

Singapore's National Statement of Commitment for the Transforming Education Summit

1. COVID-19 has deepened the global learning crisis and accelerated the trend towards a more connected yet more unequal world, and one where skills and knowledge are becoming obsolete faster than ever. Recognising the urgency to respond, Singapore reaffirms our commitment to invest in our people and transform our education system.

Learning for Life

2. Singapore is making significant shifts in our education system across the life course to equip our children for a new tomorrow.

- a. Starting from young, we will cultivate in our students the joy of learning *for* life and learning *throughout* life. We have introduced reforms in our schools to avoid an over-emphasis on academic results and support students' diverse strengths, and will free up more time and space for our students to develop 21st Century Competencies that will help them succeed in the future.
- b. As our students' progress to vocational and higher education, we will create a stronger nexus between our educational institutions and industry. We will refine our applied education pathways¹ to be more porous and diverse, so that students can better discover their strengths and pursue their interests.
- c. We will continue investing in our people not just in school, but at every stage of their career through our national SkillsFuture movement².
- d. We will continue to engage our stakeholders, including youths, to understand their aspirations. Over 16,000 people took part in a national conversation in 2020 to chart the way forward for Singapore beyond the pandemic³.

Reimagining Education through Digital Technology

3. Building on experience from the pandemic, we will harness digital technology to reimagine teaching and learning in Singapore:

- a. We introduced the National Digital Literacy Programme to equip students with core digital skills across the different stages of their education journey.
- b. During the pandemic, we accelerated the roll-out of digital learning devices to every secondary school student and ensured inclusion of disadvantaged students with

¹ Singapore's Ministry of Education engaged over 2,000 stakeholders as part of the Review of Opportunities and Pathways in Applied Education in 2021, to better support the unique strengths and aspirations of students and graduates from the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and polytechnics and equip them with relevant skills to remain resilient and thrive in the future economy.

² The SkillsFuture movement in Singapore seeks to support local workforce development in tandem with enterprise transformation. SkillsFuture aims to foster a culture of lifelong learning, and provides Government and industry support to individuals to acquire the skills necessary to progress in their careers. In 2021, the Singapore Government invested nearly S\$1.2 billion in skills training for our workforce, which was 40% more than 2019 and excludes spending on COVID-19-related programmes.

³ In light of the changes and challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, Singapore launched the "Singapore Together Emerging Stronger Conversations" in June 2020, with over 16,900 stakeholders, including students from diverse backgrounds to explore ways to reimagine our society and economy and forge a better way forward for Singapore.

additional support. Going forward, blended learning will continue to be a key feature of our students' experience, with regular days for home-based learning.

- c. We will help students to navigate the online world safely, including by placing stronger emphasis on cyber wellness education. We will continue to strengthen support for the mental well-being of students, deepening our partnerships with youths, parents, professionals, and other public agencies to co-create ideas and take collective action.⁴

Education as an Uplifting Force

4. We believe in uplifting all students through education, regardless of their starting point, and remain committed to providing quality and affordable education to all Singaporeans.

- a. Starting from early childhood, we will continue to enhance access to affordable, quality preschool education, especially for lower-income families, to give a good start for every child.
- b. In the schooling years, our schools provide customised support and attention to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, through academic support, social-emotional support, and financial assistance. Our schools actively partner with other agencies and community stakeholders to ensure wraparound support for these students, to address the complex challenges that they and their families may face.⁵
- c. We will also continue to strengthen support for students with disabilities or Special Educational Needs, both in mainstream schools and dedicated Special Education schools.

Supporting our Teaching Fraternity

5. Teachers are at the heart of our transformation efforts. They are not merely a purveyor of information, but mentors who help our students develop strong values, knowledge and skills. Therefore, we will continue to strengthen the professional development of our teaching fraternity, to equip them with new skill sets for the future of learning. This includes exposing them to diverse experiences beyond the classroom, so that they may broaden their perspectives and bring back fresh insights.⁶ We will continue to develop teachers' skills in e-Pedagogy, enabling them to use technology effectively for active learning that creates a participatory, connected, and reflective classroom. We will also continue to enhance our support for our teachers' mental well-being, so that they in turn are able to care for their students.

⁴ Singapore's [Interagency Taskforce for Mental Health and Well-being](#) was set up in Jul 2021 to oversee and coordinate mental health and well-being efforts. The Taskforce reached out to over 800 stakeholders, including youths, in May-Aug 2022 to seek views on providing greater support to families, children, and youths to strengthen mental-wellbeing. Additionally, the [Youth Mental Well-Being Network](#) was set up to bring together people from all walks of life to develop ground-up solutions to improve youth mental well-being. Since its formation in Feb 2020, 1,500 individuals comprising youths, parents, caregivers, mental health and social sector professionals have joined the Network and developed 22 ground-up projects.

⁵ A key initiative to support disadvantaged students is [the Uplifting Pupils in Life and Inspiring Families Taskforce \(UPLIFT\)](#) which brings together partners and relevant stakeholders to develop strategies and ground-up collaborations at the local and community level.

⁶ For example, the Teacher Work Attachment Plus programme provides opportunities for teachers to go on work attachments of up to four weeks at organisations in the public, private and people sectors.

Partnering Society to Drive Transformation

6. Finally, we recognise that the Government cannot transform our education system alone. We will build on our partnerships with educators, parents, the industry, and our local communities to drive this transformation, and will continue to engage them to create shared solutions. Only by our collective actions can we make enduring changes in our education system, to preserve education as an uplifting force and help all our students achieve their fullest potential and contribute to a better future for Singapore and the world.