"Compulsory Education" It actually costs a lot of money.

—Only tuition and textbooks are provided free of charge. —





You might think easily that compulsory education system provides a public place for children and an adequate education free of charge. Children are greatest treasure of society. We need to know that it is expensive to nurture the next generation.

We realize that we spend a lot of money on school supplies etc. when children start going to elementary school. Free compulsory education is guaranteed under the Constitution. In Japan, attendance at elementary school and junior high school is compulsory. So we don't have to pay for textbooks and tuition during the period. However, guardians have to pay for the school meal fees, school supplies that are necessary for the classes, field trip fee, PTA fee, etc. Though you might think that the amount of each payment is a small price to pay, it comes to a considerable amount of money in a year. The annual average of school meal fee is 41,000 yen, and the annual average of school education costs is 57,000 yen. When entering an elementary school, children need a school bag that is a kind of expensive item, school-designated gym uniform and stationery. In the 6th grade, the school excursion costs parents a lot of money. According to the 2006 statistics carried out by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the annual average of school education costs is 88,000 yen in the 1st grade, and 82,000 yen in the 6th grade.

	School meal fees	School education costs	Total
Average	41,000	57,000	98,000
1st grade	41,000	88,000	129,000
2 nd grade	41,000	34,000	75,000
3 rd grade	41,000	40,000	81,000
4 th grade	41,000	42,000	83,000
5 th grade	41,000	54,000	95,000
6th grade	41,000	82,000	123,000

The main items of school education costs		
•School excursion/field trip fee		
●PTA fee		
 School supplies/materials for experiment and practical work (e.g. stationeries, gym class supplies, music instruments, etc.) 		
•Expenses other than subjects (e.g. Club activity expenses, etc.)		
●School uniform (if necessary)		

• Commute goods (e.g. school bag, etc.)

(Unit: Yen) (Amount is rounded off to the nearest 1000 yen.)

Though compulsory education system, guardians need to pay a lot of money.

Do you know how to save the school education costs as much as possible? Children grow up quickly, so they need to change their gym wear or swim suit in the short time. Most of them are kept in good conditions. Some guardians may think that it would be a waste to throw them away. Talk to neighborhood friend and ask if they'd be willing to part with gym uniform, etc. "Hand-me-down" is one of the ways to save money.

www.ficec.jp/foreign/

• The back numbers of "Information Fujimino" are available at online.

The prices of goods for daily use vary from store to store. (e.g. stationeries ,indoor shoes ,etc) It is recommended to enhance routine communication between guardians.

If you positively take part in the activities of the school, you may have a chance to get to know other guardians. Sometimes you can get the useful information for child rearing from a casual conversation. You can rely on this "Papa/Mama Network" when you are in trouble.

For families that have difficulties in paying school expenses, there is a system operated by the municipal government to provide school expense subsidies. Items for which subsidization is applicable are part of the fees for school supplies, commute goods, field trip, school excursion, school meal, medical treatment (diseases which are recognized by law). Foreign nationals also can use this system if you are approved as eligible by the municipal government. For more information, please consult with a school or board of education. If you have concerns about it, please feel free to contact FICEC.

Children are hope for the future. If you have any trouble, try to ask friends or society for help. You are not alone. Let's cherish children together. (Wrote by Naomi Ueshima)

Subsidy for Single parent families preparing for entrance to Junior High School

Compulsory education actually costs a lot of money. There is a system to provide subsidies for single parent who have difficulties in paying expenses for entrance junior high school. The system was established by Saitama prefecture to promote children's healthy growth.

- Eligible person: You must be a single parent(single-father/single-mother) or a person who brings up a parentless child, and you must have a child who will enter a junior high school in April 2010. Also, you must be exempt from municipal resident tax of 2009. (not including those who live on welfare)
- ●Amount of subsidy: 10,000 yen per eligible child
- How to apply: Please apply at childcare support section. Bankbook is required when applying.
- Deadline: December 28th (mon). Applications after the deadline will not be accepted.

Raising Childbirth Allowance

Since October 1, 2009, the amount of the lump-sum birth allowance has increased from 380,000 yen to 420,000 yen. The method of payment also has changed. If you meet the above condition or you need more information, please contact maternity hospital or Insurance and Pension Section at the local government.

Do you know organizations providing support to foreign nationals?

● Saitama Consultation Center • • • Experts are available to provide free consultation. You can consult about immigration matters, labor matters, etc.

電&FAX 048-833-3600

● Free Legal Counseling for Foreigners by Lawyer • • You can consult a lawyer about immigration law, visa status, marriage, etc.

雪050-3383-5373 By Appointment Only

Fun!! "PC Class"
The class from December to May is looking for new students.

"FICEC PC Class" by Ms. Kaji who is a PC teacher has gained popularity. You can enhance your PC skills certainly. Now, we are looking for new foreign national's students of the class, which is open in the period from December to May.

You can learn a high level of PC skill from a professional teacher. In principle, you need to bring your own PC. Three computers at FICEC are available if necessary. If you want to join the class, please apply at FICEC's Japanese class.

December 17th
"Making Soba" at
Japanese Class

Japanese people eat soba noodles on New Year's Eve to pray for good health, family fortunes, and longevity. You can make this "Toshikoshi Sobe" on December 17th. Ms. Tozuka who is Japanese class's teacher, as you know, is a teacher of the event. It's **free of charge**. Why don't you join us?

www.ficec.jp/living/

• Living Guidance translated in 6 languages is available.