

NEWSLETTER

EDUCATION
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China's Elite Universities Expand Enrollment by 38,000

China's elite universities have expanded undergraduate enrollment by 38,000 students over the past two years, with 16,000 seats added in 2024 and 22,000 in 2025. The expansion focuses on strategic fields including artificial intelligence, integrated circuits, and advanced manufacturing. The country plans to add over 100,000 undergraduate seats at top universities during the 2026-2030 period. **(Xinhua)**

China Boosts Preschool Education Funding by 37.8%

China's central government has increased preschool education funding by 37.8% in 2026 to implement a free one-year preschool education policy. The funding boost will compensate kindergartens for revenue losses from free senior class enrollment, with the central government bearing the major share. The policy aims to reduce family education costs and improve educational equity across the nation. **(People.cn)**

Higher Education Gross Enrollment Rate Exceeds 60%

China's higher education gross enrollment rate (GER) has surpassed 60%, more than doubling from below 30% before the 18th CPC Congress in 2012, marking the country's entry into the universal higher education stage. The 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) saw 55 million graduates enter the workforce, with 18 new undergraduate universities and 70 vocational undergraduate colleges established.

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Student Financial Aid System Covers 150 Million Annually

China's comprehensive student financial aid system now benefits approximately 150 million students each year, covering all education stages from preschool to postgraduate studies, according to Education Minister Huai Jinpeng's March 2026 announcement. This represents a cornerstone of the country's education equity policy, ensuring access to education for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. **(People.cn)**

"14th Five-Year Plan" Adds 700,000 Undergraduate Seats

During the 2021-2025 period, China added 700,000 undergraduate enrollment seats through the establishment of 18 new regular undergraduate universities and 70 vocational undergraduate institutions. Additionally, 540 new Sino-foreign cooperative education programs were approved, creating 350,000 new degree opportunities and advancing international education collaboration. **(People.cn)**