《教育部表示扩招外地学生“不会降低本地学生录取率”》

导读:此前教育部曾发布一份新计划，将扩大包括江苏、湖北等省份在内的12个地区对教育资源稀缺地区学生的录取名额。该计划引起了两地家长的强烈抗议。对此教育部表示，扩招不会降低本地学生录取率。

Education authorities have reassured parents in Jiangsu and Hubei provinces that the university admission rate will not be lowered for their children after protests broke out in several cities demanding an end to affirmative action policies that sharply cut the two provinces' enrollment quota to increase the chances of students in western regions getting into better institutions.

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The protest, which started on Wednesday, came on the heels of a college admission scheme where universities in 11 Chinese provinces plus Shanghai, including in Jiangsu and Hubei provinces, announced plans to enroll a greater number of non-local students from provinces with less favorable education resources.

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Parents complained that the scheme, revealed one month before the fiercely competitive college entrance exam, or gaokao, will put their children at a further disadvantage. But the Ministry of Education (MOE) said Saturday that the policy was based on the prerequisite that college admission rates for local students in the regions concerned will not be lower than last year.

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The MOE said that the admission rate in Jiangsu and Hubei is expected to be higher than last year, and ministry spokeswoman Xu Mei told news outlet ifeng.com on Saturday that the MOE is working out a solution in the face of the urgent situation [of protest].

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Chinese universities, in conjunction with local education authorities, reserve a certain number of places for students from within the same province, and will then allocate a certain number of places to students from all other Chinese provinces. Students are allocated points, derived from factors such as ethnic minority, and this determines what level of institution in which province will offer them a place.

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The admission rate in Jiangsu for local students rose from 85.8 percent to 88.8 percent from 2013 to 2015, and from 80.4 percent to 87.0 percent in Hubei from 2013 to 2015, according to the MOE.

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Separately, the heads of the provincial education departments in the two provinces said the total college admission quota in those areas actually increased from last year and the number of students taking gaokao has decreased prominently.

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Among the 12 regions, Jiangsu and Hubei are to contribute 38,000 and 40,000 non-local college places, respectively, according to the plan circulated by the MOE and National Development and Reform Commission on April 22.

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