

Introduction to upper secondary schools in Osaka Prefecture

Note 1: The data used here are mainly those for FY2014, with some exceptions that are for FY2015.

Note 2: The numbers of full-time public upper secondary schools and of part-time public upper secondary schools can vary depending on what and how we count. The number of schools shown in this text is obtained through calculation made by Kataoka and can be different from the one that can be found in official statistics.

Note 3: * Explanation

Note 4: The text is prepared by Tsuguo Kataoka, a member of “Osaka Liaison Committee on Upper Secondary School Issue”

1. How students with intellectual disability advance to upper secondary school

For receiving elementary or lower secondary school education under the current compulsory education system, students with intellectual disability are now able to select to attend regular schools. Especially in Osaka Prefecture, their enrollment rate in regular elementary school is higher than other prefectures.

For upper secondary school, however, students have to pass the entrance exam and hence, the upper secondary school entrance exam is a strict strait gate for students with intellectual disability. In Osaka Prefecture, a range of efforts have long been made to create an environment for such students to attend regular upper secondary schools.

2. Career path for 15 year-old students graduating from lower secondary school

Ratio of students advancing to upper secondary school: About 98%

Ratio of students to get a job: About 0.5%

Other schools to advance: Upper secondary department of special needs schools, private upper secondary special training schools, private correspondence credit-based upper secondary schools and others.

* The situation shown in the above figures is not limited to Osaka. Similar situations can be seen all around Japan.

* Upper secondary school in a broad sense: Full-time public upper secondary schools, part-time public upper secondary schools, upper secondary department of special needs schools, upper secondary special training schools, etc.

* Upper secondary school in a narrow sense: Full-time public upper secondary schools and part-time public upper secondary schools (in this text, “upper secondary school” is described in a narrow sense).

3. The number of upper secondary schools in Osaka Prefecture (excluding upper secondary special training schools and correspondence credit-based upper secondary schools)

- Full-time national upper secondary school: 1
- Full-time public upper secondary school: 158
- Part-time public upper secondary school: 22
- Full-time private upper secondary school: 95
- Total of full-time and part-time upper secondary schools and private upper secondary schools: 276

Reference: The population of Osaka Prefecture is 8,878,694 and the number of students at the 276 upper secondary schools in Osaka is 236,529.

4. The number of upper secondary departments of schools for special needs education

- * Many schools for special needs education have all of elementary, lower and upper secondary departments.
- * Schools for special needs education are called “*tokubetsu shien gakko*” in Japanese in other areas in Japan, but “*shien gakko*” in Osaka Prefecture (“*tokubetsu* / special” is omitted in Osaka).
- For students with visual impairment: 2
- For students with hearing impairment: 2
- For students with intellectual disability: 28 (of those, schools having only the upper secondary department: 10)
- For students with physical/motor disability: 12
- For students with health impairment: 1

Reference: The number of students attending the elementary department: 1,961; those attending the lower secondary department: 2,433; and those attending the upper secondary department: 4,093.

- * Upper secondary schools and schools for special needs education are under the jurisdiction of prefectural government, while elementary and lower secondary schools are under municipal government.

5. “Special courses” offered to students who have an intellectual disability certificate

a. Vocational course at upper secondary department of (*special*) needs schools

- Of a total of 10 schools for (*special*) needs education having only the upper secondary department, 4 schools have a “vocational course”.
- Quota of students per grade: 64 students at Tamagawa and 32 each at other 3 schools.

- Since the ratio of applicants at the course is higher than regular public school, many of them are rejected.

*In Osaka, applicants for upper secondary departments (without vocational course) are not required to pass entrance exam and all are admitted (but there are some prefectures that give an entrance exam and not all applicants may be successful).

*Students without an intellectual disability certificate can enroll in upper secondary department of (*special*) needs school.

b. Co-living promotion class

- Co-living promotion class is located in eight regular upper secondary schools.
- An upper secondary school for (*special*) needs education with vocational course manages two co-living promotion classes respectively.
- The co-living promotion class is like a branch class of the vocational course of upper secondary school for (*special*) needs education.
- Students study at the class are awarded diploma graduating from the vocational course at upper secondary school for (*special*) needs education, and at the same time they are given a certificate of completion to prove they studied together with students at regular upper secondary school.
- Students are given an interview at “the regular upper secondary school” and “the regular upper secondary school” makes decision who will be admitted and who will not.
- On a daily basis, students spend school life attending and studying at “the regular upper secondary school”.
- One day weekly, they attend the main school (the upper secondary school for (*special*) needs education) to receive a “vocational training.”
- The number of students per year of regular upper secondary school is three at each co-living promotion class.

c. Social independence course for students with intellectual disability

- 11 regular upper secondary schools have this course.
- Students are given an interview at “the regular upper secondary school” and “the regular upper secondary school” makes decision who will be admitted and who will not.
- Those who are successful are enrolled in “the regular upper secondary school” and awarded a diploma of the school.
- The number of students per year of regular upper secondary school is three at each the social independence course.

- * The co-living promotion class and social independence course are programs established by Osaka Prefecture independently, in order to promote education for “learning together and living together” even at upper secondary education, and in 2006, these programs were officially introduced. For both of these programs, student’s achievement is evaluated based on how each student attained goals (intra-individual absolute evaluation).

6. Entrance exam for upper secondary school in Osaka Prefecture

*It can be said that the “system of entrance exam” is different from one prefecture to another.

At Osaka prefectural upper secondary schools, the entrance exam given in March 2015 is different from that to be given in March 2016. The entrance exam system changes not because of educational issues but because of political issues. So, in this text, the reason for such change will not be discussed. Here, only brief explanations are given concerning “the new entrance exam” held in March 2016.

Entrance exam to be given on February 10th

At all private upper secondary schools, the entrance exam starts on February 10th and continues for several days. The number of subjects to be tested and how the exam is given are different from one school to another. (No change.)

Entrance exam to be given on February 22nd

Some public upper secondary schools offer the entrance exam as a special selection process (first round). Five subjects including Japanese language, mathematics, English language, social studies and science and a practical skill test or an interview are given to select successful applicants.

*In 2015, most upper secondary schools gave the first-round entrance exam to test three subjects.

*From 2016, the first-round exam was renamed to the “special selection process” which only a few upper secondary schools perform.

- The entrance exam for the vocational course at upper secondary schools for (*special*) needs education, the social independence courses for students with intellectual disability and the co-living promotion classes are given in the first-round exam process.
- At the vocational courses at upper secondary school for (*special*) needs education, a written test called “aptitude test” and interview are given to select successful applicants.
- At the social independence courses for students with intellectual disability and the co-living promotion classes, no written test is given but an interview and other selection process are given to select successful applicants.

Entrance exam to be given on March 10th

Most public upper secondary schools give entrance exam as the ordinary selection process (second round).

At full-time schools, the entrance exam is given for five subjects of Japanese language, mathematics, English language, social studies and science along with other test process to select successful applicants.

At part-time schools, the entrance exam is given for three subjects of Japanese language, mathematics and English language along with other test process to select successful applicants.

*Osaka Prefectural Matsubara High School has both social independence course for students with intellectual disability and the integrated course. Through a special selection process, three successful applicants are selected for social independence course and students to fill the predetermined quota (280 for the previous fiscal year) are selected through the general selection process.

*Public upper secondary schools have a strict limit on the number of students per class, which is 40, the student quota should be a multiple of 40.

Public upper secondary schools' secondary selection procedure on March 23rd

Public upper secondary schools strictly adhere to the preannounced quota. If the number of applicants exceeds the quota, the number of students making up the quota will be selected. If the number of applicants is less than the quota, all applicants will be selected to be successful and then a secondary selection procedure is performed to select the number of students to fill the gap.

*In general, many public upper secondary schools reject some applicants even the number of applicants is less than the quota.

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