

NEWSLETTER

EDUCATION

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Preschool Education Continues to Contract

China's preschool enrollment dropped to 32.255 million children in 2025, marking a 33.1% decline from the 2020 peak. This represents the fifth consecutive year of decrease, as the nation grapples with a shrinking birth rate and changing demographics. The sector faces mounting pressure on infrastructure and workforce planning amid sustained contraction. (www.21jinji.com)

Primary School Enrollment Enters Decline Phase Despite Staying Above 100 Million

Primary school enrollment remained above 100 million at 101.783 million in 2025, but has entered a downward trajectory after peaking in 2023. While new admissions of 14.617 million showed a narrowed decline from 2024, the growing number of graduates intensified the overall enrollment drop. Meanwhile, the middle school-age population is projected to peak in 2026. (**National Bureau of Statistics**).

Henan's Preschool Education Sees Major Expansion

Henan Province, home to over 98 million people, has significantly improved access to affordable early childhood education. The province now operates 18,600 kindergartens, with 88.66% being public or subsidized institutions. Nearly 2.59 million children are currently enrolled, and 91.84% of them benefit from affordable preschool programs, reflecting the government's push for equitable education coverage. (**Henan Education Report**)

Over 87% of Chinese Students Return Home After Studying Abroad

Since 1978, China has sent 9.46 million students overseas for education, with 8.01 million completing their studies. Of those graduates, 6.98 million have returned to China, representing an 87% return rate that reflects growing domestic opportunities. The data, covering nearly five decades through 2025, highlights a significant shift as more graduates decide to go back to China rather than remaining abroad. (**Global Times**)

UK Overtakes US as Top Destination for Chinese Students

The United Kingdom has become the preferred study abroad destination for Chinese students, attracting 34% of applicants, according to international education data. Australia follows in second place with 22% market share, while the United States has dropped to third at just 8%, reflecting shifting geopolitical and visa policy influences. (**VNexpress International**)