

## Ministerial Decision No. (199) for the Year 2019

### Equivalence System of Private School Certificates in the Transitional Period Until the End of the School Year 2020-2021

#### From Minister of Education:

Having examined:

- 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,
- Decree based on Federal Law No. (3) for the Year 2007 regarding Private Education,
- Decree based on Federal Law No. (11) for the Year 2008, on the Human Resources in the Federal Government and its amendments,
- Decree based on Federal Law No. (15) for the Year 2016, concerning the establishment of the Emirates Foundation for School Education,
- Cabinet Decision No. (29) for the Year 2008, on the regulation of Private Education,
- Cabinet Decision No. (28) for the Year 2016, on the organizational structure of the Ministry of Education,
- Cabinet Decision No. (1) for the Year 2018, concerning the executive regulations of Federal Law No. (11) for the Year 2008 concerning human resources in the Federal Government and its amendments,
- Ministerial Decision No. (4443) for the Year 2001, concerning the organizational guide for the equivalency of certificates of Private Schools,
- Ministerial Decision No. (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 No. (848) for the Year 2018, concerning the Equivalency System of Private School Certificates,
- 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.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Education.
- **Minister:** Minister of Education.
- **Transitional Period:** The period from the effective date of this ministerial decision until the end of the School Year 2020-2021.
- **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 affiliated with Embassies.
- 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.

### **Article 4**

Equivalent Certificates of Completion of Secondary School are issued to Private Schools that do not apply the Ministry curriculum, according to the following general conditions:

1. The educational system and curriculum should be recognized and licensed in UAE.
2. The educational institution that awards the certificate is recognized and authorized to work in UAE.
3. The school must be recognized and authorized to work in UAE.
4. The school must be recognized by the official awarding body that issues the certificate.
5. The education level in the country awarding the certificate should be comparable to the corresponding education level in UAE.
6. The issued certificate shall qualify the student to be eligible to apply for university admission in the country awarding the certificate.
7. The student should pass the Islamic Education course (for Arab Muslims and non-Arab Muslims) and Arabic (for Arabs) in Grades 10, 11, and 12, according to relevant laws and decisions.

### **Article 5**

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

1. To apply the general rules provided in Article 4 of this policy.
2. The student must successfully pass the Grades (10, 11, and 12) with at least five (5) subjects completed in each of the preceding Grades, with a grade of at least "D" or 60% in each subject (this applies to Arabic as well).
3. Subjects studied should be chosen from the ones listed in Annex 1.
4. The student must obtain the certificate of completion of the secondary stage at a grade of at least "D" or 60%.
5. UAE national students must pass:
  - a. EmSAT Achieve - English with a score at least 1100.
  - b. EmSAT Achieve - Mathematics with a score at least 500.

6. Non-UAE national students must pass:
  - a. Test in English under one of the tests below:
    - TOEFL online iBT with a score of at least 61.
    - IELTS Academic with an overall score at least 5.0 band.
  - b. Test in Math under one of the tests below:
    - SAT I - Math Reasoning Test at a score of at least 450.
    - The UAE Standard for Mathematics Admission (EmSAT Achieve - Mathematics) with a score of at least 500.

#### **Article 6**

The certificates of completion of secondary school from Private Schools that adopt the **American system** will be equalized according to the following general rules:

1. To apply the general rules provided in Article 4 of this Ministerial Decision.
2. The student must complete Grade 12 or its equivalent.
3. The student must pass five (5) GCSE or IGCSE subjects in one of the success grade scales: (A \*, A, B, C, D).
4. Students must pass two (2) subjects in GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level (GCE) or one subject in GCE Advanced Level in one of the success grade scales: (A \*, A, B, C, D).
5. Islamic Education and Arabic are not counted in both levels.
6. Subjects studied should be chosen from the ones listed in Annex 2.

#### **Article 7**

The certificates of completion of secondary school from Private Schools that adopt the **International Baccalaureate (IB) system** will be equalized according to the following general rules:

1. To apply the general conditions provided for in Article 4 of this Ministerial Decision.
2. The school should be accredited by the International Baccalaureate Organization.
3. Successful completion of Grade 12 or its equivalent.
4. The student must choose the subjects from the approved subject lists of the International Baccalaureate Organization.
5. Student must successfully pass one of the tracks in sections 6 and 7 of this article.
6. First track: the student should successfully obtain the certificate of the International Baccalaureate Diploma, excluding Islamic Education subject from the requirements.
7. Second track: The student successfully pass six (6) subjects of the International Baccalaureate that satisfy the following conditions:
  - a. The Grade of each subject should not be below than 3.
  - b. The total Grade of the student should not be less than 21.
  - c. The student must pass the following six mandatory subjects for equivalency: English, Mathematics, and a Science subject. These subjects can be taught at SL or HL.
  - d. Islamic Education is not counted as one of the six mandatory subjects required for the equivalency.

#### **Article 8**

The certificates of completion of secondary school from Private Schools that adopt the **Canadian system** will be equalized according to the following general rules:

1. To apply the general conditions provided for in Article 4 of this Ministerial Decision.
2. The school must have recognized by the Department of Education in the concerned Canadian province.
3. The student must successfully pass the number of subjects for each Grade in Grades (10, 11 and 12), according to the curriculum and and study plan of the concerned Canadian province.
4. The student must obtain the high school graduation diploma.
5. The final certificate must be issued by the Department of Education in the concerned province.

#### **Article 9**

The certificates of completion of secondary school from Private Schools that adopt the **Australian system** will be equalized according to the following general rules:

1. To apply the general conditions provided for in Article 4 of this Ministerial Decision.
2. The school must have recognized by the Department of Education in the concerned Australian province.
3. The student must successfully pass the number of subjects for each Grade in Grades (10, 11 and 12), according to the curriculum and and study plan of the concerned Australian province.
4. The student must obtain the high school graduation diploma.
5. The final certificate must be issued by the Department of Education in the concerned province.

#### **Article 10**

The certificates of completion of secondary school from Private Schools that adopt the **French baccalaureate system** will be equalized according to the following general rules:

1. To apply the general conditions provided for in Article 4 of this Ministerial Decision.
2. The student must obtain the French Baccalaureate (L) or the Economics and Sociology section (ES).

#### **Article 11**

The certificates of completion of secondary school from **Other Private Schools** will be equalized according to the following general rules:

1. Apply the general conditions stipulated in Article 4 of this Ministerial Decision.
2. Subjects studied should be chosen from the ones listed in Annex 1.

#### **Article 12**

1. Private Schools in UAE shall be fully responsible for the full compliance with the provisions of this Ministerial Decision.
2. Higher Education institutions in UAE should request for an equivalent certificate issued by the Ministry in accordance with the provisions of this resolution as a mandatory condition for admission of students who have obtained the certificate of secondary level from Private Schools.

### **Article 13**

The concerned departments in the Ministry shall follow up on the commitment of the Private Schools and higher education institutions on the implementation of the provisions of this Ministerial Decision and submit reports in this regard to the official channels to take what we deem appropriate for any violation of the conditions stated in this Ministerial Decision

### **Article 14**

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 15**

1. The provisions of this Ministerial Decision shall apply to certificates of the secondary level issued by the Private Schools at the end of the School Year 2021-2022.
2. Ministerial Decision No. (4443) for the Year 2001, concerning the organizational guide for the equivalency of Private School certificates, shall be cancelled.
3. Private Schools and higher education institutions shall make appropriate arrangements to comply with the conditions in this Ministerial Decision.

### **Article 16**

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