

# "Compulsory Education" It actually costs a lot of money.

—Only tuition and textbooks are provided free of charge.—



You might think easily that compulsory education system provides a public place for children and an adequate education free of charge. Children are greatest treasure of society. We need to know that it is expensive to nurture the next generation.

We realize that we spend a lot of money on school supplies etc. when children start going to elementary school. Free compulsory education is guaranteed under the Constitution. In Japan, attendance at elementary school and junior high school is compulsory. So we don't have to pay for textbooks and tuition during the period. However, guardians have to pay for the school meal fees, school supplies that are necessary for the classes, field trip fee, PTA fee, etc. Though you might think that the amount of each payment is a small price to pay, it comes to a considerable amount of money in a year. The annual average of school meal fee is 41,000 yen, and the annual average of school education costs is 57,000 yen. When entering an elementary school, children need a school bag that is a kind of expensive item, school-designated gym uniform and stationery. In the 6th grade, the school excursion costs parents a lot of money. According to the 2006 statistics carried out by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the annual average of school education costs is 88,000 yen in the 1st grade, and 82,000 yen in the 6th grade.

	School meal fees	School education costs	Total
Average	41,000	57,000	98,000
1st grade	41,000	88,000	129,000
2nd grade	41,000	34,000	75,000
3rd grade	41,000	40,000	81,000
4th grade	41,000	42,000	83,000
5th grade	41,000	54,000	95,000
6th grade	41,000	82,000	123,000

The main items of school education costs
● School excursion/field trip fee
● PTA fee
● School supplies/materials for experiment and practical work (e.g. stationeries, gym class supplies, music instruments, etc.)
● Expenses other than subjects (e.g. Club activity expenses, etc.)
● School uniform (if necessary)
● Commute goods (e.g. school bag, etc.)

(Unit : Yen) (Amount is rounded off to the nearest 1000 yen.)

Though compulsory education system, guardians need to pay a lot of money. Do you know how to save the school education costs as much as possible? Children grow up quickly, so they need to change their gym wear or swim suit in the short time. Most of them are kept in good conditions. Some guardians may think that it would be a waste to throw them away. Talk to neighborhood friend and ask if they'd be willing to part with gym uniform, etc. "Hand-me-down" is one of the ways to save money.

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● The back numbers of "Information Fujimino" are available at online.

