

NEWSLETTER

EDUCATION

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China raises preschool funding 38% as free education rollout advances

China has allocated 45.8 billion yuan (\$6.3 billion) in 2026 to support preschool education, marking a 38% increase from the previous year. The funding will support tuition exemptions for public kindergarten senior classes and expand access to affordable preschool education. Authorities estimate the policy will benefit more than 14 million children and reduce family education expenses by over 20 billion yuan annually. **(ECNS, Reuters)**

China adds 38 new undergraduate majors across AI, energy and strategic disciplines

China's Ministry of Education released the 2026 catalog of undergraduate majors, adding 38 new majors to better align higher education with national strategies and industry needs. The new majors focus on artificial intelligence, energy, and other strategic disciplines as part of a broader effort to cultivate innovative talent. The expansion reflects China's push to deepen integration between universities and industrial development. **(Global Times)**

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China expands free education scope under 15th Five-Year Plan reforms

China is set to expand the scope of free education and consider extending compulsory schooling under the 2026-2030 15th Five-Year Plan. Starting autumn 2025, public kindergartens waived fees for final-year students, initially benefiting about 12 million children. Experts describe the move as a strategic shift toward greater educational equity and "investing in people" to support human capital development. **(China Daily)**