

Paraguay

National Higher Education Equity Policy

Governance

The Ministry of Education and Culture, through the Vice Ministry of Higher Education and Sciences, is responsible for formulating policies, establishing goals and approving the development plans of the sector in the short, medium and long term.

The Ministry has the following bodies as advisory of the higher education policy:

- National Council of Education and Culture: Support the assessment process of the higher education institutions.
- National Council of Higher Education CONES is the body responsible for proposing and coordinating policies and programs for higher education.

Higher Education Policy Documents

- Law 1264 of 1998 General Law of Education
- Law 4995 of 2013 Higher Education Law
- National Development Plan: Paraguay 2030 PND2030
- National Education Plan 2024 PNE2024
- Law 5136 December 23, 2013 Inclusive Education All Levels and Modalities of the National Education System

Equity Policy Documents

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

- Higher education will be governed by the principle of equal opportunities and conditions to the benefits of higher education.
- Higher education students have the right to: (i) Access a quality higher education that allows to start a professional career in equal opportunities; (ii) Obtain scholarships, student loans and other forms of economic and social support that guarantee equal opportunities.

The following equity target groups are identified in the policy documents

- Low-income students
- Gender groups
- Indigenous
- Students with disability

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

- By the year 2030, increase the national average of population with tertiary education 7 times, with emphasis on vulnerable populations.

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

- There is not a standalone equity policy document in Paraguay

Paraguay has a number of specific anti-discrimination provisions embedded in the following pieces of legislation:

- Law 4934 June 24, 2013 The purpose of this law is to establish the provisions that allow the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society,
- Law 2128 July 7, 2003 Approving the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- Law No. 1683 approving the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Law No. 3,338 / 07 approving Convention 156 on equality of opportunity and treatment of workers: workers with family responsibilities.
- Law No. 2806 approving the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid

The Government of Paraguay uses a series of financial and non-monetary instruments to promote equity.

Financial Policy Instruments

- Student loans, scholarships and grants for students going to accredited programs.

- Conditional Grants to high school students who apply to accredited higher education institutions and committed to graduate.
- Higher Education Grants for first student in the family to access higher education.
- Itaipú Scholarships to low-income students from all over the country, who completed their secondary education, with an average of 4 or more.

Non-Monetary Policy Instruments

- Articulation of upper secondary education with higher education.
- Flexible pathways and transfers from technical level to professional level.
- Recognition of prior learning.

Financial Resources

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

- Information not available

Quality Assurance

The quality assurance criteria take the following equity elements into consideration

- Have a system of academic guidance in place and with positive results to improve academic performance.
- Economic support programs and scholarships are implemented effectively and systematically.
- Health care programs for students.
- Extracurricular activities (sports, artistic and cultural) are applied effectively and systematically;

Monitoring and Evaluation

The National Council of Education and Culture and the National Higher Education Council are responsible for monitoring the impact of equity promotion measures?

What instruments, methods and data are in place to carry out the monitoring and evaluation activities?

- Reports issued by the Technical Planning Secretariat and the National Education Council
- The National Observatory of Higher Education (ONES) produces data, information and knowledge.
- Citizen Education Observatory. This platform will monitor the educational indicators of the National Education Plan 2024, the National Development Plan Paraguay 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030

Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency

There is no dedicated equity promotion agency in Paraguay.

Key Equity Indicators

Net Enrollment Rate by Gender, Income Quintile and Area

YEAR	Gender			Quintiles of Income					Area	
	Total	Female	Male	1	2	3	4	5	Rural	Urban
2010	21,3	25,8	17,0	4,2	11,2	17,5	26,2	44,4	10,1	28,0
2011	28,3	33,0	23,6	7,4	14,1	28,8	31,3	53,5	8,7	40,5
2012	31,0	35,2	26,5	7,4	20,5	25,9	38,0	50,5	14,2	39,3
2013	30,7	36,0	25,7	14,2	16,2	26,5	34,7	59,3	14,5	40,7
2014	31,8	39,1	24,1	8,5	24,3	30,9	38,5	53,2	13,8	42,1
2015	31,5	37,8	25,3	11,2	17,3	26,5	37,4	63,9	17,1	39,0
2016	28,7	31,6	26,0	7,7	16,7	26,6	33,2	52,9	13,3	36,7
2017	27,3	30,3	24,5	10,0	13,8	25,0	30,8	52,2	15,0	33,8

Source: SEDLAC (CEDLAS and The World Bank) Version Mayo 2018

Sources

<http://www.bacn.gov.py/leyes-paraguayas/4401/ley-n-4995-de-educacion-superior>

Modelo Nacional de Acreditación de la Educación Superior

Resolución N° 120 del Consejo Directivo 22 de abril de 2016

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