

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## < Choosing a High School >

**Q1.** Is a high school graduation certification from a part-time (*teijisei*) high school or a correspondence (*tsushinsei*) high school the same as the high school diploma from a full-time (*zennichisei*) high school?

**A1.** Yes, regardless of the type of high school you graduate from, you will receive the same high school graduation certification.

**Q2.** Is it better to go to a technical high school in order to get into a college of technology?

**A2.** You do not need to graduate from a technical high school to get into an institute of technology. Generally speaking, many students from technical high schools (*kogyo koko*) and commercial high schools (*shogyo koko*) get a (full-time) job after high school, and many students from a general course (*futsuka*) high school tend to go on to universities.

**Q3.** Can I get a (full-time) job without a high school graduation certification?

**A3.** Only few companies hire a junior high school graduate as a full-time employee, and such job opportunities are very rare. Most jobs require a minimum of a high school graduation certification.

**Q4.** How should I choose a high school?

**A4.**

- We advise you to think about questions such as: whether you can learn what will be helpful for you in the future, whether the level of the high school matches your academic abilities, whether the school provides various support such as

support in the Japanese language, etc.

- It is a good idea to listen to the voices of the current high school students.
- We advise you to go to “information sessions of high schools (*gakko setsumeikai*)” that you are thinking of applying for. We also recommend you to visit the schools.
- After you submit the application form to the school of your first choice, you may have to change the school within a short period of time. (→Please refer to Q7) To be prepared, we recommend that you choose about three schools before you submit your application form.

**Q5.** I plan to go on to a university. How should I choose my high school?

**A5.** You can read an university entrance examination guidebook (sold in bookstores) and look also at a list of universities that the students from a high school entered (available on the homepage of each high school) when you consider your school. Generally speaking, the percentage of students who enter universities tends to be higher in high schools with a high “overall evaluation at a junior high school (*naishinten*)” and “deviation value (*hensachi*).”

※The “overall evaluation at a junior high school (*naishinten*)” is the sum of the evaluation in a junior high school. It is calculated in this way: “maximum 5 points per subject × 9 subjects”(from the second year) + “maximum 10 points per subject × 9 subjects”(from the third year). The highest score is 135 points.

※The “deviation value (*hensachi*)” is calculated by using the mean (average) score of the test scores of all the high school applicants. The ranked mean score in the center is given a score of 50. The “deviation value (*hensachi*)” of each high school is different. High schools with the highest “deviation value (*hensachi*)” have a score in the 70s.

**Q6.** My junior high school grades are not good. Are there high schools that I can get into?

**A6.**

- Your “overall evaluation at junior high school (*naishinten*)” shows you the high schools that you can get into. If your “overall evaluation at junior high school (*naishinten*)” is lower than the high score school that you want to enter, you will need to score well on the Written Tests (*Gakuryoku Kensa*) and Interview.

- Most high schools with the “Special Admission for Prefectural Foreign Students, etc. (*Zai-ken* or *Zai-ken Gaikokujin Tou Tokubetsu Boshu*)” do not look at the grades (or the evaluation in your “Records of Study (*Chousa Sho*)”) from junior high schools to decide to pass or fail.

- There are high schools called the “Creative Schools” that do not have the Written Tests.

- We advise that you think ahead about the “second admission (*niji boshu*)” and applying for a part-time (*teijisei*) high school.

Q7. In what kind of situation do I change the school of my choice (*shigan henko*)?

A7. You should consider changing your first-choice school after you look at the “application status” which is published in the newspaper. (Note: At this time, you have already submitted the application form to your first-choice school.) Look at the “enrollment limitation of students (*boshu ninzu*)” and the “number of applicants (*shigan ninzu*)” of your first-choice school. Consider your academic abilities and decide whether you want to apply for a different school. Before you decide to change the school, talk to your parent(s), teachers from junior high school and others who are supporting you. You do not have much time after the press announcement until you go through the procedure to change the school. To make best use of the opportunity, we advise you to choose your first-choice school and a few others.

Q8. What do I need to do to change my choice of school?

A8. Your parent(s) or guardian need to tell your junior high school teacher that you are changing the school. Talk to your teacher at your junior high school beforehand if you think that you may change the school.

Q9. The teacher at my junior high school has advised me to apply to both a private high school and a public high school. (Note: This is an application process called “*heigan*”). Should I apply to both private and public high schools?

A9.

- If your first-choice school is a public high school and you are not sure if you will be admitted, you should consider going through the *heigan* process and applying to both public and private high schools. However, you should know that if you do so and get admitted to only the private high school (but not the public high school), you will have to enter the private high school. Going to a private high school is expensive. The “High School Tuition Support Fund (*Shugaku Shien Kin*)” will help reduce the tuition, but you should know that you will also need to pay for various fees that this Fund will not cover.

- Instead of going through the *heigan* process, you can also apply for the “second admission (*niji boshu*)” for a public high school or apply for a part-time (*teijisei*) high school. Before you decide to go through the *heigan* process, we strongly advise you to talk to your parent(s) or guardian.

## < Special Admission (*Tokubetsu Boshu*) >

**Q10.** I am not sure if I am eligible for the “Special Admission for Prefectural Foreign Students, etc. (*Zai-ken* or *Zai-ken Gaikokujin Tou Tokubetsu Boshu*).”

**A10.** Please read page 5 of the Guidebook about the eligibility for the “Special Admission (*Tokubetsu Boshu*).” If you have any questions after reading page 5 of the Guidebook, please contact the Kanagawa Prefectural Board of Education.

**Q11.** I lived abroad for more than two years, but my parents were in Japan during that time. Can I apply for the “Special Admission for Students Returning from Abroad (*Kikoku* or *Kaigai Kikoku Seito Tokubetsu Boshu*)” “?”

**A11.** The “Special Admission for Students Returning from Abroad (*Kikoku*)” is for people who lived abroad with their parent(s), while their parent(s) lived abroad for work, etc. If you went alone to attend a school outside of Japan, it will be considered a “study abroad,” and you will not be eligible to apply for the “Special Admission for Students Returning from Abroad (*Kikoku*).” However, if there were special reasons for going abroad without your parent(s), please contact the Kanagawa Prefectural Board of Education.

**Q12.** What should I do if I have lost my passport, if I do not have my old passport here in Japan, or if my passport does not have passport stamps (entry and departure stamps)?

**A12.** You need an “Entry and Departure Record” which is issued by the Immigration Services Agency of Japan under the Ministry of Justice. You can have this sent by mail by downloading the application form from the homepage of the Immigration Services Agency of Japan and sending the completed application form, etc. to the Ministry. The process takes about one month, so be sure to apply early.

## < Re-Enrollment >

**Q13.** I came to Japan after finishing the first year at a high school abroad. Can I re-enroll into a high school?

**A13.** If you have finished the first year in a high school outside of Japan and if it corresponds with the first year of a Japanese high school, you can re-enroll into a Japanese high school that accepts re-enrollments. You will need to re-enroll during the re-enrollment period. Furthermore, please note that if you re-enroll,

you may not receive extra support in the Japanese language or have the opportunity to learn what the other students have already learned in their first year of high school. So, we strongly advise you to contact and talk to the Kanagawa Prefectural Board of Education *Tenpen Nyugaku Joho* Center, which is on page 19 of the Guidebook, before you decide to re-enroll.

## < Other >

**Q14.** I am not sure how to study for high school entrance examination.

**A14.** There are many local study support classes for people who do not want to study alone or cannot go to a cram school (*juku*). Many of these classes are free. Please look at the “List of Study Support Classes” in the Reference Material page of this homepage.

**Q15.** Will I get a better score in the interview if I do a club activity?

**A15.** Doing a club activity in a junior high school does not automatically mean a better score in the interview. This does not change even if you made achievements, such as “participating in the prefectural tournament (*ken taikai*)” or “winning a prize”. What is more important in the interview is to explain specifically about the efforts you made in club activities.

**Q16.** Are there high schools that teach in English?

**A16.** There is no public high school in Kanagawa Prefecture that teaches all subjects in English. However, some high schools have a special focus on English classes.