

NEWSLETTER

EDUCATION

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PISA Performance: China Regions Lead, US Trails

Chinese regions dominate global PISA rankings, with Macau scoring 535 points and Hong Kong at 524, both far above the US average of 489. Singapore tops the list at 560, while mainland China's top-performing regions outperform nearly all Western counterparts. The US ranks around 20th globally. Analysts attribute East Asian success to early STEM focus and rigorous national standards. **(The Tutor Bridge)**

Vocational Bachelor's Programs Surpass 100 Schools

China now has 102 vocational colleges offering bachelor's degrees, up from 87 in 2025, with enrollment rising sevenfold since 2022. These programs require at least 60% hands-on instruction and industry-experienced faculty. The sector targets advanced technical skills, though public acceptance still lags behind traditional academic pathways. **(Caixin Global)**

China's Free Education Push to Ease Family Burden

China plans to expand free education under its 15th Five-Year Plan, starting with 12 million children in public kindergartens. The policy currently waives fees for one final preschool year, with discussions to extend to three years. Experts note declining birth rates make preschool expansion fiscally feasible, while senior high school growth poses greater challenges. **(China Daily)**

International Student Enrollment Rebounds to 380,000

China hosted 380,000 international students from 191 countries in 2024–2025. Degree-seeking students now exceed 60% of the total, up from a majority in short-term language programs before 2015. Engineering leads at 27.8% of degree students, while Asian students comprise 61.1% of the body. Postgraduates account for 35% of degree-seekers, signaling a shift toward higher academic quality. **(China Daily)**