

「外国人総合相談センター埼玉」への相談から
Q.36) 来日時の子どもの年齢と日本での教育

在住外国人あるいはこれから日本に来ようとしている外国人の皆さんは、「日本での子どもの教育」の問題で、しばしば大きな壁にぶつかることでしょうか。まず、日本の教育制度の関係で、学校に入るときの「子どもの年齢」が問題になります。

1) 義務教育と年齢主義：日本の教育制度では、その年の4月1日時点で満6歳に達している子どもが小学校に入學し、15歳までの9年間が義務教育になっています（*6~12歳：小学校、12~15歳：中学校）。学年は4月に始まり3月に終わります。外国籍の子どもについては義務ではありませんが、希望すれば、たいは地域ちいきの公立こうりつしょうがっこう小学校や中学校に通うことができます。そして、学校によっては、日本語指導の支援が行われているところもあります。ただ、ほとんどの学校では、年齢に応じた学年に編入され、日本語能力や学力を考慮して下の学年に入れてもらうことは難しいのが現状です。よって、4月1日時点で16歳に達する子どもが日本の中学校に編入されることはありません。

2) 高等学校（高校）入学・編入：中学校を卒業した子どもは、希望により高校に進学することができます。ただ、高校は義務教育ではないので、必ずそれぞれの高校で実施される入学試験に合格しなければ進学できません。外国籍の子どもについては、日本の中学を卒業しているか、母国で中学校に相当する課程を修了しているか、同等の学力を有していると高校が認められた者でない限り、高校を受験することもできません。よって、母国で高校を卒業していない外国籍の子どもが、親の仕事の都合や「呼び寄せ」（*日本人と再婚した外国人妻が、外国人前夫との間の「実子」を日本に呼び寄せること。）などで来日した場合、日本の高校で教育を受けることは簡単ではありません。できれば高校を卒業してから来日することが理想ですが、どうしてもその年齢で来日しなければならない場合は、来日してから必死で「日本語の勉強」に取り組み、高校受験にチャレンジする必要があります。大多数を占める全日制高校では現役生（15歳）の受験がほとんどですが、定時制高校・通信制高校や高等専修学校などでは過年生（16歳以上）の受験も可能で、様々な年齢の人たちが一緒に勉強しています。あるいは、何年かかけて自力で勉強し、「高等学校卒業程度認定試験」に合格すれば、高校を卒業していなくても、18歳になれば大学を受験することは出来ます。最善の方法を探すためには、まずは下記にご相談ください。

'SIS' Question & Answer:
Q.36) Children's Age When Coming to Japan and Their School Education

Foreign parents who reside in Japan or who are coming to Japan in the future might often encounter big problems with "their children's school education in Japan". First of all, "at what age the child is going to enter Japanese school" will become the key factor according to the Japanese education system.

1) **Japanese Compulsory Education & the Principle of Age** : Under Japanese school system, children who have reached 6 years old as of April 1st of the year enter elementary school, and they will receive the compulsory education for 9 years until 15 years old (*6-12 years old : elementary school, 12-15 years old : junior high school). Japanese school year runs from April till March next year. Education at elementary and junior high school is not mandatory for children of foreign nationals, but generally they are allowed to attend local public elementary or junior high school if they wish; and besides some schools provide the supporting program of Japanese language for students from abroad. However, as most schools accept students into the fixed grade according to their actual age, it is impossible, as a general rule, to transfer them to the younger grade according to their Japanese literacy and/or academic ability. That is, a child who has reached 16 years old or older as of April 1st will never be transferred into Japanese public junior high school.



2) **Entrance & Transfer into Senior High school** : Students who have graduated from junior high school are permitted to go to senior high school if they wish. However, as high school education is not compulsory in Japan, students have to take an entrance examination performed at each high school, and only those who have passed it can go on to senior high school. If a student of foreign nationality wishes to take an entrance exam for high school, he/she must meet one of the following requirements: a student who 1) has graduated from Japanese junior high school, 2) has completed the curriculum equivalent to junior high school education in his/her native country, or 3) is authorized that he/she has an academic ability equal to 1) or 2) by the high school which he/she wishes to enter. So, if a foreign student who has not graduated from senior high school in his/her native country comes to Japan due to parent's job or "calling over" (*it means that foreign wife who remarries Japanese husband calls her own child from previous marriage over to Japan),

it is not easy for the student to receive the education in Japanese senior high school. If possible, it is ideal for a student to graduate from senior high school in his/her native country before coming to Japan. In case where he/she has to come to Japan before finishing senior high school education for some urgent reason, he/she should make every effort to learn "Japanese language" in order to pass an entrance exam for high school. Most applicants for full-time high schools, which are a majority of Japanese high schools, are students who are going to graduate from junior high school in March at the age of 15. On the other hand, for part-time high schools, schools with correspondence course or special training schools, applicants can be 16 years old or over to take an entrance exam, and students of all ages are studying together in those schools.

By the way, if you study for some years hard enough to pass "Koto gakko sotsugyo teido nintei shiken", or a test to certify that you are equivalent in academic ability to a senior high school graduate, you are eligible to take the entrance exam for university. **If you are looking for the best way, please call the number below.**

