

---

A ceremony was held at Baku Vocational Lyceum No. 5 on October 20 to launch training sessions under "Pupil's friend" pilot project.

Participants in the event included employees of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Health, State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, management of Baku City Education Department, and media representatives.

In her remarks at the ceremony, director of Baku City Education Department Mahabbat Valiyeva said the project will play a vital role in strengthening relations between teachers, pupils and parents. She highlighted duties of candidates, saying the activities of those successful will be regulated by the "Model Statute of General School" approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Month-long training sessions will be conducted by employees of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Emergency Situations, and Ministry of Health. The training sessions will provide an insight into rules of conduct in emergency situations, and the usage of personal protective equipment. The candidates will also be given instructions on emergency medical aid.

Then the training sessions started at Baku Vocational Lyceum No. 5.

"Pupil's friend" is a joint project of the Ministry of Education and ASAN Xidmet. It aims to build a safe environment for teachers and pupils, provide first medical and psychological aid for them, educate and carry out diagnostic work for pupils, parents, teachers, staff and management of education and training institutions. The project is also expected to contribute to improving children's personal qualities and ensuring their intellectual development, and encouraging their self-education and self-development skills.

Candidates sat tests on October 2. An hour-and-a-half exam saw applicants respond to 50 questions, including on history, geography and culture of Azerbaijan, and logical thinking abilities.

Selected applicants qualified for the interview, where preference was given to those involved in public and volunteering activity, and those having foreign language skills.

Winners will be defined based on overall results, and the successful applicants will become "Pupil's friend".

The project will initially be implemented in 30 general education schools in Baku, with the scale of the project to be expanded in the future.