

Ministerial Decision No. (883) for the Year 2019

Equivalence System of Private School Certificates

Having examined the Federal Law No. (1) for the Year 1972, on the terms of reference of the Ministries and the powers of the Ministers and the amendments thereto,

- Federal Law No. (3) for the Year 2007 regarding Private Education.
- Federal Law No. (11) for the Year 2008, on the Human Resources in the Federal Government and its amendments,
- Decree-Law No. (15) for the Year 2016, concerning the establishment of the Emirates Foundation for School Education,
- UAE Cabinet Decision No. (29) for the Year 2008, on the regulation of special education,
- UAE Cabinet Decision No. (28) for the year 2016, on the organizational structure of the Ministry of Education,
- UAE Cabinet Decision No. (1) for the Year 2018, concerning the executive regulations of the Federal Law No. 11 of 2008 concerning human resources in the Federal Government and its amendments,
- Ministerial Decision (699) for the Year 2016, concerning the organizational structure of the departments, offices, departments and their functions and responsibilities in the Ministry of Education,
- Ministerial Decision (848) for the Year 2018, concerning the organizational guide for the equivalence of certificates of private schools,
- Ministerial Decision (199) for the Year 2019, concerning the organizational guide for the equivalence of certificates of private schools in the transition period until the end of Academic year 2020-2021
- As required by the public interest,

The following has been decided:

Article 1

In the application of the provisions of this Ministerial Decision, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings indicated opposite each of them, unless indicated otherwise:

- **Country:** United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Education.
- **Minister:** Minister of Education.
- **Private School:** A non-governmental facility that provides education and educational services from Kindergarten to the end of Secondary education.

Article 2

Private Schools include the following categories:

- Private Schools that apply the Ministry's curriculum.
- Schools that apply the American educational system.
- Schools that apply the British educational system.
- Schools that apply the International Baccalaureate (IB) educational system.
- Schools that apply the Canadian educational system.
- Schools that apply the Australian educational system.
- Schools that apply the French baccalaureate educational system.
- Schools teaching other curricula.

Article 3

Private Schools that implement the Ministry's curriculum are subject to the rules and regulations in General Education, as regulated by the Ministry. Students in these schools study the Ministry's curriculum and sit in the Ministry's Secondary School examinations. Successful graduates are awarded the Ministry's Secondary School certificate issued in specific tracks (General, Advanced, or Elite).

Article 4

The following are the general conditions that must apply as part of the requirements for issuing an equivalency certificate of completion of high school:

1. The educational system and curriculum in the Private School must be recognized in UAE.
2. The awarding body that issues the certificate must be recognized by the Ministry of Education in UAE.
3. The Private School must be licensed and authorized to operate in UAE.
4. The Private School must be recognized by the awarding body that issues the certificate.
5. The educational ladder in the country awarding the certificate should be comparable to the educational ladder in UAE.
6. The student should complete 12 years of school education post Kindergarten grades, which are 2 years of education.
7. The high school certificate issued by the Private School should entitle the student to enroll in an accredited Bachelor program in the country of the education system.
8. Complying with all the rules and regulations relevant to the National requirements.

Article 5

1. The following requirements must be met to equalize high school certificates from Private Schools that apply the **American educational system**:

- Apply the general conditions stipulated in Article 4 of this Resolution.
- The student must pass the Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12; provided that the total number of hours is not less than 18 credit hours or its equivalent. (subjects such as Islamic Studies and Arabic Language are excluded when counting not included in the 18 credit hours).
- The minimum passing grade in each subject should not less than D (or 60%).
- Passing the National Emirates Standardized Tests (EmSAT), which is a mandatory requirement for university admission in UAE, as per the relevant rules and regulations.

2. For Private Schools that apply the **American educational system**, the following requirements must be met to equalize the high school certificate to the Ministry's **General track** secondary school certificate:

- To apply the general conditions stipulated in item (1) of this Article.
- The student must pass the following subjects in Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12:
 - English Language (at least 4 credit hours).
 - Mathematics (at least 4 credit hours).
 - Science subjects (at least 4 credit hours), which must include Physics.
 - Social Studies or Humanities (at least 3 credit hours).

3. For Private Schools that apply the **American educational system**, the following requirements must be met to equalize the high school certificate to the Ministry's **Advanced track** secondary school certificate:

- To apply the general conditions stipulated in item (1) of this Article.
- The student must pass the following subjects during grades (9, 10, 11, 12):
 - English (with at least 4 credit hours).
 - Mathematics (with at least 4 credit hours), which must include AP-Calculus AB.
 - Science subjects (at least 4 credit hours), which must include Physics (Calculus Based) plus either Chemistry or Biology. One of the Science subjects must be at AP level.
 - Social Studies or Humanities (at least 3 credit hours).

4. For Private Schools that apply the **American educational system**, the following requirements must be met to equalize the high school certificate to the Ministry's **Elite track** secondary school certificate:

- To apply the general conditions stipulated in item (1) of this Article.
- The student must successfully pass the following subjects during grades (9, 10, 11, 12):
 - English (with at least 4 credit hours).
 - Mathematics (at least 4 credit hours), which must include AP-Calculus AB.
 - Any other subject in the AP level (excluding Islamic Studies and the Arabic Language).
 - Physics, which must include:
 - AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism.
 - AP Physics C: Mechanics.

- Chemistry or Biology, at AP level.
- Any other subject in the AP level (excluding Islamic Studies and Arabic Language).

Article 6

1. For Private Schools that apply the **British educational system**, the following requirements must be met to equalize the high school certificate to the Ministry's secondary school certificate (without defining any track)
 - a. Apply the general conditions stipulated in Article 4 of this Resolution.
 - b. The student must complete the 12th grade or equivalent.
 - c. The student must pass 5 GCSE or IGCSE courses with grades: (A *, A, B, C, D) or (3 to 9). These 5 courses must include:
 - Mathematics
 - One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) or Combined Science Subject
 - One of the following two English subjects: either English Language or English literature.
 - d. Students must pass two (2) subjects in GCE Advanced Level in one of the success grade scales: (A *, A, B, C, D) or equivalent grades.
 - e. Islamic Education and Arabic Language are not counted in both levels.
 - f. Subjects studied should be chosen from the list defined by the relevant Ministry regulations.

Article 7

1. The following requirements must be met to equalize high school certificates from Private Schools that apply the **International Baccalaureate (IB) educational system**:
 - To apply the general conditions provided in Article 4 of this Resolution.
 - The school should be accredited by the International Baccalaureate (IB) Organization.
 - Successful completion of Grade 12 or its equivalent.
 - Subjects studied should be chosen from subjects approved by International Baccalaureate Organization.

High school certificates from Private Schools that apply the **International Baccalaureate (IB) educational system** are equalized based on one of the following tracks in sections 3, 4, 5, and 6 of this Article.

2. First track: The following requirements must be met to equalize IB Diploma Program (DP) certificate to the Ministry's secondary school certificate (without defining any track):
 - a. To apply the general requirements listed for in section 1 of this Article.
 - b. The student should successfully obtain the certificate of the IB Diploma Program (DP) certificate, excluding Islamic Education subject from the requirements.
3. Second track: The following requirements must be met to equalize IB Subject Certificate to the Ministry's secondary school certificate (without defining any track):
 - a. To apply the general requirements listed for in section 1 of this Article.
 - b. The student must successfully pass **six (6)** subjects of the International Baccalaureate that satisfy the following conditions:
 - i. The Grade of each subject should not be below than 3.
 - ii. The total Grade of the student should not be less than 21.
 - iii. The student must pass the following **three (3)** compulsory subjects for equivalency: English, Mathematics, and a Science subject. These subjects can be taught at SL or HL.

- iv. Islamic Education does not count as one of the six mandatory subjects required for the equivalency.
4. Third track: The following requirements must be met to equalize IB Career-related Programme (CP) to the Ministry's secondary school certificate (without defining any track):
- To apply the general requirements listed for in section 1 of this Article.
 - The student must pass **five (5)** GCSE or IGCSE courses with grades: (A *, A, B, C, D) or (3 to 9). These 5 courses must include:
 - Mathematics
 - One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) or Combined Science Subject
 - One of the following two English subjects: either English Language or English literature.
 - The student must successfully pass **three (3)** IB subjects that satisfy the following conditions:
 - The Grade of each subject should not be below than 3.
 - These subjects can be taught at SL or HL.
 - Islamic Education does not count as one of the 3 subjects required for the equivalency.
 - The student must successfully pass "BTEC Level 3 Diploma (120 credits)" certificate with grades: PP or higher. BTEC Diploma subjects should be selected a list that is compliant with the relevant rules and regulations of the Ministry.
5. Fourth track: The following requirements must be met to equalize IB Career-related Program (CP) to the Ministry's secondary school vocational certificate in specific specialization:
- To apply the general requirements listed for in section 1 of this Article.
 - The student must successfully pass **two (2)** IB subjects that satisfy the following conditions:
 - The Grade of each subject should not be below than 3.
 - These subjects can be taught at SL or HL.
 - Islamic Education is not counted as one of the 2 subjects required for the equivalency.
 - The student must successfully pass Pearson "BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma" certificate with grades: PP or higher. BTEC Diploma subject should be chosen from the list defined by the relevant rules and regulations of the Ministry.
 - The equalization will be issued in the same specialization studied in the BTEC Diploma, and would allow the students to pursue his post-secondary education in same field only and following the relevant Ministry regulations.

Article 8

1. The following requirements must be met to equalize high school certificates from Private Schools that apply the **Canadian system**:
- To apply the general conditions provided for in Article 4 of this Ministerial Decision.
 - The school must be recognized by the concerned Department of Education in the relevant Canadian province.
 - The student must pass the required number of subjects in each of Grades 10, 11, and 12, according to the curriculum and the study plan of the concerned Department of Education in the relevant Canadian province.
 - Obtain the high school graduation diploma.
 - The final certificate must be issued by the concerned Department of Education in the relevant Canadian province.
2. For Private Schools that apply the **Canadian system**, and **apply** the exams of Department of Education in the relevant Canadian province that provided the school recognition, the following requirements must be met to equalize the certificate to the Ministry's secondary school certificate (without defining any track):
- To apply the general conditions stipulated in item (1) of this Article.
 - The student must pass the following subjects in each of Grades 10, 11 and 12:
 - English Language

- Mathematics.
 - One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) or a general science Subject
3. For Private Schools that apply the **Canadian system**, and **don't apply** the exams of Department of Education in the relevant Canadian province that provided the school recognition, the following requirements must be met to equalize the certificate to the Ministry's secondary school certificate (without defining any track):
- a. To apply the general conditions stipulated in item (1) of this Article.
 - b. The student must pass the following subjects in each of Grades 10, 11 and 12:
 - English Language
 - Mathematics.
 - One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) or a general science Subject
 - c. The student must pass Grade 12 National Emirates Standardized Tests (EmSAT) successfully as stipulated in the relevant Ministry regulation, for the following subjects:
 - English Language
 - Mathematics.
 - One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry, Biology)

Article 9

1. The following requirements must be met to equalize high school certificates from Private Schools that apply the **Australian system**:
- a. To apply the general conditions provided for in Article 4 of this Ministerial Decision.
 - b. The school must be recognized by the concerned Department of Education in the relevant Australian province.
 - c. The student must pass the required number of subjects in each of Grades 10, 11, and 12, according to the curriculum and the study plan of the concerned Department of Education in the relevant Australian province.
 - d. Obtain the high school graduation diploma.
 - e. The final certificate must be issued by the concerned Department of Education in the relevant Australian province.
2. For Private Schools that apply the **Australian system**, and **apply** the exams of the Australian state that provided the school recognition, the following requirements must be met to equalize the certificate to the Ministry's secondary school certificate (without defining any track):
- a. To apply the general conditions stipulated in item (1) of this Article.
 - b. The student must pass the following subjects in each of Grades 10, 11 and 12:
 - English Language
 - Mathematics.
 - One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) or a general science Subject
3. For Private Schools that apply the **Australian system**, and **don't apply** the exams of the Australian state that provided the school recognition, the following requirements must be met to equalize the certificate to the Ministry's secondary school certificate (without defining any track):
- a. To apply the general conditions stipulated in item (1) of this Article.
 - b. The student must pass the following subjects in each of Grades 10, 11 and 12:
 - English Language
 - Mathematics.
 - One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) or a general science Subject
 - c. The student must pass Grade 12 National Emirates Standardized Tests (EmSAT) successfully as stipulated in the relevant Ministry regulation, for the following subjects:
 - English Language
 - Mathematics.
 - One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry, Biology)

Article 10

1. The e following requirements must be met to equalize high school certificates from Private Schools that apply the **French system** to equalize the certificate to the Ministry's secondary school certificate (without defining any track):
 - a. To apply the general conditions provided for in Article 4 of this Ministerial Decision.
 - b. The student must obtain the French Baccalaureate either in: (L) Literature stream, (ES) Economics and Sociology stream, (S) Science stream, or the International French Baccalaureate (OBI) and meet all the requirments to achieve the diploma in each stream.

Article 11

1. Private schools in the UAE shall be fully responsible for the full compliance with the provisions of this Ministerial Decision.
2. Higher education institutions in UAE shall not admit students from Private Schools without an equivalency certificate of their high school certificate issued from the UAE Ministry of Education.

Article 12

1. The concerned departments of the Ministry shall follow up on the commitment of the Private Schools and Higher Education institutions in UAE to implement the provisions of this Ministerial Decision and submit their reports to the Minister; and the Ministry shall take appropriate measures for any violation of this Ministerial Decision

Article 13

A committee of Equivalency for the General Education Certificate shall be formed by a Ministerial decision headed by the Undersecretary for Academic Affairs of Higher Education and has the following functions:

1. To review of the equivalency system of private school certificates.
2. To make decisions on cases which do not fall under the equivalency system.
3. To review and make decisions on grievance cases as well as those which do not meet all or some of the requirements.

Article 14

1. Ministerial Decision No. (848) for the Year 2018, regarding the Equivalence System of Private School Certificates shall be cancelled.
2. The provisions of this Ministerial Decision shall apply to certificates of the secondary level issued by the private schools at the end of the Academic Year 2022-2023.
3. Ministerial Decision No. (199) for the Year 2019 regarding the Equivalence System of Private School Certificates in the Transitional Period Until the End of the School Year 2020-2021 shall be modified and its terms shall be extended until the end of the academic year 2021-2022, and its provisions shall continue to be applied until the provisions of this Ministerial Decision come into effect.
4. Private schools and Higher Education institutions shall make the necessary arrangements to comply with the provisions of this Ministerial Decision.

Article 15

The Undersecretary for Academic Affairs of Higher Education is entitled to issue resolutions, circulars, and executive regulations to ensure the implementation of the provisions of this Ministerial Decision.

Article 16

The Committee of Equivalency for the General Education Certificate should provide the necessary recommendations to issue the Ministerial Decision regulating Grade 12 National Emirates Standardized Tests (EmSAT) results for private schools curriculums relevant to this Ministerial Decision, within a month of issuing this decision.

Article 17

This Ministerial Decision shall be communicated to whoever is required to implement it and to act under it and to repeal any provision contrary to its provisions.

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