

NEWSLETTER

EDUCATION

13 - 19 July 2026



China Approves "Art Therapy" as Undergraduate Major to Boost Mental Health Services

To address a severe shortage of clinical talent, China's Ministry of Education has formalized "art therapy" as a mainstream bachelor's degree. The standardized rollout aims to build a professional workforce to support the estimated 16.7% of Chinese teenagers experiencing mental health issues and over 95 million citizens suffering from depression or anxiety disorders. **(China Daily)**

Elite Chinese Universities Phase Out Academic Master's Programs in Major Graduate Reform

Top Chinese universities, including Fudan and Zhejiang, will halt academic master's enrollment by 2027 under a national graduate reform. This structural shift redirects academic research training to direct-entry PhD tracks, while pivoting master's programs toward professional degrees. Additionally, elite schools are debuting "PhD + Master's" dual degrees to foster interdisciplinary talent in strategic areas like AI. **(Sina)**

Shanxi Allocates 4.45 Billion Yuan to Bolster Compulsory Education and Campus Soccer

Shanxi Province has allocated 4.454 billion yuan in compulsory education subsidies for 2026, prioritizing rural education equity and campus safety. Beyond standard student aid and facility upgrades, the fiscal package uniquely earmarks performance-based rewards to fund youth soccer training and competitions across 1,062 specialized schools to boost local sports development. **(China Education News Network)**

China Adds 27 Vocational Majors Targeting Strategic Fronts Like AI and Low-Altitude Economy

The Ministry of Education has introduced 27 new vocational majors—comprising 18 undergraduate and 9 diploma programs—to cultivate high-skilled talent for emerging industries. Aligned with the 15th Five-Year Plan, the additions target critical sectors including humanoid robotics, hydrogen energy, the low-altitude economy, and urban renewal. Enrollment for these specialized tracks will officially commence in 2027. **(People's Daily)**

China Shuttters 30,000 Preschools and Primary Schools Amid Birth Slump

China closed nearly 30,000 kindergartens and primary schools in 2025, marking the clearest evidence yet of how a prolonged demographic slump is reshaping the nation's education infrastructure. Ministry of Education data reveals a sharp structural divergence: while early-stage institutions contract rapidly, high schools and universities continue expanding to absorb a demographic bulge from earlier birth peaks. **(Caixin)**