

Analysis of Funding Investment in Secondary Vocational Education in Anhui Province

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Abstract

In 2009, the Ministry of Education proposed to gradually expand the enrollment scale of secondary vocational education. Since the implementation of the Vocational Education Law in 1996, the first major revision has clarified the need to promote the coordinated development of vocational education and general education at different stages after compulsory education according to local conditions. The shift from "diversion between general and vocational education" to "coordinated development" reflects the Party and the state's emphasis on vocational education. Secondary vocational education plays a fundamental role in cultivating skilled talents. To analyze the funding investment in secondary vocational education in Anhui Province, this study uses data from the China Education Expenditure Statistical Yearbook (2011–2020) and national education funding reports. By examining indicators such as total funding, sources, and expenditure, and comparing Anhui with Jiangsu and Zhejiang Provinces, the study identifies issues including insufficient total funding, irrational expenditure structure, and low per-student funding. Recommendations are proposed to strengthen publicity and funding for secondary vocational education, broaden funding channels, and improve school financial management and efficiency.

Keywords

Anhui Province; Secondary Vocational Education; Educational Funding Investment; Educational Expenditure

Introduction

The sustainable and balanced development of vocational education cannot be achieved without financial support. The *National Medium- and Long-Term Education Reform and Development Plan (2010-2020)* emphasized increasing the proportion of funding allocated to vocational education. In recent years, although the overall funding for vocational education in Anhui Province has shown an upward trend, there are still deficiencies in the funding for secondary vocational education. This study utilizes nearly a decade of relevant data on education funding in Anhui Province, selects appropriate indicators to analyze the funding situation for secondary

vocational education, and conducts a regional comparative analysis with Jiangsu and Zhejiang Provinces. Based on the findings, relevant suggestions are proposed to provide references for the future development of secondary vocational education in Anhui Province.

I. Literature Review

Research on funding for secondary vocational education has mostly examined its current status, causes, and conclusions by analyzing various aspects such as the stage of vocational education, relevant indicators, data analysis methods, and the selection of time and spatial regions. Scholars have proposed targeted optimization measures accordingly. Lu Junjie[1] compared China's vocational education system with foreign systems from the perspective of educational economics, conducting an empirical analysis of regional disparities in the allocation of vocational education resources in China and finding significant differences in fiscal investment levels. Shen Youluo[2] analyzed the regional allocation of education funding for secondary vocational schools nationwide from 2007 to 2016, discovering significant disparities in per-student education funding, per-student public funding, per-student tuition fees, and per-student fixed asset values. Cai Wenbo and Liu Shuang [3] conducted an empirical analysis of inter-provincial differences in secondary vocational education funding using panel data on per-student funding from 2008 to 2017, exploring the relationship between regional funding for secondary vocational education and regional economic development. Zhou Qi and Zhu Yu [4] analyzed changes in funding for secondary vocational education in Henan Province from 2007 to 2016, examining total funding, sources, and expenditures, and identified issues related to insufficient funding. Li Chunpeng and Gao Lin[5] used horizontal and vertical comparative methods to analyze funding for secondary vocational education in Heilongjiang Province from 2011 to 2017, pointing out problems in total funding, proportions, and growth rates. Xu Ling and Wu Xuefeng[6] analyzed the funding situation for secondary vocational education in Guangdong Province from 2015 to 2018 and compared it with Jiangsu and Fujian Provinces, revealing significant regional disparities within Guangdong.

II. Current Status of Secondary Vocational Education Development in Anhui Province

As of 2020, Anhui Province had a total of 298 secondary vocational schools, including 202 public institutions, with an enrollment of 790,000 students. From 2011 to 2020, the number of secondary vocational schools in Anhui Province decreased year by year, dropping from 508 in 2011 to 298 in 2020, representing a decline rate of 41.34%. Moreover, over the past decade, both the number of admissions and the total student enrollment in Anhui's secondary vocational schools have generally shown a downward trend, indicating a gradual regression in secondary vocational

education in the province. For specific details, see Table 1.

Table 1. Current Status of Secondary Vocational Education Development in Anhui Province

Year	Number of Schools	Number of Admissions (in ten thousand)	Number of Students Enrolled (in ten thousand)
2011	508	40.55	94.8
2012	493	40.88	100.24
2013	463	36.9	96.77
2014	431	33.42	91.47
2015	412	30.68	83.78
2016	374	30.58	78.18
2017	359	28.79	76.07
2018	344	29.43	75.28
2019	328	30.2	75.07
2020	298	32.88	79.11

Data source: Statistical Bulletin on the Development of National Education Undertakings (2011-2020)

III. Analysis of Funding Investment in Secondary Vocational Education in Anhui Province

In recent years, vocational education in Anhui Province has achieved significant progress. However, at the same time, the investment by the Anhui provincial government in secondary vocational education remains relatively low, facing certain pressures. To comprehensively reflect the funding situation for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province from 2011 to 2020, an analysis is conducted using charts to examine total funding, the structure of funding sources, and the relationship between government-funded education expenditure and GDP.

(1) Total Funding Investment in Secondary Vocational Education in Anhui Province

Education funding is a crucial factor determining the development of education in a region, ensuring the stable and healthy growth of the education sector. The level of education funding reflects the degree of importance a region places on education [7]. By compiling data on funding for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province over the past decade and comparing it with national figures (see Table 2), it can be observed that funding for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province has increased year by year. By 2020, funding had grown from 6.32 billion yuan to 11.42 billion yuan, with an average annual growth rate of 34.42%. Overall, funding for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province shows an upward trend, indicating the provincial government's increasing emphasis on this sector. Nationally, funding for secondary vocational education increased from 163.85 billion yuan in 2010 to 286.94 billion yuan in 2020, an increase of 123.09 billion yuan, clearly showing a gradual upward trend. Although the total national funding for secondary vocational education decreased slightly in 2014, it has generally maintained a rapid growth trend. While funding for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province has also been on the rise, its growth has been relatively slow compared to the na-

tional level, and the overall investment remains relatively low.

Table 2. Comparison of Total Funding for Secondary Vocational Education in Anhui Province and Nationwide from 2011 to 2020.

Year	Anhui Province (billion yuan)	Nationwide (billion yuan)
2011	63.2	1638.5
2012	78.6	1909.3
2013	77.6	1997.9
2014	68.5	1906.5
2015	75.3	2137.8
2016	78.2	2222.9
2017	81.8	2320.1
2018	90.9	2464.2
2019	96.9	2611.2
2020	114.2	2869.4

Data source: China Education Funding Statistical Yearbook (2012-2021), as below.

(2) Structure of Funding Investment in Secondary Vocational Education in Anhui Province

The main sources of education funding consist of government fiscal education expenditure, investments by private school sponsors, social donations, institutional income, and other revenues. As shown in Table 3, from 2000 to 2020, the primary source of funding for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province was government fiscal education expenditure, with its proportion steadily increasing from an initial 75.0% to 88.4%. Over the past decade, this source increased by 5.32 billion yuan, with significant growth observed between 2000 and 2012. The second-largest source is institutional income, which has remained relatively stable overall, with a peak of 1.3 billion yuan in 2011. However, institutional income has been gradually declining. Next is "other income," which accounts for less than 5% of the total funding, reaching a minimum of 0.08 billion yuan in 2020 and a maximum of only 0.36 billion yuan. Following this is investment by private school sponsors, which also represents a very small proportion overall, with a peak of 0.11 billion yuan in 2011. Finally, social donation revenue ranks last, consistently remaining at a low level, with a maximum of only 0.02 billion yuan, never exceeding 0.05 billion yuan, and accounting for less than 1% of the total—far below government fiscal education expenditure. Through the above analysis, it is evident that the funding structure for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province heavily relies on government fiscal education expenditure, with its proportion increasing year by year, far surpassing the contributions from other sources. This indicates that Anhui Province depends significantly on government fiscal funding for secondary vocational education. If there are issues with fiscal funding, it could impact the stability and development of secondary vocational education in the province.

Table 3. Structure of Funding for Secondary Vocational Education in Anhui Province from 2011 to 2020(Unit: Billion Yuan)

Year	Total investment in secondary vocational education funding.	Government fiscal education funding.		Investment by private school sponsors.		Social donations.		Institutional income.		Other income.	
		Amount	Proportion(%)	Amount	Proportion(%)	Amount	Proportion(%)	Amount	Proportion(%)	Amount	Proportion(%)
2011	63.2	47.7	75.5	1.1	1.7	0.03	0.05	13.0	20.6	1.4	2.2
2012	78.6	64.1	81.6	0.5	0.6	0.01	0.01	12.9	16.4	1.1	1.4
2013	77.6	66.3	85.4	0.2	0.3	0.01	0.01	9.5	12.2	1.6	2.1
2014	68.5	58.7	85.7	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.29	8.3	12.1	1.3	1.9
2015	75.3	63.4	84.2	1.1	1.5	0.03	0.04	8.6	11.4	2.1	2.8
2016	78.2	65.5	83.8	0.4	0.5	0.04	0.05	8.6	11.0	3.6	4.6
2017	81.8	71.6	87.5	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.24	8.7	10.6	0.9	1.1
2018	90.9	79.3	87.2	0.3	0.3	0.09	0.10	9.1	10.0	2.0	2.2
2019	96.9	84.8	87.5	0.4	0.4	0.03	0.03	10.2	10.5	1.4	1.4
2020	114.2	100.9	88.4	1.0	0.9	0.04	0.04	11.5	10.1	0.8	0.7

(3) Analysis of the Relationship Between Government Fiscal Education Expenditure and GDP

As shown in Table 4, the proportion of government fiscal expenditure on secondary vocational education in Anhui Province as a percentage of GDP has generally been on a downward trend, with the maximum value reaching 11.42 billion yuan in 2020. Overall, the proportion has slightly decreased, indicating that investment in secondary vocational education in Anhui Province has gradually declined in recent years. Moreover, in recent years, the proportion of government fiscal education expenditure as a percentage of GDP in Anhui Province has remained at the edge of 0.3%, and the proportion of fiscal expenditure on secondary vocational education relative to GDP remains relatively low. This suggests that Anhui Province still needs to further increase its investment in government fiscal education funding.

Table 4. Proportion of Government Fiscal Education Funding for Secondary Vocational Education in Anhui Province to GDP from 2011 to 2020(Unit: Billion Yuan)

Year	Government fiscal education funding.	GDP	Proportion(%)
2011	63.2	16284.9	0.39
2012	78.6	18341.7	0.43
2013	77.6	20584.0	0.38
2014	68.5	22519.7	0.30
2015	75.3	23831.2	0.32
2016	78.2	26307.7	0.30
2017	81.8	29676.2	0.28
2018	90.9	34010.9	0.27
2019	96.9	36845.5	0.26
2020	114.2	38061.5	0.30

Data source: National Bureau of Statistics

(4) Comparison of Total Funding for Secondary Vocational Education and General High School Education in Anhui Province

As shown in Table 5, the total funding for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province has been increasing year by year, rising from 6.32 billion yuan in 2011 to 11.42 billion yuan in 2020, with an average annual growth rate of 6.5%. From the growth trend, the total funding for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province has generally been on the rise. To better understand the funding situation for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province, a comparison was made with the funding for general high school education. According to Table 5, both secondary vocational education and general high school education funding in Anhui Province increased annually from 2011 to 2020. In terms of total investment, the funding for general high schools far exceeds that for secondary vocational education, and the gap between the two has been widening annually, increasing from 4.47 billion yuan in 2011 to 9.24 billion yuan in 2020. Furthermore, when comparing the proportion of funding for each relative to the total education expenditure in Anhui Province, the share of funding for general high schools remained between 11% and 15% from 2011 to 2020, while the share for secondary vocational education was significantly lower, dropping from 7.7% in 2011 to 6.5% in 2020. In 2017, the proportion of funding for secondary vocational education was less than half of that for general high schools. This indicates that the Anhui provincial government tends to prioritize investment in general education, with insufficient funding for secondary vocational education, reflecting a relatively low level of emphasis on this sector. Although the funding for secondary vocational education has been increasing annually, a significant gap remains when compared with general high school education in Anhui Province. This disparity stands in stark contrast to the continuous expansion of secondary vocational education in scale.

Table 5. Comparison of Total Investment in Secondary Vocational Education and General High School Education in Anhui Province (Unit: billion yuan)

Year	Total Education Expenditure in Anhui	Secondary Vocational Education	Proportion (%)	General High School	Proportion (%)
2011	817.2	63.2	7.7	107.9	13.2
2012	-	78.6	-	141.8	-
2013	1041.3	77.6	7.5	149.2	14.3
2014	1045.8	68.5	6.6	147.1	14.1
2015	1157.8	75.3	6.5	154.0	13.3
2016	1234.8	78.2	6.3	154.1	12.5
2017	1375.2	81.8	6.0	165.3	12.0
2018	1501.2	90.9	6.1	179.5	12.0
2019	1637.6	96.9	5.9	191.4	11.7
2020	1747.9	114.2	6.5	206.6	11.8

Note: Data for 2012 is missing

IV. Current Status of Expenditure on Secondary Vocational Education in Anhui Province

To understand the expenditure on secondary vocational education funding in Anhui Province over the past decade, indicators such as total education expenditure and per-student personnel expenditure were selected. A comparison was made with Jiangsu Province and Zhejiang Province, and at the same time, per-student education expenditure was compared with undergraduate institutions within the province. The details are as follows:

(1) Analysis of Total Expenditure on Secondary Vocational Education in Anhui Province

The changes in total expenditure on secondary vocational education in Anhui Province, Jiangsu Province, and Zhejiang Province from 2011 to 2020 are shown in Table 6. As can be seen from Table 6, the total expenditure on secondary vocational education in Anhui Province, Jiangsu Province, and Zhejiang Province all showed an upward trend from 2011 to 2020. Among them, Jiangsu Province ranked first in total expenditure on secondary vocational education funding, increasing by 7.48 billion yuan from 2011 to 2020. Growth was relatively slow from 2012 to 2015 but showed a linear increase from 2016 to 2020. Next is Zhejiang Province, where expenditure on secondary vocational education began to grow rapidly from 2014, with a growth rate higher than that of Jiangsu Province, reaching a maximum of 18.1%. Compared with Jiangsu Province and Zhejiang Province, the expenditure on secondary vocational education in Anhui Province was relatively low, increasing by 4.99 billion yuan over the past decade and reaching a maximum of 11.09 billion yuan in 2020. However, overall, it remains lower than the other two provinces. In terms of growth rate, a negative growth rate occurred in 2014. From the trend perspective, Anhui Province's expenditure aligns with the consistent upward trends of Jiangsu Province and Zhejiang Province, but there is still a significant gap in total expenditure. Therefore, for the long-term development of secondary vocational education, Anhui Province needs to further increase its investment and support for this sector.

Table 6. Comparison of Total Expenditure on Secondary Vocational Education in Anhui Province, Jiangsu Province, and Zhejiang Province from 2011 to 2020 (Unit: billion yuan)

Year	Anhui Province	Growth Rate (%)	Jiangsu Province	Growth Rate (%)	Zhejiang Province	Growth Rate (%)
2011	61.0	-	132.2	-	85.8	-
2012	78.0	27.9	160.8	21.6	101.3	18.1
2013	78.9	1.2	164.4	2.2	115.6	14.1
2014	69.5	-11.9	163.0	-0.9	114.7	-0.8
2015	74.5	7.2	169.0	3.7	127.3	11.0
2016	79.2	6.3	164.2	-2.8	132.7	4.2
2017	81.1	2.4	177.9	8.3	145.5	9.6
2018	91.2	12.5	188.7	6.1	158.4	8.9
2019	98.4	7.9	201.1	6.6	171.2	8.1
2020	110.9	12.7	207.0	2.9	201.3	17.6

(2) Analysis of Per-Student Expenditure on Secondary Vocational Education in

Anhui Province

Per-student education expenditure is an important indicator for assessing the rationality of education funding. As shown in Table 7, from 2011 to 2020, per-student funding for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province, Jiangsu Province, and Zhejiang Province increased annually and grew rapidly. For example, in Zhejiang Province, per-student funding increased from 14,372 yuan in 2011 to 36,307 yuan in 2020, an increase of 21,935 yuan. In Jiangsu Province, there was a slight fluctuation and decline between 2013 and 2014, but the decrease was minimal. In Anhui Province, per-student funding for secondary vocational education increased from 9,697 yuan to 20,786 yuan, an increase of 11,089 yuan, with an average annual growth rate of 9.2%. The maximum value reached 20,786 yuan in 2020. Notably, although per-student funding for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province gradually increased from 2011 to 2020, it remained consistently lower than that of Jiangsu Province and Zhejiang Province, with a significant gap. This indicates that Anhui Province has shortcomings in per-student education expenditure for secondary vocational education.

Table 7. Comparison of Per-Student Expenditure on Secondary Vocational Education in Anhui Province, Jiangsu Province, and Zhejiang Province from 2011 to 2020 (Unit: yuan)

Year	Anhui Province	Growth Rate (%)	Jiangsu Province	Growth Rate (%)	Zhejiang Province	Growth Rate (%)
2011	9696	-	12435	-	14372	-
2012	12767	31.7	16060	29.2	17125	19.2
2013	12953	1.5	17116	6.6	20071	17.2
2014	12724	-1.8	16557	-3.3	20916	4.2
2015	13070	2.7	18276	10.4	24273	16.0
2016	14925	14.2	18939	3.6	25849	6.5
2017	15674	5.0	21749	14.8	28314	9.5
2018	18062	15.2	24956	14.7	31430	11.0
2019	18752	3.8	26038	4.3	32433	3.2
2020	20786	10.8	27195	4.4	36307	11.9

(3) Comparative Analysis of Per-Student Funding for Secondary Vocational Education and General Undergraduate Institutions in Anhui Province

From 2011 to 2020, per-student education expenditure for general undergraduate institutions in Anhui Province was consistently higher than that for vocational education each year. The largest gap occurred in 2009, when per-student funding for general undergraduate institutions was 35,268 yuan, compared to 18,752 yuan for secondary vocational education, resulting in a difference of 16,516 yuan. From 2011 to 2020, per-student education expenditure for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province gradually increased, rising from 9,696 yuan to 20,786 yuan, an increase of 11,090 yuan, while funding for undergraduate institutions increased by 14,436 yuan during the same period. From 2011 to 2020, per-student education funding for general undergraduate programs in Anhui Province showed a steady and rapid upward trend. Meanwhile, although per-student funding for secondary vocational education also increased, its growth rate remained slower compared to

undergraduate institutions. Moreover, per-student expenditure for secondary vocational education was significantly lower than that for general undergraduate institutions every year. This indicates that there is a substantial disparity in per-student education funding between secondary vocational education and general undergraduate institutions in Anhui Province, and the disadvantaged position of secondary vocational education has yet to improve.

V. Problems in Secondary Vocational Education in Anhui Province

(1) Unreasonable Structure of Funding Sources for Secondary Vocational Education, Over-Reliance on Government Investment

Although the total funding for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province has doubled compared to a decade ago, Table 3 shows that the primary source of funding is government fiscal education expenditure, and its proportion has been increasing year by year, rising from 75.0% in 2011 to 88.4% in 2020. Meanwhile, the proportion of non-governmental funding decreased from 25.0% in 2011 to 11.6% in 2020, with government funding occupying an absolute dominant position. Among non-governmental sources, institutional income accounted for the largest share, decreasing from 20.6% in 2011 to 10.1% in 2020, with recent years hovering around 10%. Notably, most institutional income comes from tuition fees. Following this are other revenues and investments by private school sponsors, while social donations account for the smallest share, not exceeding 0.1% in most years except for 0.2% in 2017.

Through a decade-long comparison of data, it is evident that government fiscal education expenditure has consistently dominated funding for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province. Investments by sponsors and institutional income have remained disproportionately low, with limited social participation. This indicates that funding channels for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province are relatively narrow, and the structure of funding sources is unreasonable. The province has not adequately encouraged social forces to participate in funding nor established a diversified mechanism for raising education funds.

(2) Insufficient Emphasis on Secondary Vocational Education

From the perspective of the proportion of fiscal funding for secondary vocational education relative to GDP, it is clear that the current proportion in Anhui Province is relatively low and shows a declining trend, indicating insufficient funding. Traditional perceptions hold that vocational schools are inferior to general high schools, being seen as the last resort for students deemed less academically capable. Criticism of vocational schools is common, and societal stereotypes persist. In the labor market, educational qualifications often determine whether workers are allocated to primary or secondary labor markets. Vocational education graduates are generally perceived to have lower social status, lower wages, and engage in physically de-

manding work. These deeply ingrained stereotypes contribute to the widespread preference for general education over vocational education.

The development of vocational education remains challenging. Observing the total funding for secondary vocational education in Anhui Province, there is a significant gap compared to national averages. Moreover, in terms of total education expenditure, Anhui lags behind the average levels in the Yangtze River Delta region. Per-student funding for secondary vocational education in Anhui is also significantly lower than that of undergraduate institutions within the province. Although investment in secondary vocational education has increased, the overall effort remains insufficient. Thus, Anhui Province's emphasis on secondary vocational education needs enhancement. As a weaker province in the integrated development of vocational education in the Yangtze River Delta, how to integrate into this development becomes a key issue for implementing the regional strategy [8].

(3) Insufficient Per-Student Education Expenditure

Compared with Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces in the Yangtze River Delta region, Anhui Province's secondary vocational education faces severe disadvantages in per-student funding, consistently lagging behind both provinces with significant gaps. In 2020, the gap with Zhejiang reached its maximum at 15,521 yuan, with Zhejiang spending 36,307 yuan per student versus Anhui's 20,786 yuan. For nearly a decade, Anhui's per-student funding for secondary vocational education has not exceeded 20,000 yuan for 19 consecutive years. In terms of growth rates, Anhui has not surpassed Zhejiang, and although its growth rate exceeds Jiangsu's, the actual amount spent per student remains lower. Furthermore, compared with general undergraduate institutions within the province, secondary vocational education continues to lag significantly. Data analysis shows that per-student funding for undergraduate institutions in Anhui has consistently exceeded that of secondary vocational education, with the largest gap reaching 16,516 yuan in 2019. Evidently, Anhui Province's secondary vocational education faces substantial gaps in per-student funding when compared with both Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces and local undergraduate institutions, reflecting an imbalance in investment between secondary vocational education and higher education.

VI. Recommendations for Improving Funding for Secondary Vocational Education in Anhui Province

(1) Strengthening Promotion and Increasing Funding for Secondary Vocational Education

China has built the world's largest vocational education system, providing critical talent support for national and regional pillar industries, emerging sectors, and modern service industries. However, some regions and departments fail to adequately promote the Vocational Education Law, and society has yet to create an environment conducive to the growth of technical and skilled talent. Therefore, it is

essential to highly value vocational education ideologically and adopt the “three breaks, three establishments” mindset: breaking the prejudice against vocational education and establishing equal importance between vocational and general education; overcoming the disregard for vocational skills and fostering respect for labor and skills; and eliminating narrow-minded notions of success and embracing the idea that every profession can produce outstanding individuals.

The revised Vocational Education Law of the People's Republic of China, effective May 1, explicitly states that students in vocational schools enjoy equal opportunities in further education, employment, and career development as their counterparts in general education[9]. The law clearly affirms that vocational and general education are two distinct but equally important types of education, which helps counteract societal biases against vocational education. While government investment has increased in recent years, it still falls short of meeting the demands of modernizing vocational education. Stable mechanisms for increasing funding remain lacking. Therefore, the Anhui provincial government should increase(tilt/weight) toward secondary vocational education funding to provide material guarantees for its sustained and stable development.

(2) Broadening Funding Channels for Secondary Vocational Education

The state has begun recognizing the importance of social investment in education to drive vocational education development. The fourth national vocational education conference in 2002 emphasized the need to “increase vocational education funding through multiple channels and establish a diversified investment system.” Analysis reveals that Anhui Province’s secondary vocational education heavily relies on government fiscal funding, with insufficient social participation. To address the issue of single-source funding, various methods should be employed to secure more resources.

First, incentive policies for corporate investment in education should be improved. The Anhui provincial government has issued documents encouraging social forces to invest in education in diverse forms to meet public demand. Advocacy for stronger leadership and integration of social investment into education planning is crucial. Secondly, governments at all levels, as the main bodies responsible for education, should play a leading role in secondary vocational education. Responsibilities must be clarified, and donation channels should be improved to encourage contributions from civil organizations and individuals. Transparency and openness in donation processes must also be ensured.

(3) Enhancing School Financial Management and Improving Fund Utilization Efficiency

The China Education Modernization 2035 plan issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council proposes to “optimize the use of education funds, establish a comprehensive supervision system covering all aspects of education funding, and comprehensively improve fund utilization efficiency”[10].

In resource allocation for secondary vocational education, the government plays a dominant role. A complete system for fund utilization and supervision should be established to ensure efficiency and transparency in fund allocation.

Additionally, schools must ensure the rational and maximum utilization of funds. Performance evaluation and supervision systems should be implemented to standardize fund usage behavior and enhance efficiency. This will ensure that funds are effectively utilized, ultimately promoting the rational allocation of resources and the stable, healthy development of secondary vocational education.

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