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120 students completed the first batch of modular third language pilot courses

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The Ministry of Education's first batch of third language unit pilot courses have ended, with 120 students completing an eight-week German or French language course. The picture shows Peicai Middle School student Lin Jianyi (left) and Lanjing Middle School student Zhang Enhui (right) communicating with their teachers in German class. (Photo by Wu Fuliang)

The Ministry of Education has launched a unit-based third language course, and the first batch of 120 students from 21 schools has completed an eight-week pilot course project in German and French.

Compared with the previous third language courses, the project launched this time is a unit-based course and is not part of the syllabus. There are no rigid examination requirements, and students do not need to take exams or class tests.

Students can choose unit courses of different difficulties based on their own language foundation. After completing all six stages of the course, the language proficiency should basically reach the A1 level in the international language proficiency test. Students can register for the internationally recognized language proficiency test and obtain qualification certification.

During the pilot project, courses will be offered in the first, second and third semesters of each academic year. A spokesman for the Ministry of Education pointed out that students can start, stop or continue taking third language courses according to their needs and their own schedule during the school year. This program is designed to allow students to enroll in relevant language courses according to their own interests and learn third languages and cultures flexibly.

The first batch of basic courses under the pilot program started in July this year. The courses last for eight weeks, with two hours of teaching per week, and each class has about 30 students. The participating students came from 21 middle schools, with 60 students each in German and French courses. They completed the courses on Monday (August 28) and Wednesday (August 30) respectively.

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In the fourth semester of this year, students participating in the pilot project can begin to register for next year's third language course. Students who have completed this course can continue to take higher-level Chinese courses.

When the first batch of pilot programs opened for registration, they received an enthusiastic response from students. The Ministry of Education will next explore how to best extend the pilot program of third language courses to more students and schools, and expand other language courses. It is expected to be extended to all secondary schools in 2025.