

PART XIII

CULTIVATING THE CHARACTER OF OUR PEOPLE AND PROMOTING WELL-ROUNDED HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Making it a priority to cultivate the character of our people, we will build a high-quality education system and a comprehensive healthcare system covering all stages of life. We will optimize the population structure, expand the demographic dividend, enhance our human capital, and raise our capacity for achieving well-rounded human development.

Chapter 43 Building a High-Quality Education System

We will implement the Party's education policy in a comprehensive manner, and keep making the development of education a top priority. We will strive to foster virtue in students, mold them into civic minded and socially responsible citizens, and strengthen their practical skills so as to nurture a new generation of capable young people with the moral grounding, intellectual and physical abilities, aesthetic sensibilities, and skills needed to join and carry on the socialist cause.

Section 1 Promoting Equal Access to Basic Public Education

We will build upon the largely balanced development that has been achieved in compulsory education, improve the standards to which schools operate, and promote high-quality, well-balanced, and integrated development of compulsory education in both urban and rural areas. We will accelerate the expansion of school capacity in urban areas to guarantee that children of rural migrants have equal access to basic public education services. We will improve conditions in small rural schools and boarding schools in towns and townships, bolster the ranks of teachers working in the countryside and enhance their caliber and capabilities, optimize systems for taking care of children who remain in rural areas while their parents move to cities for work, and consolidate the achievements of the initiative to address school dropout rates and ensure attendance. We will work to make senior secondary education more universally accessible, encourage the diversified

development of senior secondary schools, and raise the gross enrollment rate among the senior high school-age population to above 92%. We will take steps to regulate out-of-school education. We will improve mechanisms of support for public-benefit preschool education, special needs education, and specialized education, and see that the gross preschool enrollment rate rises to over 90%. We will improve education quality and standards in areas with large minority populations, and intensify efforts to promote standard spoken and written Chinese.

Section 2

Enhancing the Adaptability of Vocational and Technical Education

We will highlight the qualities of vocational and technical education, further promote reform and innovation and optimize the structure and layout in this regard, and make vigorous efforts to cultivate technicians and skilled workers. National standards for vocational and technical education will be improved, and a system of awarding both diplomas and certification of vocational skills will be implemented. We will develop innovative schooling models, deepen integration between industry and education and cooperation between schools and businesses, encourage enterprises to develop high-quality vocational and technical education, and make inquiries into establishing an apprenticeship system with distinctive Chinese features. We will launch an initiative to improve the quality of modern vocational and technical education, develop a group of top-notch vocational and technical institutions and programs, and make steady progress in developing undergraduate programs for vocational education. We will advance further integration, bringing about mutual recognition and vertical mobility between vocational education and general education.

Section 3

Raising the Quality of Higher Education

We will manage higher education based on a differentiated approach, carry out comprehensive reform of institutions of higher learning, build a more diversified higher education system, and increase the gross enrollment rate in tertiary education to 60%. We will develop first-class universities and disciplines in different categories and support the development of top-notch research universities. We will develop high-quality undergraduate education, and encourage certain colleges providing undergraduate education to transform themselves into applied institutions. We will establish a mechanism for dynamically adjusting disciplines and programs and a mechanism for guiding their specialized development, and make the configuration of disciplines at universities more targeted in nature. We will promote reform of models for cultivating highly talented individuals in foundational disciplines, and accelerate the training of badly needed personnel in science, engineering, agriculture, and medicine. We will cultivate and manage postgraduate students more effectively, raise the quality of postgraduate education, and steadily increase the number of postgraduates with professional degrees. The regional layout for higher education will be optimized, and steps will be taken to energize higher education in the central and western regions.

Section 4

Fostering Top-Performing Teachers with Strong Professional Expertise

We will build a sophisticated system for modern teacher education, strengthen professional ethics among teachers, improve the system of policies for teacher management and development, and enhance teachers'

ability to impart knowledge and bring the best out of their students. We will develop a number of centers for teacher education, support top-notch, comprehensive universities in offering teacher education, improve the system of providing government-paid education for students training to be teachers, and push forward reforms that would grant postgraduates majoring in education and government-sponsored teaching students teacher certification without the need to take an exam. We will support top-notch engineering universities in developing teaching programs for vocational education and build a mechanism whereby universities and vocational schools work with industries and enterprises to cultivate teachers that are qualified both as educators and as professionals. We will deepen comprehensive reform of teacher management in middle schools, primary schools, and kindergartens, coordinate the allocation and cross-regional adjustment of officially budgeted teacher posts, promote reform of teacher management in compulsory education whereby teachers are recruited by schools and managed by counties, and appropriately increase the proportion of teachers with medium to high seniority.

Section 5

Deepening Educational Reform

We will further the reform of educational assessment in the new era by improving corresponding systems and mechanisms, and enhance our students' well-rounded development by putting greater focus on fostering their sense of patriotism, enterprising spirit, and healthy character. We will uphold the principle that education is a public good, increase government spending on education, reform and improve systems for managing the utilization of educational funds, and see that funds are used more effectively. We will ensure that the decision-making powers of schools are exercised and expanded, refine the internal governance structures of schools, and

call on society to get involved in school governance in an orderly manner. Comprehensive reform of the examination and enrollment systems will be deepened. We will support and regulate the development of private schools, and encourage the development of top-notch partner schools and programs between Chinese and foreign institutions. We will fully leverage the advantages of online education, improve systems for lifelong learning, and build a learning society. We will push top universities to make their educational resources more openly available, improve systems for both formal and flexible learning, and ensure that there are clear channels enabling the mutual recognition and application of achievements made through different types of study.

Box 16 The Initiative to Raise Quality and Expand Capacity in Education	
01 Public-interest kindergartens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build or upgrade 20,000 kindergartens and create an additional 4 million spots for students to make kindergarten education more accessible, with a focus on regions with large population inflows, rural areas, and the “three regions and three prefectures.” (The “three regions” refer to Tibet, the four southern Xinjiang prefectures of Hotan, Aksu, Kashi, and Kirgiz Autonomous Prefecture of Kizilsu, and the Tibetan ethnic areas in Sichuan, Yunnan, Gansu, and Qinghai provinces; the “three prefectures” refer to Liangshan in Sichuan, Nujiang in Yunnan, and Linxia in Gansu.)
02 Basic education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build or upgrade more than 4,000 primary and middle schools with a focus on counties with weak educational foundations and regions with large population inflows; Establish 100 “frontier schools” in border counties or regimental farms.
03 Vocational and technical education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of more than 200 top-notch higher vocational schools offering more than 600 top-notch programs, as well as a number of outstanding secondary vocational schools offering high-quality programs.
04 Higher education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further enhance basic research, collaboration, and innovation capacity while developing world-class universities and disciplines; Improve conditions at 100 undergraduate schools in the central and western regions; Make plans for developing a number of top-notch schools specialized in public health and teacher training.

continued

Box 16	
The Initiative to Raise Quality and Expand Capacity in Education	
05 Platforms for the integration of industry and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lay out a number of national-level innovative platforms for integrating industry and education and joint training centers for cultivating postgraduates with a focus on key fields such as integrated circuits, artificial intelligence, the industrial internet, and energy storage;▪ Set up 100 high-standard, professional, and accessible practical training centers that integrate industry and education.