

# Japanese School Enrollment Guide for Parents & Guardians

Niigata City Board of Education

## Elementary & Junior High Schools in Japan

Non-Japanese children are welcome to enroll in public elementary and junior high schools if they so desire. They are guaranteed to receive the same standard of education as Japanese students, free of charge.

All children may enroll, regardless of ability to read, write or speak Japanese.

### \* Enrollment Period for Elementary & Junior High Schools

In Japan, students may enter elementary school (shougakko 小学校) the first April after turning 6 years old. Elementary school lasts 6 years. After graduating from elementary school, students enter junior high school (chuugakko 中学校), which lasts 3 years.

### \* Tuition & Textbooks

There is no tuition fee for public elementary and junior high schools.

Textbooks used in public elementary and junior high schools are also distributed free of charge. However, you will have to pay fees for school lunches and school supplies every month.

### \* Financial Assistance

Niigata City subsidizes a portion of the expenses for school supplies and school lunches for elementary and junior high students in financial need. Please discuss this with school administrators after enrolling if you wish to receive such subsidies.

### \* School Subjects

The elementary school curriculum is comprised of Japanese (kokugo 国語), social studies (shakai 社会), arithmetic (sansu 算数), science (rika 理科), life studies (seikatsu 生活), music (ongaku 音楽), arts & crafts (zuga kousaku 図画工作), home economics (katei 家庭), and physical education (taiiku 体育). Other subjects such as moral education (doutoku 道徳), foreign language activities (gaikokugo katsudou 外国語活動 [usually English]), special activities, and integrated studies are also part of the curriculum.

The junior high school curriculum consists of Japanese, social studies, mathematics (suugaku 数学), science, music, art (bijutsu 美術), health & physical education (hoken taiiku 保健体育), technical arts & home economics (gijutsu katei 技術・家庭), and foreign languages (usually English). The curriculum also includes moral education, special activities, and integrated studies.

### \* PTA Activities

Schools also have parent-teacher associations (PTA) where guardians and school faculty work together to plan activities such as ensuring safe transportation to and from school. PTA boards welcome the active participation of parents and guardians.

## Enrollment Procedures

- (1) Visit your local board of education, inform them of your desire to enroll your child in elementary or junior high school, and begin application procedures. Please bring your child's Resident Card (zairyu kaado 在留カード), or Special Permanent Resident Certificate (tokubetsu eijusha shomeisho 特別永住者証明書) with you.
  
- (2) The board of education will issue a School Assignment Notice (tennyu gakko shitei tsuchisho 転入学校指定通知書) which you must then submit to the school yourself.
  - Applications are accepted year-round.
  - The school assigned will usually be determined by your residential address.
  - The child's grade level will be determined by his/her age, but if you wish to enroll him/her in a lower grade due to his/her lack of Japanese ability, please discuss this with the board of education when applying.

Please do not hesitate to use the contact information below for questions related to Niigata City elementary & junior high school application and enrollment procedures.

Section	Address	Phone No.	Hours
Board of Education School Affairs Division	Furumachi Refuru 4F, 7-1010 Furumachi-dori, Chuo-ku	025 (226) 3168	Mon–Fri  8:30–17:30
Kita Ward Educational Support Center	2F Kita Ward Office 1-1-14 Toeicho, Kita Ward	025 (387) 1525	
Higashi Ward Educational Support Center	Higashi Ward Office 1F 1-4-1 Shimo Kido, Higashi-ku	025 (250) 2180	
Chuo Ward Educational Support Center	NEXT21 5F 6-866 Nishibori-dori, Chuo-ku	025 (223) 7026	
Konan Ward Educational Support Center	Konan Ward Office 2F 3-4-5 Izumicho, Konan-ku	025 (382) 4903	
Akiha Ward Educational Support Center	Akiha Ward Office 3F 2009 Hodojima, Akiha-ku	0250 (25) 5500	
Minami Ward Educational Support Center	Minami Ward Office 3F 1235 Shirone, Minami-ku	025 (372) 6635	
Nishi Ward Educational Support Center	Nishi Ward Office 4F 3-14-41 Terao Higashi, Nishi-ku	025 (264) 7530	
Nishikan Ward Educational Support Center	Nishikan Ward Office bld. A, 2F 2690-1 Maki Ko, Nishikan-ku	0256 (72) 8560	

Detailed school enrollment information is available in the following seven languages at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology website:  
(Korean, Vietnamese, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, Filipino, English & Portuguese)  
[http://www.mext.go.jp/a\\_menu/shotou/clarinet/003/1320860.htm](http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/shotou/clarinet/003/1320860.htm)

Reference: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology:  
*Gaikokujin no Tame no Shugaku Gaidobukku* (School Enrollment Guide for Foreign Nationals)