

NEWSLETTER

EDUCATION

24 - 30 August 2026



NSFC Approves 69,563 Projects for 2026 with Surge in Youth Funding

The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) approved 69,563 projects from 469,429 applications on August 26. Backed by expanded fiscal funding, Young Scientists Fund (Category C) grants jumped 50.1% (+12,046), while General Program grants rose 14.8% (+3,400) to advance original research and support early-career talent. **(Science and Technology Daily)**

50 Young Scientists Awarded 2026 Xplorer Prize as Peking University Leads

The 8th Xplorer Prize announced its 50 winners for 2026 on August 24, recognizing young researchers across 30 institutions. Among them, 44 laureates represent 21 universities, led by Peking University with 8 winners, followed by Tsinghua and Zhejiang universities with 5 each. Featuring a record 10 female awardees (20%), each recipient will receive RMB 3 million over five years to support research in basic and cutting-edge fields. **(Guangming)**

Ministry of Education Releases Implementation Plan for 2026 World Vocational Skills Competition

China released the implementation plan for the 2026 World Vocational College Skills Competition on August 18, themed *"Skilled Youth, Shining Future."* The competition establishes 43 tracks within a three-tier tournament structure, featuring domestic and five overseas divisions (Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Europe, and Oceania). Qualifying stages for the finals are scheduled to conclude by late September 2026. **(Ministry of Education)**

Sichuan University, Chongqing University Form Strategic Alliance on Dual Degrees

Sichuan University and Chongqing University signed a strategic cooperation agreement on August 26 to serve the Chengdu-Chongqing Economic Circle. The two top-tier universities will implement mutual credit recognition, joint graduate programs, and cross-university dual degrees, alongside collaborative research in advanced materials, biomedicine, and smart manufacturing. **(Renmin)**

Xiong'an Campuses of First Relocated Beijing Universities to Open in September 2027

The Xiong'an campuses of the first batch of Beijing-relocated universities will officially open in September 2027, China's Ministry of Education announced on August 25. Construction is accelerating for the initial four institutions—Beijing Jiaotong University, University of Science and Technology Beijing, China University of Geosciences (Beijing), and Beijing Forestry University—to support non-capital function relief. **(Sina)**