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*The Ministry of Education Each Year to Declare Priorities for Upcoming Year Regarding Pre-school, General, First Vocational Special, Secondary Special, Higher and After Graduation Education In Order To Implement the Key Goals of "State Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Azerbaijan" and Conduct Public Awareness.*

## **Key Priorities of Reforms to be performed in General Education Schools by the Ministry of Education**

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan has prepared reform-oriented action plan for solution of topical problems existing in the general education schools. Main objective of these actions is to provide safe and efficient education environment at schools, improve the level of education and raise the schools management up to the level of modern requirements.

Considering multi-objectivity of the reforms might affect negatively their meantime and qualitative implementation, some of these actions will be realized only at Baku schools. Though 8 percent of the countrywide general education schools are based in Baku city, due to the number of pupils the city embraces 28 percent of all pupils. Number of pupils, relation professionalism of management board and teachers, as well as existence of Baku City Education Department enabled to choose Baku city to apply those innovations.

Based on the mentioned, the Ministry of Education plans to implement the following activities during the upcoming academic period:

1. In order to provide efficient activity of school principals, to conduct trainings based on profession standards;
2. Promotion in salaries of school principals who attained quality certificate;
3. Increase transparency and publicity in management of schools by means of reporting and responsibility sharing;
4. To perform systematized and sustainable activities against corruption, provide healthy relations between society and school, society and teacher as a result of anti-corruption struggles;
5. Provide support to innovative ideas in education sphere, as well as advanced approaches and projects coming out of "Best general education school" and "Best teacher" competitions;
6. Conduct trainings for authors of manuals and methodical aids for teachers regarding their improvement;
7. Strengthen enlightenment activities in order to explain the essence of subject curricula to parents;
8. Extend the annual education period up to 2-3 weeks in order pupils assimilate efficiently the education programs (covering the whole country during 2014 - 2015 academic years);
9. Considering decreasing weekly load of upper pupils and their inclinations and interests as well, to apply training plans covering mandatory and selective subjects;
10. Achieve the provision of general education facilities with food-stuffs and catering services that meet state standards;

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11. Enable pupils to avoid negative habits and healthily grow up by paying more attention to the protection of their healthiness and physical training.