

NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION EQUITY POLICY

Russian Federation



Policy Frameworks

Does equity with regard to supporting students from low-income or marginalized populations to enter or succeed in higher education feature in any government produced policy documents? If so, which government policy document(s) are these and can you provide website link(s) to them?

- The National Education Project 2019 - 2024 (<https://edu.gov.ru/en/national-project/>)
- The Federal Law of December 29, 2012 № 273-FZ "On Education in the Russian Federation"
- The State program of March 31, 2017 № 376 «Education Development» for 2013-2020 (<https://programs.gov.ru/Portal/program/02/passport>)
- The State program of December 28, 2019 № 1932 "Accessible environment" for 2011-2025 (<http://gov.garant.ru/SESSION/PILOT/main.htm>)
- The State Program of March 29, 2019 № 377 «Scientific and technological development of the Russian Federation» (<http://government.ru/docs/36310/>)
- The Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of the Russian Federation of December 1, 2016 № 642 (<http://kremlin.ru/acts/bank/41449>)
- The National Action Strategy for Women (for 2017-2022) of March 8, 2017 № 410-p (<https://mintrud.gov.ru/ministry/programms/8/5>)

What policies and actions are described in these government policy documents in terms of supporting students from low-income or marginalized populations to enter or succeed in higher education?

The national education project is focused on the modernization of professional education by implementation of adaptive, practice-oriented and flexible educational programs and by formation of an effective system for identifying, supporting and developing the abilities and talents of children and youth, aimed at self-determination and professional orientation of all students.

The project also includes creating of the conditions for the development of mentoring, support for public initiatives and projects, including in the field of volunteering.

According to the article 100 of the Federal Law "On Education in the Russian Federation" training in the Russian Federation is provided at the budget allocations expense. The number of students enrolled at the expense of budget allocations is determined on the basis of enrolment targets. The federal budget provides financial support for higher education programmes for at least 800 students for every 10,000 persons between the ages of 17 and 30, living in the Russian Federation.

Article 34 of the Federal Law "On Education in the Russian Federation": Basic rights of students and measures of their social support and incentives.

Students are provided with academic rights to:

- have conditions for training, taking into account the peculiarities of their psychophysical development and health status, including receiving socio-pedagogical and psychological assistance, free psychological, medical and pedagogical correction;
- study according to an individual curriculum, including accelerated training, within the framework of educational program being provided in accordance with the local regulations.

The main goal of the state program "Education Development" is increasing the availability of socialization programs for students to successfully engage them in social practice, creating a modern system for evaluating the quality of education based on the principles of openness, objectivity, transparency, social and professional participation, formation of a flexible system of continuing education that develops human potential and meets the current and future needs of the socio-economic development of the Russian

Federation.

Is there a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education? If so, which document(s) is/are these? Can you provide a link(s)?

No.

Which equity target groups are identified in the policy documents? (Please choose as many groups as apply in your own country)

- Low-income or lower socio-economic background students
- Older or mature learners
- Indigenous populations
- People from rural backgrounds
- Students with disability
- Refugees of all kinds (internally and externally displaced; deported)
- Students with care experience, orphans, youth without parental care

Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups in higher education?

The state program of December 28, 2019 № 1932 "Accessible environment" for 2011-2025 is developed to ensure equal access of disabled people to priority facilities and services in important areas of life of disabled people and other groups with limited mobility.

One of the main tools for achieving the goal of improving the quality and accessibility of higher education for disabled people is a network project for the functioning of Resource Centers for the training of persons with disabilities, created on the basis of higher education institutions.

The principal areas of Resource Centers' activity are:

- vocational guidance;
- training and accompaniment;
- employment and postgraduate support.

Which agency has responsibility for policies related to equity in student participation/success in higher education?

The Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

Which stakeholder groups are consulted during the equity policy formulation? (Please choose all the stakeholders that are invited to the consultation process in your own country)

- Higher Education Institutions' Associations
- Civil society organisations
- International Organisations
- Student Organisations/Association

Achieving Policy Targets

Are there any non-monetary instruments such as outreach work between schools and universities, reforms to university admission etc. used to promote access/success for students from specific equity groups in higher education? If so, can you describe what they are?

- According to the Federal Law "On Education in the Russian Federation" no less than 10% of the budget basis enrolment is for students with disabilities and students from disadvantaged groups.
- According to paragraph 2 of article 34 of the Federal Law "On Education in the Russian Federation" special rights in admission to higher education institutions are granted to the following groups of persons:
 - ↘ Orphans and children left without parental care, children with disabilities, disabled persons, citizens under the age of twenty who have only one disabled parent with a low income, children of military personnel who died in the line of their military service, military veterans, participants in military operations.

Are there any financial instruments such as bursaries, scholarships and loans used to promote access/success for students from specific equity groups in higher education? If so, can you describe what they are?

- Students studying at higher education institutions for the first time can compete for a state-funded place, according to paragraph 3 of article 5 of the Federal Law "On Education in the Russian Federation".
- Grants and scholarships for academic success, creativity, sports, etc. are provided for students. As a rule, the number of such scholarships and grants is limited and they are awarded by competition. Most scholarships are available for full-time students, while some can only be applied for students who study on a budget basis.
- Social benefits (social scholarships, payments, and financial assistance) are provided to all students who meet the established criteria and study full-time on a budget basis.
- Student loans are provided as one of the options for increasing access to higher education.
- According to paragraph 2 of article 34 of the Federal Law "On Education in the Russian Federation" students are provided with the following social support and incentive measures:
 - ↘ Full state support, including provision of clothing and footwear in accordance with Federal laws;
 - ↘ Provision of food, places in boarding schools;
 - ↘ Transportation support.

Who is responsible for monitoring the impact of measures used to promote access/success for students from specific equity groups in higher education?

Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation

What instruments, methods and data are in place to carry out the monitoring and evaluation?

Annually the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation monitors higher education institutions activities in the sphere of admission, training and employment of persons with special needs or disabilities.

What kind of autonomy do higher education institutions enjoy in reaching the policy targets set by government?

According to paragraph 9 part 1 of article 3 of the Federal law "On Education in the Russian Federation", state policy and legal regulation of relations in the field of education are based, inter alia, on autonomy, information openness and public reporting of educational organizations. Educational organizations are independent in the implementation of educational, scientific, administrative, financial and economic activities, development and adoption of local regulations in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation and the Charter of the educational organization.

How do you see the role of inter-governmental/international organisations in supporting higher education equity policies? In which areas would be their contribution the most valuable? (1= most valuable contribution 4=least valuable contribution)

2. Policy setting
 3. Financial assistance (grants, loan financing, scholarships)
- Unranked: Technical assistance and capacity building
Unranked: Facilitating peer learning, exchange of experience among countries

COVID-19 and Equitable Access and Success in Higher Education

How, if at all, has Covid-19 affected the existence and implementation of policies designed to encourage greater access and success on higher education of those from low-income/marginalized groups?

In 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic every university and college has brought its tuition fees down to the 2019 level.

The President of Russia made a decision to allocate additional 11,500 budgetary places for applicants in 2020 as a measure of social support. As a result, the total number of budgetary places for university admission has increased by 17 thousand against 2019, providing access to higher education for 60% of high school leavers.

To maintain the availability of quality higher education, the President additionally initiated an extended program of preferential educational loans with interest rates slashed down to 3 % and the loan disbursement period extended up to 15 years.

Sources

This country brief was prepared as part of the [“ASEM National Equity Policies in Higher Education”](#) report, a collaboration between the [Asia-Europe Foundation \(ASEF\)](#) and the [National Education Opportunities Network \(NEON\)](#). The report was launched at the [8th ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education \(ARC8\)](#) on *“Inclusive and Diverse Higher Education in Asia and Europe”* on 10 September 2021.

All information in this country brief was provided by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation, as of 2 October 2020.