In order to achieve 2030 SGD Goal 4 - Quality Education for All, it will cost an average of US$1.25 a day per child in developing countries (low and lower-middle income countries) to provide a full cycle of pre-primary through secondary education (13 years). The largest share of this cost, 88%, will be borne by developing countries. On average, the international funding gap is just 15 cents a day per child. Lack of adequate funds has been one of the major and common reasons among (low and lower-middle income countries) for not being able to provide quality education for all. Low income countries will need to increase spending in terms of GDP on pre-primary, primary and secondary education by 50%. In order to fill the gap, donor countries would need to increase the volume of aid by at least six times, part of this can be covered by better targeting of aid currently going to upper middle income countries or to post-secondary education.

Japan is one of the top performing countries for literacy, science and maths in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) group of countries. Japanese primary school lasts for six years. In Japan, the school system is generally called the 6-3-3-4-year system, which places primary school education as the foundational stage of the entire school system. Students go through six years of elementary school, three years of junior high school, and three years of high school before deciding whether they want to go to university. Although there are kindergartens for preschool education, these kindergartens do not form a part of the compulsory education system. In Japan, there are kindergartens for preschool education, these kindergartens do not form a part of the compulsory education system. Compared to the kindergarten enrolment rate of 60%, the primary school enrolment rate exceeds 99%, proving primary schools to be the essential institutions responsible for the fundamental education of all Japanese citizens. High school is not compulsory but enrolment is close to 98%.