

Ministerial Resolution No. (40) of 2023

Concerning the equivalence of vocational secondary certificates issued by private schools

Minister of Education,

After reviewing Federal Law No. (1) of 1972 AD regarding the ministries' functions and the powers of ministers and its amendments,

- Federal Decree-Law No. (11) of 2008 regarding human resources in the federal government and its amendments,

- And Federal Decree-Law No. (18) of 2020 regarding private education,

- And Cabinet Resolution No. (29) of 2008 AD regarding the regulation of private education,

- And Cabinet Resolution No. (1) of 2018 regarding the executive regulations of Federal Decree-Law No. (11) of 2008 regarding human resources in the federal government and its amendments,

- And Cabinet Resolution No. (21) of 2021 AD regarding the organizational structure of the Ministry of Education,

- And Ministerial Resolution No. (199) of 2019 regarding the system of equivalence of private school certificates in the transitional period until the end of the the academic year 2020-2021 AD, and its amendments,

- And Ministerial Resolution No. (50) for the year 2021 AD, regarding the organizational structure of departments, offices and sections, and their specializations and tasks at the Ministry of Education education,

And as required by the public interest,

Decide the following:

Article One

In applying the provisions of this Resolution, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings shown opposite each of them, unless the context requires otherwise:

Country: The United Arab Emirates

The Ministry: The Ministry of Education

Minister: Minister of Education

Private School: Any non-governmental educational facility that provides educational services from kindergarten to the end of the secondary educational stage

The educational authority granting the certificate: It is the authority authorized to grant the certificate by the country to which the curriculum follows

Higher Education Institution: Any governmental or non-governmental educational facility that provides educational services following the secondary education stage.

Article Two

Equivalent to certificates of completion of the vocational secondary stage from private schools that do not apply the Ministry's curriculum according to the following general conditions:

1. The educational system and applied curriculum must be recognized and licensed in the country.
2. The educational authority that grants the certificate must be recognized and licensed to operate in the country.
3. The school must be recognized and licensed to operate in the country.
4. The school must be accredited by the educational authority that grants the certificate.
5. That the educational ladder in the country granting the certificate be equal to the educational ladder in the country.
6. The student must have completed twelve (12) regular academic years, starting from the primary stage.
7. That the level of the degree in the educational ladder of the country that grants the certificate be eligible for admission to the universities of that country.
8. The student must pass the subject of Islamic education (for Arab Muslims and non-Arab Muslims) and the Arabic language (for Arabs) in grades (tenth, eleventh, and twelfth) according to the relevant organizing laws and decisions.

Article Three

BTEC Level 3 Diploma is equivalent to a vocational high school certificate according to the following conditions:

1. The general conditions stipulated in Article 2 of this decision must be applied.
2. The student must fulfill one of the following two conditions:
 - a. The student must pass five (5) subjects at the Ordinary Level (GCSE Level or IGCSE) with one of the passing grades (A*, A, B, C, D, E) or (9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3). Provided that the student chooses the subjects prescribed for study from among the subjects specified by the Ministry

In the relevant regulatory decisions, Islamic education and the Arabic language are not counted among the subjects.

B. Or the student has successfully obtained the IB Middle Years Program (MYP) Certificate

3. The student should successfully obtain (with a score of no less than PP) a BTEC Level 3 Diploma with no less than one hundred and twenty (120) credit hours (credit points) from among the subjects specified by the Ministry in the relevant regulatory decisions.

Article Four

The International Baccalaureate-related Program-IB Career certificate is equivalent to a vocational high school certificate, according to the following conditions:

1. The general conditions stipulated in Article 2 of this decision must be applied.
2. The student must successfully obtain the IB Career-Related Program certificate
3. The student must pass two (2) subjects from the International Baccalaureate with a score of at least (3), and these subjects can be studied at the Standard-Level SL or High-Level HL. Provided that the student chooses the subjects prescribed for study from among the lists approved by the International Baccalaureate Organization, and the Islamic education subject is not counted among the two subjects (2) required for equivalency.
4. The student must successfully obtain (with a score of no less than PP) a BTEC Level 3 Diploma with no less than ninety (90) approved hours (credit points) among the materials specified by the Ministry in the relevant regulatory decisions.

Article Five

1. Private schools in the country bear full responsibility for complying with the implementation of the provisions of this decision.
2. Higher education institutions are obligated to request an equivalence issued by the Ministry in accordance with the provisions of this decision as a mandatory condition for students' admission who hold a certificate of completion of secondary vocational studies from private schools.
3. Private schools and institutions of higher education in the country must arrange their conditions in accordance with the effective date of the provisions of this decision.
4. The concerned departments of the Ministry shall follow up on the commitment of private schools and higher education institutions in the country to apply the provisions of this decision and submit its reports in this regard to us to take what we deem appropriate regarding any violation of these conditions.

Article Six

The Undersecretary for Academic Affairs is empowered to issue decisions, circulars and executive controls that ensure the implementation of the provisions of this decision.

Article Seven

This decision shall be communicated to whoever is required to implement it and act according to it, and every provision that contradicts its provisions shall be repealed.

Dr. Ahmed Belhoul Al Falasi
Minister of Education

Original signed by the Minister

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