



*HOPE's parents Committee annual meeting held
at an award-winning private salon.*

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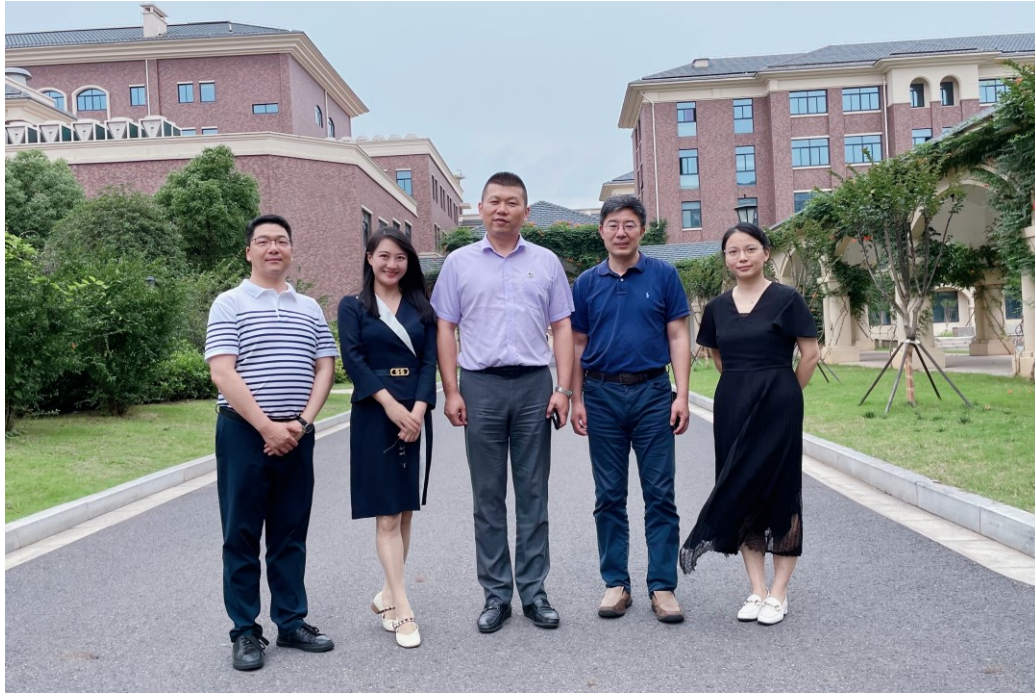
HOPE visit schools in Yiwu to promote UK schools and partnership

After pandemic, international education collaboration and exchange start to be active again. More schools in China are seeking new overseas partners or resume their exchange with their current partners.

Invited by the schools in Yiwu, where so-called 70% of the world Christmas gifts are produced and wholesaled, HOPE visited three schools there to assist with their international links, particularly with UK schools. Xiuhu Junior Middle School, the top school in the city, is actively seeking UK partner schools that can offer summer camp with football academy as school's man and woman's football team are the champion of Yiwu and 2nd in Zhejiang Province. HOPE invited Bournemouth Collegiate School to visit Xiuhu to discuss the possible "sister school" link on 15th June. Meaningful discussions were made during the visit on winter and summer exchange programmes, especially soccer camps. The Principal Zhao of Xiuhu School said they are confident to establish a Win-Win partnership with the UK school and are looking forward to signing MOU with the UK partner soon so that the exchange can kick off later this year.



Round-table discussions on partnership cooperations



HOPE visits Yiwu International Academy on 16th June



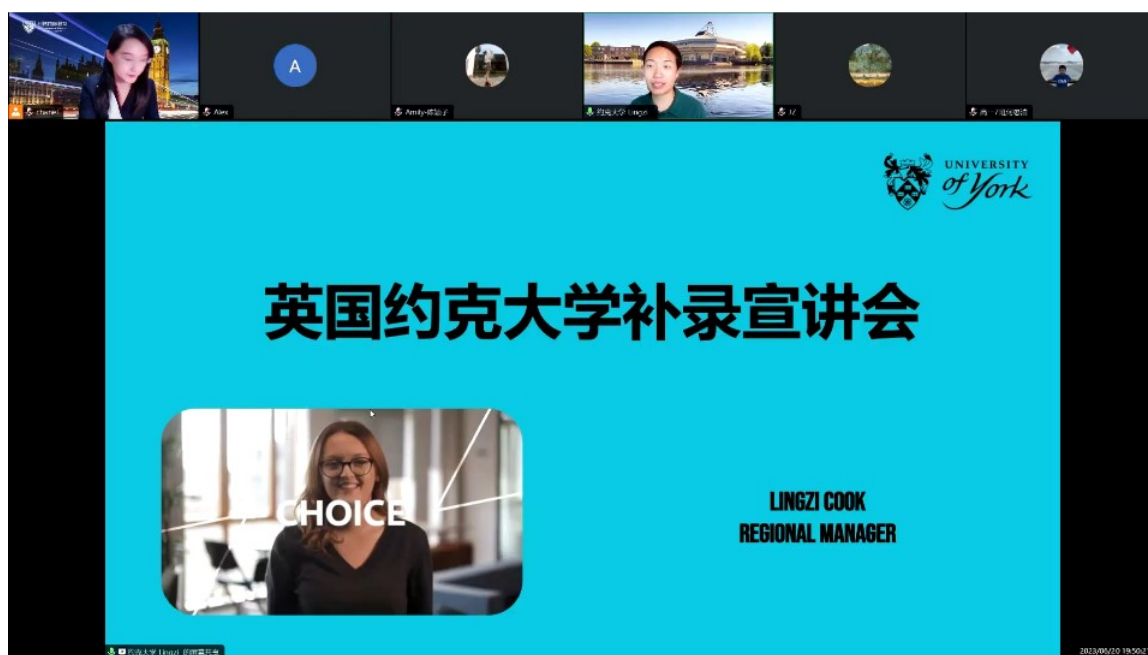
Daniel Zheng, MD, visits Cheltenham Centre within Junhua School in Jinua.

HOPE also visited Yiwu International Academy and Cheltenham Centre of Junhua School, two international schools in Yiwu. International schools in China are facing increasing challenges of license requirement, student recruitment and lack of qualified foreign teachers. More schools are accordingly seeking overseas partners to add value of the school after pandemic. HOPE is also helping them to find suitable overseas partner schools.

University of York joined HOPE for Online Clearing Conference

University of York accepted HOPE's invitation to join in the yearly UCAS Clearing Online Conference launched on 20th June with an aim to provide professional guidance on the upcoming clearing process that commences on July 5th. In the event, Chanel, the Director of Counselling at HOPE threw lights on the target audiences of clearing strategies and provided step-by-step procedure on how to approach the process safely. Meanwhile, Lingzi Cook, Regional Manager from International Recruitment Department, University of York also introduced the updated clearing policies of York, attracting considerable attention from students who applied for 2023 UK university entry.

The event was successful as it provided first-hand training on the clearing application and strengthened the long-term cooperation between HOPE and university of York as one of its key university partners.



University of York joined HOPE at online Clearing Conference

Parents Committee meet HOPE for joint efforts on future growths

HOPE's Parents Committee Annual Meeting was took place at a special aesthetic pavilion *Minaxdo*, Shanghai on 25th, June, 2023. Seven committee members of parents were invited to shared their views on HOPE's future growth and how the parent's committee can assist HOPE's development. HOPE's Parents Committee was established two years ago represented by 10 parent representatives of our students from Shanghai, Hangzhou and Nanjing. The committee is to dedicate to organizing various events for our parents to learn, to exchange and to benefit from other parents, as well as to assist HOPE's development with their own resources.

The meeting started with a summary of last year's work, of which career service salon, Mother Day's trip to Jingdezhen, the capital of porcelain, were highly commented. Parents also shared their kids' journey of overseas study and entrepreneurship and expressed their wholehearted gratitude to HOPE's professional guidance and warm-hearted support for their family. Furthermore, a discussion also was held among the parents to talk about the growths of HOPE. Parents initiated inspirational ideas on future HOPE events and provided valuable advice on Monthly Newsletter for Parents.

Parents also toured this award-winning private house where the meeting was held.



The gathering of HOPE Parents Committee



A lovely stroll at idyllic garden



Modern "Zen-style" living room

Inside HOPE – photo news



The British Council visit HOPE to discuss IELTS and APTIS promotion on 7th June



Newcastle University visited HOPE Shanghai on 2nd June



HOPE Shanghai staff and kids celebrating International Children's Day with a kayak excursion on 4th June

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LOCAL MEDIA

Tens of thousands of high school students begin *gaokao*

By Meiping Yang | SHINE | Updated: 2023-06-07



An examination site is ready at Xinzhuang High School in Minhang District.



A student in a red T-shirt displaying auspicious words meaning "to pass the exam" will sit the exam at Shanghai Qibao High School.

More than 50,000 high school students began their college entrance examination at over 100 sites citywide on Wednesday.

The annual college entrance examination, or *gaokao*, is one of the most important exams in China. This year, a record 12.91 million people have applied for the exam nationwide, marking an increase of 980,000 from 2022, according to figures released by the Ministry of Education.

In Shanghai, students, parents and teachers got up early this morning to ensure they could arrive at the examination sites on time and make a good start on the three-day exam.

The exam began at 9am and students were required to arrive 15 minutes earlier.

At the exam site at Xinzhuang High School in Minhang District, most students arrived between 7:30am and 8:30am. Teachers and parents checked their bags to make sure they had brought all necessary items such as the exam attendance docket, and no banned items were there, such as phones, digital watches with communications functions or other items that could be used for cheating.

One student was almost late after his parents' car got stuck on the way in a traffic jam. He got out and started to run to the exam site but quickly tired.

Fortunately, the mother of another student in the same school unit saw him and drove him to the site on her moped, dropping him off at the site at 8:42am, three minutes before the deadline.



Teachers dressed in red clothes hold signboards with auspicious words to express their best wishes for students.

Some parents and teachers dressed up to express their best wishes for the exam-takers.

Many parents and teachers wore red clothes as red is an auspicious and jubilant color which Chinese people believe brings good luck.

Several mothers wore cheongsam, or *qipao* (旗袍), as the first Chinese character is the same as in the auspicious idiom *qi kai de sheng* (旗开得胜), which means to win from the very beginning.

Some also brought sunflowers as their Chinese name *xiang ri kui* (向日葵) includes a character with the same pronunciation as a word in another auspicious idiom *yi ju duo kui* (一举夺魁), which means to win the championship or a top title at one stroke.



Mother Wu Xiaohui wears a tailor-made *qipao* and earrings shaped as four-leaved clovers, with a bunch flowers containing sunflowers, to express her sincere wish for her daughter to perform well in the exam.

Wu Xiaohui, the mother of a *gaokao* sitter, said she got up at 5:30am to prepare breakfast for her daughter and dressed for the occasion.

"We had *zongzi* (粽子), a traditional Chinese rice-pudding, and *dingshenggao* (定胜糕), a kind of rice cake whose name means 'sure to win', as the two combined sounds like *gaozhong* (高中), meaning to come first in the exam."

Wu said her *qipao* was custom-made and she also wore earrings shaped as four-leaved clovers as the Chinese name of the plant is *xingyuncao* (幸运草), literally meaning lucky grass. Four-leaved clovers are also considered lucky in Western culture.

The family even ate McDonald's McMuffins for breakfast as their Chinese name is *maimanfen* (麦满分), or "full mark". They've booked Pizza Hut for lunch as the Chinese name *bishengke* (必胜客) sounds like "most certain to win".



Teachers clap hands with students to wish them good luck with the exam.

At Shanghai Qibao High School, another test site in Minhang, the school gate was crowded with a bustling stream of people. Teachers and parents, many of whom were wearing red clothing, kept their children company before they headed for the *gaokao* venue, and sent them on their way with best wishes of love and care.

A line of teachers, dressed in red, stood along the student walkway that lead to the examination site and waved goodbye to the students with heart-warming cheers of "jia you" (加油) and blessing words. Some teachers gave their students deep hugs.

They were the Chinese group teachers from Minhang Foreign Language School Middle School Affiliated to SISU. The group leader, Li Huan, wearing a red shirt with the Chinese characters "*quan li yi fu*" (全力以赴), which means "go all out," and "*jin bang ti ming*" (金榜题名), meaning succeed in the *gaokao*, expressed her sincere wishes and confidence in her students.

"It has been a tradition for our school to wear red clothes and cheer on our students on this particular day every year," Li said. "It carries our best wishes for them to be admitted to their ideal colleges. We are always their strongest backers."



Parents watch their children head into the exam.

Many parents and families remained at the school gate after seeing their children off. They looked at the backs of their children as they walked toward the main building.

A mother surnamed Wei, wearing a red T-shirt with a "tick" emblem and the words "All Right" on the front, said that it demonstrated her best wishes to her daughter to answer the test questions correctly.

"I never put great pressure on her before the exam," Wei said. "We are like intimate friends. We always speak our minds to each other. It helps her to ease her worries and anxiety. So she feels very relaxed and confident about the exam."

The exam will run through Friday with four tests. The first test in the exam is Chinese and will be followed by maths, written English, and English listening and speaking tests.



Students hug each other before the exams begin.



Traffic police are in place to ensure traffic runs smoothly and students are safe.

China aims to build quality, balanced basic public education by 2027

Annoymous| Xinhua| Updated: 2023-06-14

BEIJING, June 13 -- China is aiming to establish a quality and balanced basic public education system by 2027, according to a new set of guidelines jointly released by the general offices of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council.

By 2035 China aims to become one of the world's leading countries in terms of the quality and equity of compulsory education services, the document says.

In the coming years the authorities will work to close the education gap between developed and less-developed regions, with a focus on school facilities, and will continue to spend resources on less-developed regions in central and western China, according to the document.

The education gap between urban and rural areas, among different schools and different groups of residents will also be addressed.

Priority will be given to rural schools. The relevant authorities will work to ensure that all rural children of school age receive compulsory education, while more information technology will be introduced to improve the quality of education of rural schools.

Headmasters and teachers will be encouraged to work at rural schools and those operating in inferior conditions. Policies and measures will be adopted to help children of migrant workers to attend schools where their parents work.

The authorities will also provide better education services for orphans, children without support and care, children who are left behind in rural areas and those in difficult situations.

More resources will also go to schools in regions with large ethnic minority populations to improve the quality of education there.

The document pledges that the government will continue to increase the budget for education, particularly compulsory education.

Dragon boat race makes a splash on 'Half Marathon Suzhou Creek' in Putuo

By Yanxian Su | SHINE | Updated: 2023-06-27



Shanghai's annual dragon boat race on Suzhou Creek concluded on June 18 in Putuo District. Along the newly unveiled "Half Marathon Suzhou Creek" section in Putuo,

the participating teams from across the world raced the pleasant waterway, and experienced its liveliness and vitality.

The race, serving as one leg of the 2023 China Dragon Boat Open Tournament, attracted 52 teams from home and abroad.

After two days of competition, team Guangdong Foshan and team Dongguan became the men's and women's champions of China Dragon Boat Open in the elite category. Shanghai Ocean University was crowned in the public category.

"The overall level of the teams is very high, and the competition is intense," said Leonora Escollante, the team leader of the Philippine Canoeing and Kayaking Federation Dragon Boat Team. "The racecourse conditions are excellent, which allows us to achieve good results."

The Malaysia Golden Arm Dragon Boat Team traveled a long way and started systematic training in the city several days ago to achieve good results in the competition.

When they arrived at the competition venue, the team members were immediately attracted by the excellent competition environment, according to the team leader.

"The water here is clear, the shore is green, the river is smooth, and the scenery is beautiful," said Yap Chee Kian, a member of the Malaysian team. "It feels very comfortable to paddle a dragon boat on the Suzhou Creek.

"The atmosphere of the competition is also great. Whether it's training or formal competition, there are many spectators cheering us along the coast."



The race on the Suzhou Creek offers a unique view of the urban landscape.

For Li Yantang, leader of team Macau, it's her eighth visit to Shanghai.

"Every time I arrive, I get the feeling that I'm returning home," Li said.

Compared to four years ago, there have been many changes in recent years, and the scenery along the Suzhou Creek is amazing, said Li.

"I still remember my first race in Shanghai was in 1999, the year that Macau returned to China. That was meaningful," Li added.

Despite the heavy rain in the morning, many citizens still showed up in the spectator areas to cheer for the rowers. The competition was held prior to this year's Dragon Boat Festival, which falls on June 22.

"Racing dragon boats on the Suzhou Creek during the Dragon Boat Festival is a continuation of excellent Chinese traditional culture," said Xiao Wengao, deputy director of Putuo District. "It is a vivid display of the spirit of dragon boat racing that promotes unity and competition, and a grand gathering of friends from all over the world."

The dragon boat races held in Putuo every year have attracted global attention to promote the rich cultural heritage and maritime traditions of the creek, Xiao said.

The participating teams and their members have shared heart-warming stories beyond the excitement of the competition, he noted.

Broadened horizons

The Shanghai Information Technology School Dragon Boat Team, composed of students from southwest China's Yunnan Province was among the rowers during this year's competition.

They benefited from China's poverty alleviation policies. Yang Jun, one of the students, said such race gave the students from Yunnan a chance to broaden their horizons.

"Participating in such activities provides us with comprehensive improvement in knowledge, skills and spirits," said Yang.

Under the leadership of Jin Jing, who carried the torch overseas during the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the Putuo District Disability and Health Integrated Dragon Boat Team was composed of physically challenged rowers.

Although they did not achieve top rankings, Jin expressed gratitude for the opportunity for them to paddle on the Suzhou Creek.

The dragon boat race allowed the team, which includes many hearing-impaired athletes, to integrate into the national sports environment and contribute to the promotion of inclusive sports, Jin said.

The event also featured several other characteristic teams, such as the Shanghai Pink Angels Dragon Boat Team composed of breast cancer survivors, the South Pole Dragon Boat Team consisting of crew members from China's Antarctic scientific expeditions.

By organizing the dragon boat races, Putuo has not only highlighted the sport but also shared the story of sports development in Putuo.

The well-planned and organized event ensured a spectacular, safe and high-quality dragon boat competition, according to the district government.

The Putuo District Education Bureau Dragon Boat Team, the Sanlin Town Chamber of Commerce Dragon Boat Team and the Shanghai Taopu Middle School Dragon Boat Team secured victories in various categories of the invitational race.

To accommodate the public's enthusiasm for this traditional dragon boat race, a section of the northern bank of the Suzhou Creek was opened for spectators. Within a short span of two days, nearly 10,000 reservations were made to watch the race in the area.

Furthermore, the organizing committee expanded the reach of the event by creating short videos that showcased the dragon boat races and the stories associated with the Suzhou Creek and life in Putuo.

These videos, featuring three expatriates living in Shanghai, were shared on domestic and international platforms, contributing to the promotion of the "Putuo Dragon Boat" as one of the calling cards of the city.

The Dragon Boat Race in Putuo District has once again become an integral part of people's lives, promoting the spirit of dragon boat racing and its contemporary value in this world-class waterfront area, said Gu Weiling, director of the Putuo District Sports Bureau.

"Putuo is not only rich in historical heritage but also full of vitality," Gu said.

Gu said Putuo will continue building a "golden sports system" for "Half-marathon Suzhou Creek" competitions in all categories.

Suzhou Creek, known as the "mother river" of Shanghai, is set to become demonstration of how a megacity can achieve quality development and life.

The creek is actually a 125-kilometer waterway that originates in Taihu Lake in neighboring Jiangsu Province and winds through the cities of Suzhou, Kunshan and Shanghai before finally emptying into the Huangpu River at the West Bund.



More than 50 dragon boat teams from home and abroad race down the Suzhou Creek during the annual dragon boat competition, attracting spectators who stop by to cheer on the paddlers.

'Mother river' of Shanghai

Since Shanghai opened its port to the world in 1843, the creek has been the backdrop for dramatic watersheds in the city's history. It was the scene of wartime suffering and the birthplace of China's earliest national industries.

The longest part of the creek is in Putuo, accounting for half of its downtown section, known as the "Half Marathon Suzhou Creek."

The "Half Marathon Suzhou Creek" is mapped out on the 21-km-long riverside section in Putuo, which aims to become a "sitting room" for the Yangtze River Delta region and a world-class waterfront.

As the creek passes through Putuo, it flows through the history of Shanghai's growth into an industrial city, according to the Putuo Culture and Tourism Bureau. Waterfront redevelopment preserves that heritage.

Beginning in the first decade of the 20th century, Chinese entrepreneurs built national industries, including textiles, flour, beer, minting and printing, along the most zigzagged section of the creek, known as the "18 bays."

Factories were established in what is now northwest Putuo to take advantage of convenient water transport.

The waterfront section known as Baocheng Bay, for instance, was home to a fifth of China's earliest textile factories, dating back to the 1920s.

After 1949, the Shanghai No. 1, 6 and 7 cotton factories were located on the waterfront, along with a military warehouse for quilts and uniforms. The site was dubbed the "cradle of China's textile industry."

Many of the former factory areas have been preserved by converting them for modern use, including the now popular M50 art hub, which opened in 2000, and the X Tower specialty park.

Walls and fences in parks and residential neighborhoods have been removed to allow convenient public access to the waterfront.

More than 1,000 sports, cultural and tourism events have been announced along the riverside section in Putuo.

The 2023 Shanghai Elite 10K Race, which has become one of the world's top elite races, will also be held on October 15. The route covers some of the signature landmarks in Putuo, including Changfeng Park and the half marathon park.

On the water, an urban elite regatta was held in Putuo on April 29 to gather amateur teams from local enterprises, clubs and universities. It became another key regatta on the creek, in addition to the Head of the Shanghai River Regatta at the mouth of the creek.

The Suzhou Creek Dragon Boat Race was launched in 2004 to highlight the results of a clean-up campaign on the waterway. It had become an important fixture in Putuo, as it showcased the city's commitment to the environment and rapid urban development, according to Putuo government.

Other public sports competitions, including paddle boarding, frisbee, rugby and drone flying will invite amateur citizens to compete along the creek through December.

The 2023 Half Marathon Suzhou Creek Culture and Art Festival will be held from September to October, featuring more than 1,000 activities at cultural venues, shopping complexes, sightseeing spots and communities along the creek in Putuo.

As part of Shanghai International Arts Festival, the Putuo festival has become a popular attraction in the city and the Yangtze River Delta region.

The festival has been held for more than a dozen consecutive years and become a characteristic brand of the district's public culture, attracting more than 500,000 participants a year on average.

UNESCO passes resolution on setting up category 1 institute in Shanghai

Source: www.moe.gov.cn | Updated: 2023-05-23

At the 216th session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Executive Board held in Paris on May 22, a resolution was unanimously passed to establish a category 1 institute in Shanghai to expand STEM education.

Members of the Executive Board recognized and applauded China's support for UNESCO, noting that this type of institution will bolster UNESCO's position as a global leader in advancing STEM education. They expressed confidence that the institute would play a crucial role in helping UNESCO accomplish its mission and achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Delegates also extended their warm congratulations to the head of the Chinese delegation, Chen Jie, China's Vice Minister of Education and Director of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO.

In his speech, Chen described the resolution as a historic landmark. He affirmed that China would follow through on its commitments and implement the resolution in collaboration with the Secretariat, and he extended his deepest gratitude and respect to all UNESCO Members and the Secretariat.

Category 1 institutes are crucial to UNESCO's mission. They act as incubators for new ideas and serve as standard-setters, facilitators of international cooperation, hubs for information sharing, and capacity builders within their respective areas of competence. As per UNESCO rules, the resolution on setting up a category 1 institute in China will be submitted to the Membership for final approval at the 42nd session of UNESCO this November. If approved, the institute will be the first UNESCO category 1 center in China and the first outside Europe.

US Supreme Court strikes down race-conscious college admissions policies

By Qingchu Wang| Xinhua| Updated:
2023-06-30



The US Supreme Court is seen following a decision by the Court to strike down race-conscious student admissions programs at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina, in Washington, US, on June 29, 2023.

The US Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that race-conscious admissions policies used by colleges and universities are unconstitutional, in a pair of cases involving Harvard University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The Supreme Court stated that the admissions policies of Harvard and the University of North Carolina (UNC), two of the oldest institutions of higher learning in the country, violated the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Chief Justice John Roberts authored the majority opinion, noting that "the Harvard and UNC admissions programs cannot be reconciled with the guarantees of the Equal Protection Clause."

"Both programs lack sufficiently focused and measurable objectives warranting the use of race, unavoidably employ race in a negative manner, involve racial stereotyping, and lack meaningful end points," he wrote, adding that "we have never permitted admissions programs to work in that way, and we will not do so today."

Roberts noted that "the student must be treated based on his or her experiences as an individual - not on the basis of race."

"Many universities have for too long done just the opposite. And in doing so, they have concluded, wrongly, that the touchstone of an individual's identity is not challenges bested, skills built, or lessons learned but the color of their skin," he wrote.

Harvard University responded to the decision in a statement that "we will certainly comply with the Court's decision."

"For almost a decade, Harvard has vigorously defended an admissions system that, as two federal courts ruled, fully complied with longstanding precedent. In the weeks and months ahead, drawing on the talent and expertise of our Harvard community, we will determine how to preserve, consistent with the Court's new precedent, our essential values," said the university.

"On behalf of the people of our state, we will work with the administration to ensure that the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill complies fully with today's ruling from the nation's highest court," David L. Boliek Jr., the chair of UNC-Chapel Hill's

Board of Trustees, said in a statement, adding that "we intend for America's oldest public university to keep leading."

The court decision made headlines across the country.

NBC pointed out that "the ruling is a massive blow to decades-old efforts to boost enrollment of racial minorities at American universities." CNN described it as "a landmark decision that overturns long-standing precedent that has benefited Black and Latino students in higher education."

"The ruling could have far-reaching effects, and not just at the colleges and universities across the country that are expected to revisit their admissions practices," commented The New York Times, one of the nation's major newspapers, adding that the decision could prompt employers to rethink how they consider race in hiring.

US politicians reacted to the decision along ideological lines.

President Joe Biden, a member of the Democratic Party, said in a news conference that "the court has effectively ended affirmative action in college admissions."

"I strongly, strongly disagree with the court's decision," he noted, adding that "we cannot let this decision be the last word."

The White House said in a press release that "the Supreme Court upended decades of precedent that enabled America's colleges and universities to build vibrant diverse environments where students are prepared to lead and learn from one another."

"Although the Court's decision threatens to move the country backward, the Biden-Harris Administration will fight to preserve the hard-earned progress we have made to advance racial equity and civil rights and expand educational opportunity for all Americans," said the press release.

Vice President Kamala Harris said in a press release that the decision "rolls back long-established precedent and will make it more difficult for students from underrepresented backgrounds to have access to opportunities that will help them fulfill their full potential."

On the other hand, members of the Republican Party welcomed the decision by the conservative-dominated Supreme Court.

US Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell said in a statement that "the Supreme Court's decisions on college admissions are a long-overdue step toward ensuring equal protection under the law."

"Most Americans agree that racial discrimination should play no part in the college admissions process. Now that the Court has reaffirmed that commonsense position, students can get a fair shot at college and the American dream on their merits," he added.

Former President Donald Trump praised the decision.

"This is a great day for America," he wrote on his Truth Social page, adding that "this is the ruling everyone was waiting and hoping for and the result was amazing."