

Making high school education free

1 In Japan, about 99% of junior high school students go to high schools. Attending public high school costs about 500,000 yen a year. Private high schools cost about twice as much. About 35% of students go to private high schools.

2 From this April, Japan will cover public high school tuition for all the students, no matter how much money their families make. From the 2026 school year, financial aid for private high school students will start, too.

3 This policy aims to give all the students equal education. However, there are some problems. First, public high schools may become less popular. In Osaka and Tokyo, where high school tuition became free earlier, half of the public schools now have fewer students than before.

4 One reason is that private schools give more unique education. They have better buildings, smaller classes, and more courses to choose from.

5 Another problem is that this policy may create bigger differences between rich and poor students. Rich families may use the money they save to pay for cram schools or other lessons, but not all the families can do that.

()教育	attend 出席する	()公立の	()私立の
tuition 授業料	no matter how ~:どんなに~でも	financial aid 経済的な援助	policy 政策
aim to ~:~することを目標とする	equal 平等な	unique ユニークな・個性的な	difference 違い・格差
save 貯める・節約する	cram school 塾		

Q1 What percentage of junior high school students in Japan go to high schools?

Q2 How much does attending a public high school cost per year? *per year: 一年につき

Q3 How much does a private high school cost compared to a public high school?

Q4 What percentage of students attend private high schools in Japan?

Q5 ①今年の4月 ②来年度から、どんな教育補助制度が始まりますか。

Q6 Q5の制度が実施された目的を、3段落から7語で抜き出しましょう。

Q7 What is one problem that this policy may cause?

Q8 What happened in Osaka and Tokyo after high school tuition became free?

Q9 What advantages do private high schools have over public schools? *advantage: 長所

Q10 How might this policy increase the gap between rich and poor students?

今日の文法：助動詞 can（できる）, may（かもしれない）

★次の文を 3 回ずつ読んで、暗唱しましょう。

1. Students can go to public high school for free from this April.
2. Families can save money.
3. Public high schools may become less popular.

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1. 生徒はこの 4 月から公立高校に無料で通うことができる。
 2. 家族はお金を節約できる。
 3. 公立高校は人気がなくなるかもしれない。

◆ポイント◆

can + 動詞の原形 （～することができる）

may + 動詞の原形 （～かもしれない）

1 Fill in the blanks.

1. 生徒たちはこの 4 月から、無料で公立高校に行くことができます。
Students () () to public high school for free from this April.
2. 政府の援助は、少子化を遅らせるのを助けるかもしれません。
The government's support () () slow down the declining birth rate.
3. 裕福な家庭は、浮いたお金を塾に使うことができます。
Rich families () () the saved money for cram school,
4. しかし、全ての家族が、それができるというわけではありません。
But not all the families () () that.
5. この政策はいくつかの家族を助けることができます。
This policy () () some families,
6. しかし、それは新しい問題を生むかもしれません。
But it () () new problems.

2 次の語句を並び替えて、日本語の意味を表す英文を作りましょう。

- 1) この教育政策が原因で、多くの家族が貯金をするかもしれない。
[because of / may / this education policy / families / money / save / many / .]
- 2) 私立学校は、公立学校よりも個性的な教育をすることができる。
[more unique / public schools / private schools / than / give / education / can / .]

3 次の日本語を英語にしましょう。

- 1) 私はバスケット部に入るかもしれない。
- 2) 多くの生徒達が、私立学校を選ぶことができる。