

## **Law No. (9) of 2018**

### **Concerning the Establishment of the Department of Education and Knowledge**

We, Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler of Abu Dhabi.

- Having reviewed Law No. (1) of 1974 regarding the reorganization of the governmental apparatus in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and its amendments.
- And Law No. (2) of 1971 concerning the National Consultative Council and its amendments.
- And Law No. (2) of 2000 concerning civil retirement pensions and gratuities for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and its amendments.
- And Law No. (8) of 2008 reorganizing the Abu Dhabi Education Council.
- And Law No. (6) of 2016 concerning Human Resources in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
- And Law No. (1) of 2017 concerning the Financial System of the Abu Dhabi Government.
- And Law No. (3) of 2018 concerning the Abu Dhabi Executive Office.
- And Executive Council Chairman's Resolution No. (65) of 2014 concerning scholarships and study leaves in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
- And the agreement concluded between the Ministry of Education and the Abu Dhabi Education Council on December 31, 2007, and its appendices.
- And the memorandum of understanding concluded between the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Abu Dhabi Education Council on October 28, 2014.
- And the agreement concluded between the Ministry of Education and the Abu Dhabi Education Council on May 21, 2017, concerning nurseries and early childhood education centers.
- And based on what was presented to the Executive Council, and its approval thereof.
- We have issued the following law:

# Chapter One

## Definitions

### Article (1)

For the purposes of implementing the provisions of this Law, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings assigned to each of them, unless the context indicates otherwise:

**The State :** The United Arab Emirates.

**The Emirate :** The Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

**The Executive Council :** The Executive Council of the Emirate.

**The Department :** The Department of Education and Knowledge.

**The Education Sector :** All activities, works, and services provided by governmental educational entities and private educational entities.

**Affiliated Entities :** The entities operating in the education sector affiliated with the Department and subject to its control and supervision, as determined by a resolution of the Executive Council.

**Educational Entities :** Governmental and private educational entities.

**Governmental Educational Entities :** All public schools, adult education centers, technical secondary schools, and applied technology schools.

**Private Educational Entities :** All private educational establishments in the Emirate, including care rooms, nurseries, kindergartens, private schools, technical and vocational education and training centers, institutes, and colleges, continuing education centers, universities, higher education and scientific research institutions, and specialized educational institutions including special education, gifted students, and special categories of the community.

**Relevant Agreements :** The agreement concluded between the Ministry of Education and the Abu Dhabi Education Council on December 31, 2007, and its appendices; the memorandum of understanding concluded between the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Abu Dhabi Education Council on October 28, 2014; and the agreement concluded between the Ministry of Education and the Abu Dhabi Education

Council on May 21, 2017, concerning nurseries and early childhood education centers.

## **Chapter Two**

### **Establishment, Objectives, and Competencies of the Department**

#### **Article (2)**

#### **Related Judicial Provisions**

- A department named the 'Department of Education and Knowledge' shall be established pursuant to the provisions of this Law, replacing the Abu Dhabi Education Council.
- The employees and staff of the Abu Dhabi Education Council shall be transferred to the Department, and all its assets, properties, rights, and obligations shall be transferred to the Department. The Department shall be the legal successor to the Abu Dhabi Education Council.

#### **Article (3)**

The Department aims to enhance the level of education and supervise the quality of the education sector and educational entities in the Emirate.

#### **Article (4)**

To achieve its objectives, the Department shall undertake the following competencies:

1. Proposing strategic and executive plans for the education sector in the Emirate, having them approved by the Executive Council, and overseeing their implementation.
2. Monitoring the compliance of affiliated entities with the implementation of the strategic and executive plans for the education sector.
3. Controlling and supervising all affiliated entities, including expenditures from their budgets, the revenues they generate, their

compliance with their duties and competencies, and approving their strategic and executive plans.

4. Regulating the education sector in all aspects by establishing policies, standards, regulations, resolutions, and executive and operational circulars governing the sector.

5. Controlling and supervising the education sector in accordance with the relevant legislation, agreements, and treaties applicable locally and internationally in the sector, in coordination with the relevant authorities inside and outside the State.

6. Licensing all private educational entities and monitoring their compliance in providing an optimal level of quality in the services they offer, in accordance with the applicable legislation and in coordination with the relevant authorities.

7. Proposing fees, tariffs, and prices related to its competencies and submitting them to the Executive Council for approval in accordance with the established systems.

8. Submitting periodic reports and analytical studies to the Abu Dhabi Executive Office regarding the Department's competencies.

9. Encouraging investment and partnership with the private sector for projects related to the Department's competencies, in coordination with the relevant authorities.

10. Any other competencies or tasks assigned by the Executive Council. The Department may delegate some of its competencies to any other governmental entity or outsource some to the private sector after the approval of the Executive Council.

## **Article (5)**

1. The Chairman of the Executive Council shall issue a resolution determining the additional competencies of the Department.

2. The Executive Council may amend the competencies of the Department stipulated in this Law or any other legislation by deletion, addition, or transfer.

## **Article (6)**

The Department shall undertake the competencies assigned to it under the provisions of this Law, in accordance with the principles set out in the relevant agreements and in coordination with the relevant federal and local authorities and institutions in the education sector.

## **Article (7)**

The Department shall work to enhance the level of higher education in the Emirate, in coordination with the relevant federal authorities and institutions, to achieve the Emirate's strategies in this regard.

## **Article (8)**

All individuals, educational entities, and governmental and private companies must provide the Department with the documents and information it requests to carry out or implement its competencies.

## **Article (9)**

The Executive Council shall issue a resolution specifying the affiliated entities that are subject to the control and supervision of the Department.

## **Chapter Three**

### **General Provisions**

## **Article (10)**

The Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department, in agreement with the Chairman of the Department, shall issue a resolution specifying the Department's employees who have the capacity of judicial officers with respect to crimes that fall within their jurisdiction. They shall have the right to inspect and control all educational entities to verify the implementation of the provisions of this Law and the regulations, systems, resolutions, and circulars issued in its implementation.

## **Article (11)**

It is prohibited for any establishment or individual to practice any activity related to the education sector in the Emirate without obtaining a license from the Department in accordance with the established systems.

## **Article (12)**

- Without prejudice to any more severe penalty stipulated in another law, an administrative fine not exceeding (10,000,000) ten million dirhams shall be imposed on anyone who violates the provisions of this Law, its organizational and executive regulations, and the systems, policies, resolutions, and circulars implementing it.
- The Department shall be responsible for collecting administrative fines. The Chairman of the Department, after the approval of the Executive Council, shall issue a schedule specifying the violations and the administrative fines prescribed for each, not exceeding the fine stipulated in this Article.
- The Chairman of the Department, or his authorized representative, may offer a settlement to the violator, provided that this is recorded in the minutes of the proceedings. A violator who accepts the settlement must pay a fine equivalent to (75%) of the total administrative fine specified for the violation within a period not exceeding sixty days from the date the settlement was offered.
- In all cases, if the violator does not remove the effects of the violation by the specified deadline, the Department shall remove them at the violator's expense.
- The organizational and executive regulations of this Law shall specify the procedures for the aforementioned settlement, including its timeframes.

## **Article (13)**

- The Department may take any of the following administrative penalties:
  1. Notice.
  2. Warning.

3. Placing the establishment under financial, administrative, and technical supervision.
  4. Temporary suspension of activity.
  5. Revocation or suspension of the license.
  6. Temporary or permanent closure of the establishment.
- A grievance may be filed against the administrative penalties before the Department within sixty days from the date of notification. Failure to decide on the grievance within ninety days from the date of its submission shall be considered an acceptance of the grievance.
  - The organizational and executive regulations of this Law shall specify the procedures and controls for applying the aforementioned administrative penalties.

#### **Article (14)**

The Department shall propose its organizational structure and submit it to the Executive Council for approval in accordance with the established systems.

#### **Article (15)**

- The financial laws and regulations in force in the Emirate shall apply to the Department.
- The human resources laws and regulations in force in the Emirate shall apply to the Department's employees.
- The Civil Retirement Pensions and Gratuities Law in force in the Emirate shall apply to its citizen employees.

#### **Article (16)**

- The Chairman of the Department, after the approval of the Executive Council, shall issue the organizational and executive regulations of this Law.
- The current policies, systems, regulations, resolutions, and circulars shall remain in force, provided they do not conflict with the provisions of this Law, until the policies, systems, regulations, resolutions, and circulars implementing its provisions are issued.

- The Chairman of the Department shall issue the necessary executive and operational policies, resolutions, and circulars for the implementation of the provisions of this Law.

## **Article (17)**

### **Related Judicial Provisions**

- The aforementioned Law No. (8) of 2008 shall be repealed.
- Any text or provision in the legislation establishing the affiliated entities that contradicts or conflicts with the provisions of this Law shall be repealed.
- Any text or provision that contradicts or conflicts with the provisions of this Law shall be repealed.

## **Article (18)**

This Law shall be effective from the date of its issuance and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Ruler of Abu Dhabi

Issued by us in Abu Dhabi:

On: February 20, 2018

Executive Council Resolution No. (129) of 2025 Concerning the Abu Dhabi Award for Excellence in the Integration of People of Determination 'Damj'