

NEWSLETTER

EDUCATION

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China Outlines 15th Five-Year Plan for Global Education Drive

China's State Council has issued a 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030) blueprint to enhance its global educational competitiveness. The strategy prioritizes incentivizing overseas graduates to return, welcoming elite foreign STEM universities for joint domestic programs, and accelerating the export of Chinese educational standards in AI and vocational training. **(China Daily)**

China's Philanthropy Sector Contracts While University Donations Surge to Records

China's philanthropic sector is experiencing a historic contraction under economic headwinds and regulatory crackdowns, with 156 foundations deregistered in H1 2026 and total revenue dropping 15% to 108.8 billion yuan. Conversely, higher education philanthropy is booming; large-scale university donations surged 130% to a record 12.17 billion yuan, heavily driven by tech billionaires funding elite research and STEM institutions. **(Caixin)**

Beijing Greenlights 48 Private Higher Ed Schools for 2026 Enrollment Amid Annual Inspection

The Beijing Municipal Education Commission approved 48 private higher education institutions for the 2026–2027 academic year following an annual inspection. While 15 degree-granting universities remain integrated into the national college entrance exam (*gaokao*) system, 33 non-degree training institutions face stricter compliance and mandatory advertising filing; two failing schools were ordered to suspend enrollment. **(Sina)**

Alibaba's Qwen AI Captures Over 40 Million Users for China's 2026 Gaokao Applications

Alibaba's Qwen AI platform saw over 40 million users consult its dedicated *gaokao* university application Agent by July 8, distributing 23 million personalized reports. Spurred by career outlook anxieties, users heavily queried future job stability in the automation era, with traditional top testing provinces Henan, Shandong, and Guangdong accounting for nearly 30% of total platform traffic. **(Sina)**

Future-Industry STEM and AI Majors Dominate China's 2026 Gaokao Trends

Baidu's Gaokao Big Data reveals that science and engineering fields comprise seven of the top 10 most-searched university majors in 2026, led by electrical engineering and AI. Closely aligned with state industrial policies, this demand is propelled by massive investments in renewable energy, semiconductors, and digital grids, heavily prioritizing high-employment green majors. **(VOI)**