

Top leader orders free full-day schooling from next academic year

May 08, 2025 - 07:40

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The initiative, which involves two sessions of teaching per day, aims to enhance instruction in cultural and artistic subjects, thereby supporting students' holistic development.



A teacher and a student in class at Thượng Hóa Primary and Secondary School in Minh Hóa District, located in the central coastal province of Quảng Bình.—VNA/VNS Photo Tá Chuyên

HÀ NỘI — Party General Secretary Tô Lâm has ordered the education sector and local authorities to prepare for the implementation of free full-day schooling at primary and secondary schools, beginning with the 2025–2026 academic year.

The initiative, which involves two sessions of teaching per day, aims to enhance instruction in cultural and artistic subjects, thereby supporting students' holistic development.

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on April 18 with the Government and relevant ministries regarding the implementation of the Party's resolutions on education and training.

The session also addressed preparations for a new Politburo resolution on transformative education policies and support measures for teaching and learning.

After reviewing a report from the Party Committee of the Ministry of Education and Training and listening to opinions from other agencies, Lâm endorsed a policy allowing primary and secondary schools to organise full-day teaching, depending on each locality's capacity in terms of infrastructure, finance and staffing.

The plan will be rolled out gradually, with the State taking the lead on investment while encouraging support from the private sector.

The Party chief tasked the Government's Party Committee with directing the education ministry and other authorities to ensure all necessary conditions, facilities, staff, curricula and educational activities are in place to improve the quality of teaching in the full-day programmes.

Free school lunches

Lâm also agreed to a policy supporting lunch meals for students in border communes, prioritising mountainous areas. This includes both ethnic students and ethnic Kinh students residing in such regions.

Localities are urged to develop boarding and semi-boarding schools to facilitate learning and living conditions for students.

Infrastructure standards for schools must include adequate classrooms, science labs, clean water, kitchens, bathrooms, toilets, playgrounds and teacher accommodation.

Border communes next to other countries should include instruction in the neighbouring country's language to enhance future cross-border people-to-people exchanges.

The policy will be introduced in phases, aligned with the national economic situation.

Strict supervision is required during implementation and any misappropriation of students' meal provisions will not be tolerated.

Initially, the programme will be piloted in land border communes starting in September, with gradual nationwide expansion based on the outcomes.

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The Party Committee of the education ministry has been assigned to coordinate with relevant agencies and report to the Government's Party Committee on implementation progress.

Matters beyond their authority will be referred to the Politburo for review and decision.

The Government's Party Committee will also oversee and push forward the implementation of the conclusions, reporting challenges to the Party Secretariat.

Top national priorities

Lâm said that education, training and science and technology remain top national priorities.

Significant policies and reforms have already yielded substantial results, contributing meaningfully to national development.

However, the education system still lacks the transformative progress needed to meet public expectations, especially in developing well-rounded citizens and a high-quality workforce, amid both domestic and global challenges.

Despite various national target programmes, students in remote, ethnic minority and mountainous areas continue to face severe hardships, with low enrolment rates.

The situation stems largely from systemic limitations, particularly in mindset, policy frameworks, governance and resource allocation, which have hindered progress in the sector.

There is now a pressing need to train a new generation of Vietnamese citizens who are well-rounded and capable of meeting the nation's dual centennial goals, including developing a highly skilled workforce that is key to driving breakthroughs in science, technology, innovation and digital transformation.

In tandem with economic growth, social advancement must also be prioritised, ensuring equal access to quality education, lifelong learning opportunities, and the full development of individual potential.

In response to the urgent demands, the party leader stressed the need for bold institutional and policy reforms, targeted investment and accelerated modernisation to improve educational outcomes and develop a workforce capable of powering Việt Nam's next stage of national advancement. — VNS

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