



EDUCATIONAL REFORMS: NEW TYPE ACADEMIC LYCEUMS LAUNCHED (UZBEKISTAN)

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Annotation

The article discusses the reforms in the field of education in New Uzbekistan, in particular, the restoration of two-year academic lyceums in the education system of the republic from the 2021/2022 academic year. The order of admission and the content of teaching students in academic lyceums of a new type, the requirements for graduates have changed radically. In order to improve the quality of education in academic lyceums, the widespread use of advanced pedagogical methods, information and communication technologies in the educational process and the creation of the necessary conditions for this, study groups of no more than 26 students have been formed. The article discusses in detail these and other important changes in the system of academic lyceums.

Basic Concepts: education reform, types of education, academic lyceum, quality of education, areas of education, exact sciences, natural sciences, optimization, information and communication technologies.

Аннотация

Мақолада Янги Ўзбекистонда таълим соҳасида амалга оширилаётган ислохотлар ҳақида, хусусан, 2021/2022 ўқув йилидан бошлаб республика таълим тизимида икки йиллик академик лицейлар янгидан ташкил этилганлиги ҳақида сўз юритилади. Янги типдаги академик лицейларга ўқувчилар қабул қилиш ва ўқитиш тартиби, мазмуни, битирувчиларга қўйилаётган талаблар тубдан ўзгаргарди. Академик лицейларда таълим сифатини ошириш, таълим жараёнига илғор педагогик усуллар, ахборот-коммуникация технологиялари ва мультимедия тақдимотларини кенг татбиқ қилиш ва бунинг учун зарур шарт-шароитлар яратиш мақсадида ўқув гуруҳлари таркиби 26 нафар ўқувчидан ортиқ бўлмаган тарзда шакллантириш йўлга қўйилди. Чуқурлаштириб ўқитиладиган фанлар бўйича амалий, лаборатория ва семинар машғулотлари кичик гуруҳларга бўлинган тарзда дарслар олиб борилишига рухсат этилди. Мақолада академик лицейлар тизимида юз берган шу ва бошқа муҳим ўзгаришлар батафсил ёритилади.





Аннотация

В статье рассматриваются реформы в сфере образования в Новом Узбекистане, в частности восстановление двухгодичных академических лицеев в системе образования республики с 2021/2022 учебного года. Коренным образом изменились порядок приема и содержания обучения учащихся в академических лицеях нового типа, требования к выпускникам. В целях повышения качества образования в академических лицеях, широкого использования в учебном процессе передовых педагогических методов, информационно-коммуникационных технологий и создания для этого необходимых условий сформированы учебные группы численностью не более 26 учащихся. Практические, лабораторные и семинарские занятия по углубленным предметам разрешалось проводить в малых группах. В статье подробно рассматриваются эти и другие важные изменения в системе академических лицеев.

Introduction

It is known that in accordance with the new edition of the Law "On Education" adopted on August 29, 1997, 11-year general secondary education was transferred to 9-year general secondary education. As a result, there have been changes in the system of secondary specialized vocational education. Professional colleges and academic lyceums have been established in the education system. However, these educational reforms did not produce the expected results.

In this regard, starting from the 2017/2018 academic year, 11-year schools have been restored in New Uzbekistan. Two-year academic lyceums of a new type, vocational schools, colleges and technical schools have been created.

Main part. In accordance with the new edition of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "**On Education**", adopted on September 23, 2020, the following types of education have been introduced:

- **Preschool education and upbringing** (a type of education aimed at teaching and raising children, their intellectual, spiritual, moral, ethical, aesthetic and physical development, as well as preparing children for general secondary education, compulsory preschool education and upbringing);
- **General secondary and secondary specialized education** (general secondary education of grades I-XI, secondary specialized education in academic form on the basis of a nine-year basic secondary education for a period of two years);





- **Vocational education** (initial vocational education – vocational schools, secondary vocational education – colleges, secondary specialized vocational education – technical schools);
- higher education (provides the training of highly qualified personnel in the specialties of bachelor's and master's programs);
- **Postgraduate education** (postgraduate education can be obtained in higher educational institutions and scientific organizations that provide training for scientific and scientific-pedagogical personnel);
- **Retraining and advanced training** (retraining provides the necessary amount of additional professional knowledge, skills and abilities to carry out activities in areas corresponding to the main specialties and professions);
- **Out-of-School education** (government bodies, non-governmental non-profit organizations, as well as commercial organizations can create cultural, aesthetic, scientific and technical, sports out-of-school educational organizations to meet the needs of children, organize leisure and recreation) [1].

Academic lyceums were reorganized in accordance with the new law. The Decree of the President Shavkat Mirziyoyev dated March 14, 2017 “On measures to improve the activities of institutions of secondary specialized, vocational education” is aimed at overcoming systemic problems in the activities of academic lyceums. An analysis of the activities of academic lyceums in terms of demographic, economic and other factors of the region in which they are located, as well as indicators of the enrollment of graduates in higher education institutions, showed that work in this area is unsatisfactory [2].

It is necessary to take a number of measures to optimize the number of academic lyceums, improve the quality and content of education in them, and radically improve the access of young graduates to higher education.

In accordance with the resolution, it was decided to suspend the activities of academic lyceums, the material, technical and educational base of which does not meet modern requirements, and to close 54 academic lyceums located far from higher educational institutions, with poor quality of education and low enrollment of students [3].

In order to regulate the training of highly qualified professors and teachers of higher educational institutions in academic lyceums, it was decided to equate the hourly payment for their teaching activities in academic lyceums to the hourly wage in higher educational institutions.





In order to improve the quality of education in academic lyceums, the widespread use of advanced pedagogical methods, information and communication technologies and multimedia presentations in the educational process and the creation of the necessary conditions for this, the composition of study groups should be no more than 26 students. Practical, laboratory and seminar classes in advanced subjects were also allowed to be held in small groups.

In accordance with the resolution, the nomination of a candidate for the position of director of an academic lyceum is carried out by the rector of the higher educational institution to which the academic lyceum is attached [4].

The mechanisms for the reorganization of academic lyceums established by the Decree of the President have been in force since the 2021/2022 academic year. At the same time, the State Testing Center will conduct a two-stage verification. At the first stage, tests will be conducted in 2 subjects in accordance with the chosen direction, and at the second stage, tests will be conducted to determine the level of intellectual abilities - IQ.

In the first year, a two-stage selection system was introduced as a pilot project in 14 academic lyceums included in the list. In this system, the first written examination was conducted by academic lyceums under the supervision of the respective higher education institution under the jurisdiction before the entrance test. Information about this was posted on the official website of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education and in the media until February 1, 2021. Based on the results of the written exam, a decision was made to include students in the list of applicants for entrance examinations.

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev dated December 3, 2020 No. PP-4910 "On the system for selecting gifted youth and measures to improve the activities of academic lyceums", the following benefits are established for admission to academic lyceums.

In addition to the parameters of admission to the corresponding direction of academic lyceums without exams, the following are accepted:

- Students of grades 8-9 of secondary schools who participated in international olympiads in mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, informatics;
- Winners of the International Zhautik Olympiad, the International Mendeleev Olympiad, the International Youth Science Olympiad;





- Those who took 1-3 places in the republican stage of the Olympiad in Science among graduates of the 9th grade of general education schools are exempted from the initial written exam upon admission to the corresponding direction of the academic lyceum and receive the maximum score for credit in the specialty;
- Students who have a national or international certificate of proficiency in a foreign language are given maximum scores without exams in the relevant subjects of a foreign language included in the set of subjects for entrance examinations to academic lyceums;
- Winners of Olympiads and Olympiads held by academic lyceums among students of grades 8-9 in order to attract gifted students of general education institutions are exempted from the entrance written exam when entering academic lyceums with a two-stage selection system [5].

Graduates of academic lyceums who are not enrolled in higher educational institutions and wish to acquire a profession study at vocational training courses (centers) at the expense of non-budgetary funds of higher educational institutions. At the same time, rectors of the corresponding higher educational institutions (directors of branches) are responsible for organizing the professional training of these graduates and their comprehensive support.

The State Testing Center organizes free testing during the fourth semester for second-year students of academic lyceums to determine the level of foreign language proficiency and issue a certificate of competence.

The document also approved a program of additional measures to select talented youth and improve the activities of academic lyceums. In particular, according to the decision of the Academic Lyceum's Pedagogical Council, 10 students with the highest level of proficiency in all subjects will be paid the "Pride of Our Academic Lyceum" scholarship once a semester in the amount of 2 times the initial calculation.

Important requirements are imposed on students of newly created academic lyceums, according to which students of academic lyceums must know at least one foreign language. It is also planned to increase the number of hours of in-depth subjects at the expense of general education hours and bring their share to at least 50%. In order to ensure the continuity of the stages of education, subjects re-taught in related areas of higher education will be integrated with the relevant subjects into the curricula of academic lyceums. For students who have mastered unified subjects during their studies in academic lyceums, accepted as students in higher educational institutions, the study of these subjects is voluntary.





Classes are held online, including with the participation of highly qualified teachers from national or foreign educational institutions. On the basis of academic lyceums, educational services, summer and winter schools will be organized to prepare for these lyceums, improve computer literacy, teach self-employment (freelance) through the provision of services (work) using the Internet.

The requirement for academic lyceums to have at least 5 years of continuous teaching experience, established to attract employees to teaching activities, has been cancelled. Since the 2020/2021 academic year, the maximum ratio of the number of students per teacher, depending on the directions and blocks of academic lyceums, has been set at 1:12. In order to improve the quality and effectiveness of teaching, students were allowed to teach in groups in equal proportions in each semester in subjects studied in depth.

Starting from the 2021/2022 academic year, the rating of academic lyceums has been introduced, taking into account the following indicators:

- The ratio of the number of applicants for admission to the academic lyceum to the admission rate established for the lyceum (competitive indicator);
- Share of students admitted to higher education institutions;
- The proportion of students of academic lyceums who won (took prizes) in prestigious international and republican scientific Olympiads, sports competitions in the year of the rating;
- Proportion of students with a national or international certificate in a foreign language and science;
- Proportion of full-time teachers with a national or international degree certificate, knowledge of a foreign language and subject matter;
- The share of foreign teachers, as well as local teachers with diplomas of higher educational institutions, included in the top 1000 internationally recognized organizations – Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings, Times Higher Education and Academic Ranking of World Universities [6].

According to the rating results, academic lyceums that have taken one of the last 5 places with negative dynamics in the quality of education for 3 years in a row will be transferred to another higher educational institution or reorganized into an educational institution of a different type.

Academic lyceums have the right to carry out at the expense of non-budgetary, as well as non-budgetary funds of higher educational institutions:





- Short-term advanced training of talented teachers in educational institutions of foreign countries in their specialty, including full or partial reimbursement of costs associated with online courses;
- Involvement in the educational process of highly qualified specialists, including foreign specialists, independent determination and payment of bonuses and other types of material incentives for teachers and employees who have achieved outstanding results;
- Financial incentives and support for gifted students, as well as those in need of social protection;
- Strengthening the material and technical base, purchasing office equipment, software, modern information and communication tools, publishing preparatory textbooks, creating and maintaining lyceum websites, introducing and developing distance learning technologies.

A list of newly created specialized schools and academic lyceums has also been approved. The composition of the commission for improving the activities of academic lyceums has been formed and its main tasks have been determined.

In order to stimulate the work of teachers and employees of academic lyceums, from January 1, 2021, at the expense of the state budget, the salaries of teachers and teaching assistants of academic lyceums were equated to the salaries of employees of specialized schools in the Ministry of Public Education. The deputy director of the academic lyceum for educational work will be paid a monthly bonus in the amount of 20% of the basic salary.

Teachers and staff of exemplary academic lyceums of the respective higher education institution are paid a monthly stipend in the amount of up to 100% of their salary. Teachers of academic lyceums who have the academic degree of candidate or doctor of philosophy (PhD), doctor of science or doctor of science (DsS), professor or associate professor are equated to a senior teacher of a higher educational institution.

Findings

Reforms in the field of education in the new Uzbekistan cover all aspects of education, the main goal of which is to improve the quality of education. In particular, educational reforms have extended to academic lyceums. The number of academic lyceums has been optimized, a number of measures have been taken to improve the quality and content of education in them, to radically improve the access of young graduates to higher education. In order to create the necessary conditions for the widespread use of advanced pedagogical methods, information and communication technologies, electronic learning tools and multimedia presentations in the





educational process in academic lyceums, the formation of study groups of no more than 26 students, the introduction of laboratory and seminar classes in small groups, of course, will contribute to the achievement of the goal of education reform.

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