

China

National Higher Education Equity Policy

Governance

Who is responsible for defining national policies in higher education?

The Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China is responsible for setting higher education policy in China (<http://en.moe.gov.cn/>). It is supported by the Department of Higher Education.

Higher Education Policy Documents

What are the current official documents defining the national higher education strategy / policies?

- “Education Law of the People’s Republic of China” March 18, 1995
- 10 January 2017 Thirteenth Five Year Plan on Education
- China’s National Plan for Medium and Long-term Education Reform and Development (2010-2020), which includes higher education.

Equity Policy Documents

What broad and specific equity objectives do the policy documents identify?

- The National Plan for Medium and Long-Term Education Reform and Development states the following goals for all education: “Making equal access to education a basic state policy. Equal access to education is a major cornerstone of social justice. Equal opportunities hold the key to equal access to education. The fundamental requirement of education equity is that all citizens have equal rights to receive education according to law. It is key to boost coordinated development of compulsory education, and to help and support the underprivileged. The fundamental way to achieve this is to allocate education resources reasonable, give preferences to rural, impoverished, remote and border areas and ethnic autonomous areas, and to bridge the gap in education development. To ensure equal access to education is and always has been a government responsibility, but it cannot be done without concerted public efforts.” (page 8)

Which equity target groups are identified in the policy documents?

- Low-income students
- Minority groups: ethnic minorities, rural groups

Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups?

- No

Is there a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education?

- No

What specific interventions and/or instruments of equity promotion are included in the official strategy and policy documents (monetary and non-monetary)?

Monetary Policy Instruments

- Needs-based scholarships and grants: some financial aid is needs-based, although research indicates that these are tracked according to subjects.
- Student loans are also available to students from disadvantaged backgrounds

Non-Monetary Policy Instruments

- Higher education rejuvenation plan for central and Western regions
- Affirmative action programs: There is a college admissions quota system that benefits students from the central and Western regions (Malechwani, Shen, and Mbeke, p7).
- Reformed admissions procedures: ethnic and religious minorities can benefit from reformed admissions procedures due to their background or that of their parents (extra points for entrance exams can be allocated).
- There are a number of ethnic minority higher education institutions in China that provide direct access for ethnic minorities. The education in these institutions is provided in the ethnic minority language or is delivered bilingually.

Financial Resources

What financial resources does the country devote to equity promotion measures?

- Not available

Quality Assurance

The quality assurance criteria do not take equity elements into consideration.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Department of Higher Education is responsible for monitoring the impact of equity promotion measures.

Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency

China does not have an agency dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

Sources

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