting on April 9th

- Dates for SCAT and university admissions in 2021 rescheduled

□ The Ministry of Education (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Yoo Eun-hye) announced the opening of the new school year with online classes in all elementary, middle, high, and special education schools nationwide, for the first time, a decision made based on its consultation with the Korea Center for Disease Control (KCDC).

○ The Ministry of Education had previously ordered to further suspend schools until April 3rd since the outbreak of COVID-19, and the new semester will officially begin Thursday, April 9th, after three additional days of closures (April 6-8th)

◈ Implementation of flexible online classes in response to COVID-19

□ The Ministry of Education has made efforts to ensure the continuity of teaching and learning by offering online classes and thus protecting the safety of students, as conditions for the regular operation of classes and face-to-face instructions have become impossible amid COVID-19.

○ For the first two orders on delaying the new school year, the Ministry managed to secure the number of instructional days by adjusting the summer and winter vacation days. For the third order, the Ministry advised to reduce the number of mandated instructional days during school closures, and reduce instructional hours respectively.

* Mandated instructional days: 180 days for kindergartens, 190 days for elementary, middle, and high schools

○ Students have been given guidance for self-directed learning through online classrooms including access to e-learning contents (e.g., e-

learning site, EBS, etc.) for the first three weeks of school closures, and teacher-managed online classes have been offered since the fourth week.

□ Support for online classes as well as the system to be employed as regular classes have been fortified in preparation for prolonged school closures.

○ The Ministry of Education has secured infrastructure for the Learning Management System (LMS) e-learning platform and the Educational Broadcasting System (EBS) online classes, provided guidance on the use of private resources such as interactive virtual class apps, and set up a collaborative work structure with relevant organizations such as EBS and the Korea Education and Research Information Service (KERIS).

○ In preparation for opening schools online, the Ministry of Education has made various efforts such as introducing a new set of "online class guidelines" for the feasible operation of regular classes through online, as well as a new grading system for online learning.

□ On a brighter note, instructions difficult to implement in a traditional classroom setting have become feasible through online classes. In particular, it is expected to contribute to the development of a future-oriented learning model through the convergence of online and offline instructions including flipped learning and project-based learning.

◈ Ways to open the new school year online

□ The Ministry of Education has taken into account various aspects for

making its decision on opening the new school year, which includes the status of newly confirmed persons, the level of infection prevention and control, preparedness of schools, regional conditions for university admissions, and the public opinion.

○ Although new confirmed cases have been falling in Korea, it has seen a growing number of imported cases from abroad and sporadic clusters of local transmissions.

*Number of imported cases from abroad: 20 (3.22)→30 (3.24)→39 (3.26)→ 41 (3.29)

○ Experts have expressed their concerns about sending students back to schools while the country's threat level is still at its highest, and a majority of survey respondents noted the need to further suspend schools and keeping children at home.

□ The Ministry of Education has decided to continue closing physical school buildings, but instead, open schools online in order to proactively respond to COVID-19 and ensure the continuity of teaching and learning through online classes.

○ Schools will open online classes in stages by grade levels after a week of preparation. Third-year high school and third-year middle school students will start online classes from April 9th, students in first- and second-year high school, first- and second-year middle school, and fourth to sixth grades in elementary schools will begin from April 16th. First to third grade elementary students will join the scheme from April 20th.

○ Students will begin with a period of adjustment, which will be counted as instructional days, and students will not physically attend schools.

○ Kindergartens will be further suspended until the standards are met. The opening day will be decided based on a comprehensive review of child's development level, characteristics of play-centered curriculum, and the level of infection prevention and control.

-The Ministry of Education will collaborate with the Metropolitan and Provincial Offices of Education in providing guidance to parents and children on play-centered resources linked to the Nuri Curriculum.

○ The Ministry of Education will consider the regional progress of infectious diseases as well as school conditions for a flexible operation of online classes and student attendance.

◈ Dates for SCAT and university admissions in 2021 rescheduled

□ With the announcement of the first day of new school year, the dates for CSAT (College Scholastic Ability test) and university admissions are also rescheduled as follows: ▲ CSAT will be held on December 3rd, 2020 (a two-week delay) ▲ the deadline for submitting student performance records for early admissions will be September 16th, 2020 (a 16-day delay).

○ The revised dates are the necessary results of a series of inevitable events to alleviate the difficulties* that teachers on the ground face as they strive to offer quality education in alignment with the delayed school year

calendar. This measure will allow the third-year high school students to have sufficient time to prepare for CSAT while also allowing schools to create conducive academic environment to support students' studies.

* Postponement of midterm and final exams; time shortage to prepare for CSAT and greater burden on students due to shorter summer school vacation; insufficient time for teachers to finalize students' performance records and provide career counseling to students, etc.

□ Requested by the Ministry of Education, a more specific plan for university admissions schedule reflecting the revised CSAT date will be finalized and announced in this April after close consultations are held among universities, the Korean Council for University Education and the Korean Council for University College Education*.

* *Higher Education Act* Article 34-5 ③ *"A school consultative body...shall publicly announce basic matters concerning the selection of applicants for admission to each university or college..."*

○ In accordance with the revised university admissions schedule, the period for application submission for early admissions will be about three days shorter than the previously announced period (i.e., 2021 University Admissions Plan announced in August, 2018), and about 11 days shorter for regular and additional admissions.

* Period for early admissions (109 days→106 days); regular admissions (54 days→44 days); additional admissions (8 days→7 days)

[University Admissions Schedule]

Category		Previous	Revised
◦**The cut-off date of student records for early admissions / Deadline for application submission**		8.31.(Mon) / 8.31.(Mon)	8.31.(Mon) / 9.16.(Wed)
◦**The cut-off date of student records for regular admissions / Deadline for application submission**		11.30.(Mon) / 11.30.(Mon)	12.14.(Mon) / 12.14.(Mon)
CSAT	**Test date**	11.19.(Thu)	12.3.(Thu)
	Announcement of test result	12.9.(Wed)	12.23.(Wed)
Early admissions*	**Submission of application**	9.7.(Mon)~9.11.(Fri)	9.23.(Wed)~9.29.(Tue)
	Admissions decision announcement	12.15.(Tue)	12.28.(Mon)
Regular admissions*	**Submission of application**	12.26.(Sat)~12.30.(Wed)	1.7.(Thu)~1.11.(Mon)
	Admissions decision announcement	2.1.(Mon)	2.6.(Sat)

* More specific dates for early and regular admissions will be confirmed and announced in April by the Korean Council for University Education and the Korean Council for University College Education.

◈ Plans to ensure online classes take root in the new school year

□ The Ministry of Education will newly create "Online Class Preparation and Monitoring Team" under the New School Year Preparation Task

Force (headed by the Vice Minister of Education) to actively support online education on the ground.

○ This Preparation and Monitoring Team will assist the implementation of the online education support plan and the online education guidelines announced by the Ministry of Education on March 25th and March 27th, respectively.

○ The team will also develop a plan to troubleshoot any potential challenges which may arise in the use of online education by conducting on-site monitoring of online education systems such as the E-learning Site and EBS Online Class as well as online pilot schools.

□ With online education replacing regular school classes, the Ministry of Education and the Metropolitan and Provincial Offices of Education will assist online classes to settle in, and schools will develop and carry out online class operation plans.

○ Each school will support students of all grades to adjust to the new academic environment, while all teachers and schools together will start preparing* for online classes on April 1st.

* Develop a plan for online education; establish a system for communications; notify students and parents in advance; conduct teacher training; designate online education platforms; monitor the status of student preparation for online classes, etc.

○ The first two days of the new school year will serve as the period of adjustment to allow teachers and students to get used to the new online

system by learning how to use online content and platforms to utilize the online education system in full scale.

* New online school year opening ceremony (i.e., greetings extended by school principal); online class orientation (i.e., guidance on online learning, attendance, absence, and evaluation, etc.)

□ By providing wide-ranging assistance, the learning gap of students from disadvantaged households will be bridged, and teachers' capacity will be strengthened to advance the quality of online education and its successful settlement in the school system.

① **Providing customized support for learning and closing the gap in education for new online school year**

○ A plan will be established by the Metropolitan and Provincial Offices of Education to support the beneficiaries of education grants (i.e., the households belonging to the lower 50% of the median income bracket) to provide them with digital devices and Wi-Fi connection, and helplines* will be operated to offer assistance for any technical difficulties during online classes.

* Helpline for the E-learning Site, Wedorang, Digital Textbooks: 1544-0079 (KERIS); helpline for EBS Online Class: 1588-1580 (EBS)

○ A plan will be developed to support households in distant rural areas without adequate IT infrastructure in place to allow students to use local school facilities.

○ Vocational high schools will focus on theory-based learning by using

online classes, and after they are allowed to come to school, they will use intensive academic programs to carry out their practice-based learning.

- Also, around 17,000 online content in the field of vocational education and employment will be made available for students of vocational schools in cooperation with relevant institutions.

○ Students with disabilities will also be actively supported. For example, students with visual and hearing impairments will be offered online learning content with subtitles, sign language, and braille. For students with developmental disabilities, various forms of online classes and home visits will be offered depending on the types and degree of their disabilities.

- Also, to support the online education capacity for teachers of special education, the National Institute of Special Education will operate an online learning site for students with disabilities (www.nise.go.kr) on April 6th.

○ Moreover, to ensure that students from multicultural backgrounds do not lag behind in online learning, information will be made available in multiple languages, and online content* for Korean language education will also be provided.

* Korean linguistic ability monitoring-correction system; EBS Durian; Center for Teaching and Learning Korean, etc.

○ Alternative schools are to provide online classes in ways that best fit the specific characteristics of each alternative subject, but field-based

learning will only resume after all students are allowed to return to school.

※ e.g. As for work-oriented education in alternative schools, online content will be used to give instructions on the theory of agriculture and farming, and on-site learning will take place after all students are allowed to return to school.

② **Building teacher capacity in online education**

○ With the operation of 490 online pilot schools around the country, best practices will be identified and broadly shared. Also by organizing the so-called "10,000 Communities," an online platform for teachers, teacher capacity in online education will be strengthened.

* Online communities will be set up on Wedorang (http://rang.edunet.net) for all 17 Metropolitan and Provincial Offices of Education (since March 25th).

○ Teacher-On, an online education voluntary group consisting of 181 members, will share its accumulated knowhow with the 10,000 Communities and the New School Year Preparation Task Force to respond to any obstacles that users may face in the online learning and teaching environment.

③ **Establishing mid- to long-term plan based on cooperation of relevant ministries**

○ An edu-tech task force will be created within the Ministry of Education in May to devise a mid- to long-term plan in the second half of this year by working closely with the Ministry of Science and ICT and the Ministry of SMEs and Startups.

□ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Yoo Eun-hae underscored that, "With the outbreak of COVID-19, education is now facing unprecedented challenges, including the first-ever 5-week delay in the new school year, and the full-fledged introduction of online classes."

○ "Because it is too early to predict the trajectory of the virus with certainty, we need to incorporate personal hygiene and preventive measures in our daily lives to win back the everyday safety that we used to enjoy before the COVID-19 outbreak."

○ "I would also like to highlight that as long as our great teachers continue to devote themselves to providing the best education to their students, students will have no trouble in developing creativity through online classes. I would like to ask our parents to keep their unwavering trust in our great teachers as a sign of encouragement."

○ She concluded, "Now is the time to open up the new era of school education by exercising our collective courage and creativity to explore new alternatives in education by moving beyond our comfort zone."