

Report of the Russian Federation on the implementation of the Convention and Recommendations against Discrimination in Education in 2012-2015

In accordance with Article 3 of the Federal Law of December 29, 2012 No. 273-FZ "On Education in the Russian Federation", the key principles of state policy of the Russian Federation in the area of education are:

- 1) recognition of priority nature of education;
- 2) guaranteed right of everyone to education, with no discrimination in the area of education;
- 3) humanistic nature of education, priority of human life and health, personal rights and freedoms, free development of personality, upbringing mutual respect, strong work ethics, civic consciousness, patriotism, responsibility, legal culture, environmental friendliness, and smart use of natural resources;
- 4) unity of educational environment across the territory of the Russian Federation, protection and development of ethnic and cultural specifics and traditions of the peoples of the Russian Federation as a multi-ethnic state;
- 5) creation of favorable conditions for the integration of Russia's educational system with the educational systems of other countries on an equal and mutually beneficial basis;
- 6) secular nature of education in the federal and municipal organizations engaged in educational activities;
- 7) freedom of choice in receiving education in accordance with the citizen's preferences and requirements, creation of conditions for self-realization of each and every person, free development of their talents including the provision of rights to choose any form of education, types of education, the educational institution and educational specifics within the framework provided by the education system, as well as provision of liberty to the teaching staff in the choice of teaching forms, training methods and educational approaches;
- 8) guaranteed rights to education throughout the person's life in accordance with the needs of the individual, adaptability of the education system to the individual's competence level, intellectual potential and interests;
- 9) autonomy of educational institutions, with academic rights and freedoms of the faculty and students ensured in accordance with the mentioned-above Federal Law, information transparency and public accountability of educational institutions;

10) democratic governance of the education system and ensuring the rights of teachers, students and parents of under-aged students (or their legal representatives) to participation in the governance of educational institutions;

11) inadmissibility of any restrictions or attempts to eliminate competition in the area of education;

12) maintenance of government and agreement-based regulation of relations in the area of education.

In accordance with Article 5 of the Federal Law No. 273-FZ of December 29, 2012 "On Education in the Russian Federation" (hereinafter - the "Federal Law on Education"), all citizens are entitled to free education regardless of their gender, race, nationality, language, origin, property, social and official status, place of residence, religious beliefs, convictions, membership in public associations or any other circumstances.

In addition, pursuant to Article 78 of the Federal Law on Education, foreign nationals have equal rights with the citizens of the Russian Federation to receive pre-primary, primary, general, and secondary education, as well as to vocational training under all vocational training programs, which are free and generally accessible. Article 19 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation prohibits any forms of restrictions of the rights of its citizens on social, racial, national, linguistic or religious identity grounds. Article 43 of the Constitution guarantees access to free general education, which is mandatory in the Russian Federation. In addition, there is a guaranteed opportunity to receive, on a competitive basis, free higher education in a federal or municipal educational institution or a company training facility. In accordance with Article 55 of the Federal Law on Education, enrollment to educational institutions is conducted in compliance with the principles of equal terms for all applicants, with the exception of persons who, in accordance with said federal law, enjoy special rights (benefits) to enrollment in those educational institutions.

Therefore, the educational legislation of the Russian Federation guarantees equal access to education regardless of gender, race, nationality, language, origin, property or social status or job title, place of residence, religious beliefs, convictions, membership in public associations, as well as to the disabled persons and persons with disabilities.

In the Russian Federation the right of all individuals to education is ensured through establishment by the federal government authorities, government authorities in the

subjects of the Russian Federation and local authorities of all relevant socio-economic conditions for receiving education, thereby expanding opportunities for individuals to meet their educational needs at various levels and in various areas throughout their life and regardless of their age.

Equal rights of citizens with regard to enrollment to the institutions providing pre-primary, primary general, general and secondary education training programs in accordance with the requirements of Article 67 of the Federal Law on Education are provided in compliance with Procedures for enrollment for training under pre-primary training programs, approved by the Order of the Russian Ministry of Education No.293 of April 8, 2014 "On approval of procedures for enrollment for training under pre-primary educational training programs," and Procedures for enrollment of citizens to primary general, general and secondary general education training programs, approved by the Order of the Russian Ministry of Education No.32 of January 22, 2014.

In accordance with Article 67 of the Federal Law on Education, pre-primary education in the educational institutions can start for children as they reach the age of two months.

In educational institutions tuition is conducted with due consideration of the individual's needs and abilities, and, depending on the scope of mandatory classes with the trainees set for teaching staff members, can proceed under intramural and extramural training programs, or a combination thereof.

In accordance with Article 17 of the Federal Law on Education, it is possible to combine various forms and types of education programs.

Tuition under educational programs in pre-primary educational institutions is carried out in groups focusing on general development, compensation or health improvement aspects, or in groups focusing on a combination of those aspects (in accordance with the Order of the Russian Ministry of Education No. 1014 of August 30, 2013, "On approval of Procedures for Setting up and Performing Tuition Under General Education Programs (Pre-primary Educational Programs)").

Educational programs are offered in a variety of forms, including distance learning and e-learning programs (in accordance with Article 13 of the Federal Law No.273-FZ of December 29, 2012 "On Education in the Russian Federation").

Education, starting with pre-primary stages, can also be received outside the educational institution, in the form of family education or self-education (at the level of secondary education). At any stage, children receiving education in the family can continue their training in any educational institution.

Parents (or their legal representatives) can choose for their children (taking into account their opinion) any educational institution where they will continue their education, as well as tuition types, tuition language, optional and elective subjects and training courses offered by the educational institution.

A draft form of a tuition contract No. 8 for pre-primary training under a selected education program was approved by the Russian Ministry of Education on January 13, 2014.

At the level of secondary education the student chooses optional and elective subjects and courses from the list offered by the educational institution.

Tuition under pre-primary, primary general, general and secondary education training programs can be based on differentiated curricula, taking into account the educational needs and interests of students and providing in-depth study of certain subjects and subject areas of the appropriate educational program (specialized education).

One of the fundamental principles of state policy in the area of education is based on the maintenance of uniformity of educational environment across the territory of the nation, preservation and development of ethnic and cultural features and traditions of the peoples of the Russian Federation as a multi-ethnic state, and compliance with the federal standards regarding the level and quality of education based on the uniformity of mandatory requirements to the educational programs and results of their implementation set forth in the federal state educational standards (hereinafter referred to as FSES) drafted for and applied to all levels of general education (approved by the Orders of the Russian Ministry of Education No. 1155 of October 17, 2013, No. 373 of October 6, 2009, No. 1897 of December 17, 2010 and No. 413 of May 17, 2012).

The FSES contain requirements to the implementation of general education programs, including the personnel, financial, logistical and other aspects, as well as to the results of the implementation of general educational programs.

In accordance with the FSES, implementation of the general education program must provide the following key opportunities to all students: achievement of key objectives of the general education program, personality and talent development, formation and satisfaction of socially significant interests and requirements, development of social practices through the system of creative, scientific, and labor associations, teams and art studios based on interaction with other institutions involved in educational activities.

Tuition programs are implemented by organizations involved in educational activities, separately or in a joint format. Joint general education programs provide the opportunities for students to use the resources of several educational institutions, as well as the resources provided by other organizations.

Along with the educational institutions, joint education programs may involve research institutions, medical institutions, cultural organizations, sports and other organizations possessing the resources required for the education process and for on-the-job and other types of training required under the training curriculum.

For children with disabilities FSES training can be set up jointly with other students or in separate classes, groups or organizations carrying out special education programs.

Parents (or their legal representatives), as equal participants in the education process have the right to participate in the school governance process, to the extent defined by its charter.

In addition, the Federal Government Resolution No. 2145-p of October 23, 2015 approved the program of "Assistance to the Subjects of the Federation in Creation of New Jobs in Educational institutions", which has been in effect since 2016.

In order to realize the right of every citizen to education, federal public authorities create the required conditions for the disabled persons and persons with disabilities willing to receive quality education.

All activities in that area are carried out under the state "Accessible Environment" program. By the end of 2015 the administrative subjects of the Russian Federation set up more than 9,000 educational institutions implementing general education programs and providing joint training opportunities for the disabled persons and persons without developmental disorders, accounting for 20% of the total number of educational institutions. As of 2016, the extended version of the program has involved all types of general education institutions implementing general education programs.

On November 9, 2015, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation issued Order No. 1309 "On approval of procedures for accessibility for the disabled individuals to educational facilities and tuition services, and providing all required assistance to them in that process," setting up the rules of accessibility to disabled individuals of various facilities (administrative buildings, structures, installations and building facilities) of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, the Federal Education and Science Supervision Agency, the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs, governments of the administrative subjects of the Russian Federation exercising state supervision in the area of education, local self-government authorities exercising state supervision in the area of education, and the organizations reporting to government authorities; education services provided by the authorities and organizations, as well as provision to persons with disabilities of all required assistance in overcoming barriers hindering the use of services in the area of education and use of facilities on an equal basis with all other participants in the education process. The order approved the indicators of accessibility of educational institutions and education services to disabled persons.

Access to high-quality affordable general and professional education is a critical and a most essential condition of successful socialization of children with disabilities, which provides the opportunities for their overall participation in the life of society and effective self-realization in various areas of professional and social activities.

Despite the fact that federal law currently covers almost all issues related to education of this category of students, improvements in that area are being made on a continuous basis. The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation has been implementing a state policy on continuous and vertically-organized system of education of disabled persons and persons with disabilities, including expansion of organizations assisting children of those categories and their families and carrying out comprehensive

psychological, tuition, medical and social support required for their education all the way up to their vocational rehabilitation.

Starting with the 2014/15 academic year, all higher educational institutions (hereinafter – “colleges and universities”) set up enrollment quotas for persons specially entitled to admission to their institutions (accounting for at least 10% of all government-funded enrollment vacancies). For example, in the 2014/15 academic year the share of students with disabilities enrolled under the set up quotas accounted for 3.8% of total enrollment.

In order to implement sub-paragraph "c" of paragraph 2 of the Presidential Decree No. 597 of May 5, 2012 "On measures for implementation of state social policy," the Government of the Russian Federation issued Ordinance No. 1921-p of October 15, 2012 approving a set of measures to raise the effectiveness of implemented steps to assist employment of people with disabilities and ensure accessibility of professional education for 2012-2015, including the following sets of activities:

1. Creation of conditions for persons with disabilities to receive higher education. For the purpose of creating those conditions the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation carried out work to improve architectural accessibility of buildings for people with disabilities at colleges and universities, and improve overall education accessibility for them.

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation continues to monitor architectural accessibility of higher education institutions for persons with disabilities, making all the required improvements, including steps to equip and retrofit the existing buildings educational facilities with specialized equipment in the course of routine maintenance operations and during capital repairs, as well as in the course of construction of new facilities and reconstruction of the operational facilities.

2. A set of regulatory and administrative mechanisms is used to provide accessible higher education.

In 2013-2015 a number of regulatory documents were issued to regulate enrollment, training process and graduation exams. All these regulatory documents included provisions regarding special requirements for students with disabilities.

Provisions regarding special requirements of students with disabilities were included in all Federal State Education Standards.

Requirements to setting up training processes for disabled persons and persons with partial disabilities including special equipment required in the training process were drafted and provided to all administrative subjects of the Russian Federation.

As of September 2015, a 100% adjustment factor was introduced to fund tuition of persons with disabilities.

3. Vocational guidance measures.

The Russian Ministry of Education is continuously improving the scientific and methodological support of vocational guidance activities for children with disabilities. In order to enhance vocational guidance, regional educational authorities received a set of guidelines to streamline vocational guidance efforts, along with curricula templates for pre-vocational training for disabled and partially disabled students.

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation is continuously monitoring vocational guidance activities performed by all organizations in the subjects of the Russian Federation. In a joint effort with the Russian Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation approved and provided to the administrative subjects of the Russian Federation a comprehensive inter-agency vocational guidance plan, providing scientific and methodological support of vocational guidance activities and facilitating improvement of inter-agency cooperation, as those efforts are simultaneously taken by high schools, employment agencies and professional training institutions.

4. Employment efforts.

Employment efforts taken in that area include the following aspects:

- Most colleges and universities monitor the situation with employment of graduates with disabilities;
- Meetings of employers with undergraduate students with disabilities are held in 60% of higher education institutions, and they have turned into a most popular type of graduate employment;

- 37% of colleges and universities maintain databases containing information about graduates of educational institutions with disabilities;
- 33.4% of colleges and universities provide assistance with employment in accordance with employment quotas to their graduates;
- On-the-job training in special jobs is offered by 32.9% of education institutions;
- Individual employment (professional development) plans were drafted by 10.8% of education institutions.
- Most educational institutions carry out individual employment counseling for undergraduate and graduate disabled students and students with disabilities;
- 43% of educational institutions hold presentations and meetings of employers with students with disabilities;
 - 26.8% of educational institutions hold job seeking master classes and workshops;
 - Some educational institutions draft individual job seeking plans for disabled students and students with partially disabled students;
 - 32.8% of educational institutions carry out on the job training in special jobs;
 - 24.6% of educational institutions provide employment assistance in finding special and quota-based jobs;
 - Some educational institutions maintain vacancy databases for disabled graduates and offer special courses in their curricula focused on professional self-determination and social adaptation.

At present, the key areas of activities of educational institutions in the administrative subjects of the Russian Federation and the federal executive bodies in order to support the right to quality education for disabled persons and persons with disabilities include involvement of these students in the vocational training system, ensuring provision of quality educational services for persons with disabilities in the vocational training system, and support with employment to graduates with disabilities who have received vocational training.

Colleges and universities are using their own resources in setting up training and methodology centers at their facilities for training persons with disabilities (hereinafter - the “resource centers”).

Those resource centers are selected on a competitive basis taking into account the need to set up a network of those centers covering the entire territory of the Russian Federation. The resource centers are performing multiple tasks, including:

- creation of models supporting the process of setting up special educational environment for students with disabilities in colleges and universities;
- institution of a network of universities providing inclusive education;
- efforts to provide comprehensive support of students with disabilities throughout the educational process in higher educational institutions included in the network, and including efforts to draft and monitor individual learning curricula;
- assistance with employment of graduates with disabilities;
- setting up volunteer teams to help students with disabilities;
- provision of methodical assistance to the faculty and parents of disabled and partially disabled students on career counseling and higher education tuition services;
- professional training for the faculty and college support staff, tutors and coordinators working with disabled and partially disabled students.

The centers will be set up on an accrual basis: three centers in 2016; ten centers in 2017, 21 centers in 2018, with the Russian Ministry of Education supporting operations of those centers until 2020.

Presidential grants represent another way of supporting and remunerating successful students. Young people of outstanding talent are supported in accordance with the Russian Federation President's Decree No. 607 of December 7, 2015 "On measures of state support of persons of outstanding talent," as well as the decision of the Russian Federation Government No. 1381 of December 19, 2015, "Procedures for provision of grants of the Russian Federation President to support individuals who have displayed outstanding talent."

The federal bodies of executive power set up the criteria for selection of candidates and make up the lists of candidates from among the persons, who:

- were included in the state information database for children who have displayed outstanding talent created in accordance with the decision of the Russian Government No.1239 of 17 November 2015 "On approval of rules to

identify children who have displayed outstanding talent, in order to support them and monitor their further growth";

- have Russian citizenship;
- were enrolled to receive full-time training under Bachelor's and specialty programs with their tuition funded from the federal budget, the budgets of the administrative subjects of the Russian Federation, and regional budgets.

Regarding the special features of receiving *theological and religious education* in the Russian Federation, that area is regulated by the Federal Law No. 125-FZ of September 26, 1997 "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Associations". In accordance with Article 87 that Law, despite the fact that teaching religion and religious education are not viewed as educational activities, everyone has the right to receive religious education of their choice, individually or jointly with other individuals; religious upbringing and education of children is performed by their parents or persons replacing them, taking into account the child's right to freedom of conscience and freedom of religion; religious organizations have the right, in accordance with their statutes and the legislation of the Russian Federation, to set up educational institution.

Upon a written request of the child's parents or persons legally representing them, and with consent of children enrolled in state or municipal educational institutions, the above-mentioned educational institutions, on the basis of a decision on the part of a collegiate governance body of the educational institution and upon agreement with the founders, can provide the opportunity to the religious organization to teach religion to children outside the framework of the main tuition program. Religious associations have the right to teach religion and conduct religious education of its followers as prescribed by the legislation of the Russian Federation and in accordance with the teaching methods specified in the statutes of religious associations. Article 3.6 of the Federal Law No. 273-FZ of December 29, 2012 "On Education in the Russian Federation" guarantees the secular nature of education in the federal and municipal organizations engaged in educational activities.

The Constitution of the Russian Federation recognizes *ethnic minorities* as the subjects of federal law. Article 26 grants every citizen the right to freely determine and identify his or her nationality. Paragraph 2 of that article establishes the right of everyone to use their native language and to freely choose the language of communication, tuition and creative activity. The RF Law No.1807-1 of October 25, 1991 «On the languages of the

peoples of the Russian Federation" is a fundamental document that regulates key aspects of the Russian Federation's language policy, and Article 3 of that Law sets the status of the Russian language as a single national language. At the same time, everyone has the right to use his or her native language, freely choose the language of communication, upbringing, tuition and creative activities. According to that law, the Russian Federation guarantees all ethnic minorities the right to preserve their native language and to create the conditions for learning and developing their native language. These provisions are specified in the legislation of the subjects of the Russian Federation. Article 3 of that Law also stipulates that the State recognizes equal rights of all languages spoken by ethnic minorities of the Russian Federation for their preservation and development. All languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation are supported by the State. In addition, all language policy aspects in the area of education are regulated by the Federal Law No. 273-FZ of December 29, 2012 "On Education in the Russian Federation." So, Article 14 says that all citizens are guaranteed the right to receive education in the state language of the Russian Federation and to choose their tuition language within the scope of opportunities provided by the education system. In accordance with the Russian Federation law, federal and municipal educational institutions located in the republics of the Russian Federation may introduce tuition and learning of state languages in the language spoken in those republics of the Russian Federation.

Thus, in order to exercise the right of every citizen to education, federal government authorities, government authorities in the subjects of the Russian Federation and local governments:

- create the necessary conditions for receiving quality education with no discrimination of persons with disabilities;
- support individuals who have displayed outstanding talent in a particular training or scientific research area, technical and research and artistic areas, and in the physical culture and sports areas;
- render total or partial financial support to persons requiring social assistance in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation over the entire period of their education.