Syrian Arab Republic
Ministry of Higher Education
Office of the Deputy Minister

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SYRIA

Syria assures the Equality of educational opportunities regardless of race, sex or any distinctions, economic or social to all its residents at all levels of learning and teaching in schools, colleges, and other institutions.

The followings are some of what the Syrian constitution and the teachers syndicate's stated in regards to Equality in Education

- **According to article number 29 in the Syrian Arab Republic Constitution**:
- Free education is a right guaranteed by the state to all students of all grades.
- Primary education in Syria is compulsory and free of charge for all students.

- **According to article number 33 in the Syrian Arab Republic constitution**:
  - All citizens are equal in their rights and duties and there is no distinction between them in regards to race, sex, language, religion, or beliefs.
  - The government assures equal opportunities among all Syrian citizens.

- Since 1930, the Syrian Constitution (article number 21) stated that:
Elementary Education is mandatory for all Syrian students, *both females and males*.

- The constitutional statements of years1950, 1953 and 1962, have improved the previous constitutional statements, which assured the right for each citizen to education, by stating that:
- Education is a right for every citizen, and primary education is free and compulsory in public schools. Elementary, secondary and professional education is free in public schools. In addition, the government should prioritize and work on spreading primary, rural, and professional education in the entire country and the government must include education in its budget in order to assure achieving equality in education among all Syrians

- The acceptance instructions of kindergartens for 2009/2010:
All foreign kids (none Syrians) must be treated as the same as Syrians in regards to education once they submit the followings:

- A registration request that is submitted by one of the parents.
- A health certificate to confirm that the kid doesn't suffer from any contagious disease.
- Personal photos.

- Constitutional provisions for year 1950, 1953, 1962 had clearly pointed in article # 1 that education is a right for every Syria and schools are obligated to teach religions to all students. Muslim students to be taught Islamic religion, and Christian students to be taught Christians religion in schools.

- **Constitutional provisions** stressed that all students in urban and rural areas throughout the country should have the right to have a high quality education regardless the geographical location, religion, or belief. In addition, minorities, such as Kurds, Armenians and other Minorities should have same rights that majorities have in regards to the high quality education and to the acceptance and enrolments in schools and universities.

In additions, High Education and Universities' acceptance is based on a fair standardized **selection criteria** that relates the majors students apply for to the grades that students earn in their examinations in pre-college schools.

- Instruction number 57 - article C:
All Arab students (Palestinian , Iraqi and Lebanese,..etc), who don't hold Syrian citizenship and who weren't born in Syria , are to be treated as the same as Syrians once they achieve their high school diploma and enroll in universities .

- Legislation number 6 for 2006 / Universities law / article number 11:
University education is a right for *every citizen.*

- An article was posted in governmental newspaper (Althawrah) titled: It is a Five- Century-Old…….. School Uniform Is An Aesthetic Appearance.
That article stated that "The idea of school uniform was found because it was considered as an educational and civilized choice and it came out as a result of many studies and researches. School uniform still has its uniqueness after all these years. This uniform unifies students and makes them feel that they are all equal".

The Syrian legislation of the Teacher Syndicate:

- Legislative decree number 82 in 1980:

-The aims of the syndicate and its authority, article number /2/:

E-To protect the morale, financial, health, social and cultural matters of all teachers and defends their rights.

J- To encourage creative initiatives, intellectual talents and scientific researches of all teachers, and protecting the rights of all authors and inventors who work in the educational sector.

- The syndicate's authorities, article number /3/:
D- The teacher's syndicate must offer housing, free treatments in hospitals, free medicine, free kindergarten and nurseries for teacher's children, and Leisure centers for its members and their families.

- The internal law, article number /2/
The teachers' syndicate must work hard to:

D- Advances the level of education and spreads culture and eliminates illiteracy.

U- Links universities with the society together by providing researches and scientific expertise to the public sector companies.

- The rights and the duties of the Teacher Syndicate's members:

Article number /28/: All members of the syndicate are equally entitled to the services that the teacher syndicate offers.
Article number /138/:
All unionists who work in Arab or foreign teachers' organizations are paid as high as the same salaries as the workers of the foreign political sector.