

VI-4 Japanese Educational System

1. Compulsory Education

Education in Japan is compulsory for nine years, from elementary school through junior high school. School expenses (including textbooks) in that period are free of charge and children are to go to a predetermined public school. However, other expenses such as for additional material needed in lessons and for school trips must be self-paid.

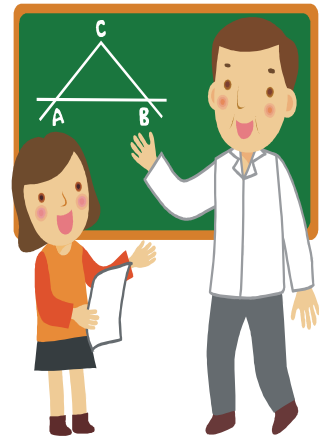
<School Calendar>

April	Beginning of School Year
Late July - End of August	Summer Vacation
Around new year	Winter Vacation (about 2 weeks)
March	End of the term – Spring Vacation

Children with Japanese nationality will be sent a notice from the local school board informing them of the school they are to attend and the date of their first day of school. They will enter the school stated on the notice on the designated date.

You will receive a similar notification upon sending a request to the local board of education for a child of a foreign nationality to attend a Japanese public school (when they begin primary education.). Also those who have completed their alien registration and continuously live in Osaka Prefecture will be sent a notice from the local school board informing of the school when their children reach the age for primary education. Please hand in the notification after filling necessary information. It is possible to enter a school in the middle of the school year. Consult with the local municipality's board of education for more details.

There are also private elementary schools and junior high schools; however, these require separate self-paid fees for courses. Inquire at schools of interest for details. Most private schools require children to take an entrance examination.



2. Subsequent Compulsory Education

Once compulsory education is completed, children may go to high school. There are various types of high schools in Japan including "academic" high schools that offer a wide variety of courses and other types, including "technical/vocational" institutions that primarily offer learning in one area of specialty.

Direct inquiries related to entrance into prefectural and municipal high schools to the High School Education section in your prefecture or municipality. Inquiries into private high school education should be directed to the specific school.

3. Supporting Children/Students at School

The Osaka Prefectural Board of Education has established a homepage, "School Life Support for the students coming back or moving into Japan from abroad" to provide information for foreign children/students on their school lives.

URL <http://www.pref.osaka.jp/jidoseitoshien/toniti/index.html>

Content: entering school, future course, guidance, a list of translated school documents

Languages: Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese

4.Lunches (Bento)

At junior high schools at which lunches are not provided, children are generally required to bring a lunch from home. This is referred to as a bento (lunch box). When a child cannot bring a lunch, they can do several things such as buying bread and other food in the school or from a shop. However, because rules differ with respect to school policies it is recommended that you consult with the child's teacher.

5.School Expense Benefit (allowance)

This system aimed at supporting children to avoid problems during school life due to financial problems. Necessary goods for study, outside school activities and school trip costs shall be covered by the benefit (allowance). Consult with school or the local municipality's board of education for details.