



# **EDUCATION IN EGYPT**

## **DURING COVID-19 & BEYOND**

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## Structure of Framework



## Introduction

COVID-19 has created the largest disruption to education systems in history, affecting students in over 190 countries. In Egypt, the crisis continues to have the potential of exacerbating pre-existing education disparities by reducing the opportunities for vulnerable children and youth, including those living in poor or rural areas, girls, persons with disabilities, to continue their learning. It also has substantial effects beyond education including hampering the provision of essential services to children and communities as well as their access to nutritious food and physical fitness. Many parents' ability to work has also been hindered by this disruption.

At the same time, COVID-19 created an opportunity to find new ways to develop Egypt's education system and bring about a set of solutions previously considered difficult to implement. In fact, the pandemic stimulated innovation within the system by promoting distance learning solutions to accelerate changes in modes of delivering quality education.

While still in the early stages, the Government of Egypt (GoE) is carefully crafting a system for delivering equal and quality education for students with an eye on the social and economic implications of its decisions on educators, on children and youth, on their parents and on the society as a whole. Accordingly, the Ministry of Education (MoE) introduced a set of **guidelines** for a hybrid education framework for K-12 schools during the 2020/21 academic year, which seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Suppress the transmission of COVID-19 as schools reopen,
- Build a resilient education system for equitable and sustainable development that enables schools to better cope with future crises,
- Accelerate change in teaching methods and e-learning, support administrators' and teachers' capacity to change, strengthen data and monitoring of learning, and promote decentralization.

## Demographic Map



- **EGP 157.58 billion** allocated in the state budget education for academic year 2020/2021



- **23.567 million students** enrolled in Egyptian public schools in 2020/21



- **56,569 public schools** in Egypt, with an overall average of 40.6 students per class

## Educational Platforms and Examinations



### Face-to-Face Learning

- Decisions on in-class attendance for K-12 students has been left to the discretion of school administrations, based on each school's overall density and capabilities.
- The academic week will be divided based on school grades and each school's operational mode (morning sessions/afternoon sessions/ or both), as follows:
  - **KG1 to Third Grade Students (8.15 million students):** (1) schools operating one-session may conduct 4-days of face-to-face learning per week; (2) schools operating two-daily sessions may conduct 3-days of face-to-face learning per week.
  - **Fourth to Sixth Grade Students (6.02 million):** (1) schools operating one-session may conduct 2-days of face-to-face learning per week; (2) schools operating two-daily sessions may conduct 3-days of face-to-face learning per week.
  - **Seventh to Ninth Grade Students (5.2 million):** 2-days face-to-face learning per week.
  - **Tenth to Twelfth Grade Students (1.77 million):** 2-days face-to-face learning per week.
- School Administrators may decide to bring in students more frequently as long as they're capable of maintaining the MoE's 1.5-meter physical distancing rule in classrooms at all times.

### Distribution of Platforms

- **KG1 - Third Grade:** The educational process will be conducted through the new Education 2.0 mechanism that includes the newly introduced multi-curriculum framework.
- **Fourth Grade - Ninth Grade:** The educational process will include live virtual sessions, integration of the EKB and Edmodo platforms with emphasis on using e-books, e-tutorials library, and "Ask Your Teacher" initiative for Ninth Grade students.
- **MoE** seeks to eliminate the usage of hard-copy academic books for high school students and increase dependence on e-books through MoE's 1.8 million educational tablets.



### Academic Platforms



- MoE to maximize benefit from the **Egyptian Knowledge Bank (EKB)** resources to assist students in their research submissions and expand on their reading capabilities and general knowledge.



- **Learning Management System (LMS)** may be integrated within the academic process by allowing both teachers and students to have direct communication and avail all academic quizzes/assignments/tutorials through this platform.



- **"Nile" Specialized Educational Channels** are state-owned and operated channels that provide all-day teaching programs for different curricula and school grades.



- **Edmodo**, a US-based virtual education platform, may become the catalyst of the virtual learning process, thus allowing teachers to conduct their virtual sessions, maintain communication with parents, and facilitate the overall hybrid learning experience.

### Thanaweya Amma Exam Process

- The transitional examination mechanism, a.k.a *"Thanaweya Amma"* will be electronically administered with a shift away from a traditional test focused on memorization to one that places more emphasis on comprehension (for ex. multiple choice questions).
- A multi-trial framework will permit two exam trials (in June and August) for each student to improve scores, while registering the highest achieved grade by each student.
- There will be multiple versions of the exam as opposed to a single standardized testing sheet for all students across the nation (similar to SAT exams).
- The test will be taken on educational tablets provided by the MoE in examination facilities, while those without access to a tablet will be permitted to complete the test on paper and graded electronically.

## Specific Projects for Academic Year 2020/2021

1

### LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



MoE will launch a Learning Management System (LMS) to enable teachers to supervise their students and (virtually) distribute learning material.

LMS will be initially utilized in the high school educational system for students equipped with educational tablets.

MoE intends to streamline LMS across other school grades in the medium-term.

2

### ILLUSTRATIVE TUTORIALS



MoE will expand on virtual education methods by producing illustrative tutorials for the academic curricula of middle and high school students.

The tutorials- taught by class teachers- will be made available across different academic platforms to mitigate the impact of reduced face-to-face learning on students.

3

### INTERACTIVE E-BOOKS



MoE will seek to avail interactive e-books for students to substitute for printed academic books.

4

### EVERY CHILD CONNECTED



The **Every Child Connected Project** will seek to provide electronic devices to more students across Egypt to enhance their ability to engage in virtual learning and ensure their accessibility to MoE's new sources of education.

This project will be launched in collaboration with ICT companies to provide incentivized/credit facilitated access to purchased devices.

5

### SPECIALIZED EDUCATION CHANNELS



MoE, in collaboration with the State Ministry for Media Affairs, is set to upgrade the role of existing specialized educational TV channels to provide education and tutorials for students of different school grades.

The objective of this initiative is to enhance the MoE's outreach to students across the country, including those in areas of limited or no-connectivity capacities.

## Physical Education and COVID-19



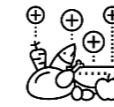
### Density Management

- Organizing morning student assemblies during in-school days will be left to the discretion of school administrators.
- **Note:** Maintaining physical distancing within school premises will be challenging particularly as classes in public schools average 40.6 students per class.



### Physical Education

- MoE will consult with the Armed Forces' Sports Regulatory Authority, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and youth centers to develop an engaging system for routine physical exercises for students.
- MoE will consider physical education subjects/activities on a pass/fail basis for transitional year students. The objective is to elevate the importance of maintaining healthy physical wellbeing for students
- Physical exercise will account for 50% of the physical education session. This will vary according to the number of days of in-school attendance.



### Health and Nutrition

- In cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoH), MoE will actively participate in the implementation of ongoing national initiatives to combat dwarfism, anemia, and malnutrition. This will include enhanced periodical checkups on students to ensure their healthy physical wellbeing.
- MoE's School Feeding Program (SFP) may be enhanced- in collaboration with MoH- to expand its coverage and nutritional value, including by maximizing benefit from the increased allocated budget for education.

## Training & Development Programs for Teachers



### Training

- Teaching and administrative staff will receive training on operating the newly introduced LMS and Edmodo systems, as well as other educational platforms.
- Training will also cover means of conducting live virtual tutoring sessions, including communication skills.



### Training & Development Platforms

- MoE will establish a specialized training and development platform for teachers (and administrative staff) according to the highest international standards and in cooperation with international partners.
- The platform will promote the teaching and administrative staff's skills on tutoring, utilization of resources, virtual class management, and other administrative affairs.
- Teachers will be offered training programs that would be required as a basis for promotion and salary increases.



### License Issuance

- MoE will set-up a teacher professional license facility through the platform for teachers to incorporate professional and human development resources into the platform.
- The licenses will be essential for teachers that are appointed under temporary contracts to land permanent teaching positions in public schools and for future career development.
- The training and development platform will update teachers on profit/revenue sharing schemes introduced by MoE through e-tutoring lectures.

## Academic Tutoring Support Groups



MoE will introduce academic tutoring support lectures for transitional-years students (9<sup>th</sup> Grade and Thanaweya Amma), under the supervision of MoE and relevant education governorate directorates.



MoE will advance this initiative as an alternative to the widespread illegal and unregulated after-school private teaching programs, including by preparing dedicated halls for lectures.



These lectures will be optional for public school students to enhance their academic performance. They will be provided at a reduced, affordable tuition fee.



Teachers will be offered incentives to engage in the newly introduced system, including receiving 85% of revenues from tuition fees. A 10% quota in each group will be allocated to orphans and families of police/army martyrs (fully exempted from such tuition fees.)

# Thank you

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