

# 8 Education

## 8.1 Japanese educational system

In Japan, compulsory education includes primary and junior high school. Senior high school, university, and other levels of schooling are entered after passing the test for the school of your choice. There are also technical and vocational schools that teach professional skills.



There are national schools run by the national government, public schools run by prefectures or municipalities, and private schools run by school corporations. The school year begins in April and ends in March.

0-6 years old	6-2 years old	12-15 years old	15+ years old	18+ years old	22+ years old
Kindergarten 【3-6 years old】	Primary school (Six years)	Junior high school (Three years)	Senior high school (Three years)	University (Four years)	Graduate school (2+ years)
Day-care nurseries 【0-6 years old】				Junior college (Two years)	
Certified preschool 【0-6 years old】				Vocational or technical college (1-3 years)	
			Senior high school (Five years)		

For more information on day-care nurseries and certified preschools, refer to “7.4 Childcare support facilities”.

## 8.2 Kindergarten

Municipal kindergarten : School Affairs Section 029-273-0111 (ext.) 7311、7312

Private kindergarten : Infant Childcare Section 029-273-0111 (ext.) 7225、7226

Children attend kindergarten up until they enter primary school. Children are able to attend regardless of their guardians' occupation. Apply directly to the kindergarten of your choice. There are four municipal kindergartens and six private kindergartens in Hitachinaka City. For more information, refer to the [city's website \(Kindergarten\)](#).



## 8.3 Primary school and junior high school

### (1) Enrollment

School Affairs Section 029-273-0111 (ext.) 7322



By the end of January, the City will mail a School Enrollment Notification to guardians of children expected to enroll at primary school. For junior high, the School Enrollment Notification will be sent by the end of February. Complete the necessary procedures by the set deadline. Bring your School Enrollment Notification and your child's residence card when completing the necessary procedures. You will be permitted to complete the necessary procedures even if you are unable to do so by the set deadline. Through some oversight, you may not be sent a School Enrollment Notification. When your child is nearly old enough to enroll in primary school, contact the School Affairs Section of the Board of Education in advance. For more information, refer to the [city's website \(School/kindergarten enrollment and transfer procedures\)](#).

### (2) Admissions / Enrollment

If you are changing schools due to moving or other reason, refer to "4.3 Changing schools".

### (3) School fees

Tuition and textbooks are free at public primary and junior high schools. However, families are responsible for paying for school supplies, extracurricular activities, lunch, etc.

### (4) If you do not understand Japanese

Volunteer Japanese-language teachers visit schools once or twice per week to teach children who do not understand Japanese. To make use of this service, tell teachers at the school that you want volunteers to teach your child Japanese.

## (5) After-school daycare

Youth Section	029-272-5883
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Daycare is a place for children to play and spend time after school, on the first Saturday of the month, during summer vacation, and other times when guardians are unable to care for children due to work or illness.

### [ Public after-school daycare ]

All public primary schools in Hitachinaka City have after-school daycares for first through sixth graders. Apply at the Youth Section to participate. For more information, refer to the [city's website \(Public after-school daycare\)](#).

### [ Private after-school daycare ]

There are also private after-school daycares in Hitachinaka City. For more information, refer to the [city's website \(List of private after-school daycares\)](#).

## (6) School assistance

School Affairs Section, Health and School Meal Office	029-273-0111 (ext.) 7325、7326
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School assistance is available to provide support for people who have trouble paying their school fees for economic reasons. For more information, refer to the [city's website \(School assistance\)](#).

## 8.4 Senior high school

### (1) Enrollment

Senior high school is for students who have graduated junior high school. It is not part of compulsory education. If you go to senior high school, you can learn acquire more technical knowledge and increase your selection of jobs in the future. Check with the school of your choice regarding part-time enrollment.



#### [ Senior high schools in Ibaraki Prefecture ]

The general admissions exam is a test of academic achievement that covers five subject areas. If foreign nationals satisfy the following requirements, they can take the same general admissions exam that Japanese students take.

- As a general rule, eligible candidates must live together with their guardian in Ibaraki Prefecture, or plan to live in Ibaraki Prefecture by their date of entry to the school
- Even if a student did not graduate from a Japanese junior high school, they must have academic achievement equivalent to having completed nine years of education overseas
- ※Additionally, foreign nationals who have been in Japan for less than three years are eligible for the “special selection for foreign residents.” The “special selection for foreign residents” exam covers fewer subjects than the general admissions exam. Instead, it covers just Japanese, math, and English. There is also an interview.

#### [ Private senior high school ]

Admissions requirements differ from school to school. Contact the senior high school of your choice for more information.

### (2) School fees

#### [ Senior high schools in Ibaraki Prefecture ]

##### ①Tuition

Tuition and other financial costs will apply.

##### ②School assistance funds

School assistance funds for tuition will generally reduce tuition costs to zero, although this depends on your annual income, family composition, and other factors. For more information, refer to the [Ibaraki Prefectural Board of Education website \(Exemption system for tuition and other costs at prefectural senior high schools\)](#) (external link).

Contact your school for more information.

##### ③Scholarships

If you are a senior high school student living in Ibaraki Prefecture and you have trouble attending school for economic reasons, you can apply to receive a scholarship. For more information, refer to the [Ibaraki Prefectural Board of Education website \(Scholarship information\)](#) (external link).

## [ Private senior high school ]

### ①Tuition

Tuition and other financial costs will apply. Tuition is more expensive than at prefectural senior high schools and differs from school to school. Contact the school of your choice for more information.

### ②School assistance funds

If tuition at your school is around average, school assistance funds provided to cover tuition may render tuition completely free.

### ③Scholarships

You can receive a scholarship if your application is approved.

## 9 Working

### 9.1 Looking for a job

In order to work in Japan, a foreign national must have a visa (status of residence) that permits working in Japan, and their job must fall within the job category for which their visa was approved. If you are looking for a job, contact Hello Work (Public Employment Security Office) or the Ibaraki Foreign Worker Support Center.



#### ■ Hello Work Mito

1573-1 Suifu-cho, Mito-shi, Ibaraki Pref. 310-8509

Phone 029-231-6223

There is an Employment Service Corner for Foreign Residents at Hello Work Mito.

Mon., Tues., Thurs, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

(Interpreters are available for English and Portuguese.)