

IT to be taught from Grade 6

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from next year, Education Minister Bandula Gunawardena said.

"It was pointed out by education experts that five aspects in the local education sector including IT, English, sports, mathematics and science and foreign languages and aesthetics should be further improved and updated. "Therefore we decided to initiate IT teaching for all the students who enter secondary education from 2012 onwards as a step towards enhancing the local education system. However, this decision would be first carried

out in schools that are equipped with facilities to teach IT," said Minister Gunawardena speaking at a media briefing held yesterday.

He added that

Information Technology (IT) would be introduced to the school curriculum for students above Grade 6 from next year, Education Minister Bandula Gunawardena said.

the syllabus for IT was currently being prepared by the officials of the National Institute of Education (NIE). The Minister who also responded to the controversy as a result of a proposal to make school hours from 7.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. said that it was senseless for anybody to object to the decision since it was not a new concept.

"Most of the schools countrywide used to follow this method unofficially to conduct extra lessons for students. Therefore

we are not making this decision compulsory for any school. It's simply a suggestion and schools that wish to follow the method are free to do so. However, the decision will be implemented for schools which would be facilitated and developed under the 1000 developed secondary schools project," he added.

Minister Gunawardena stated that they have already completed selecting schools to be developed under the project on provincial level and added that a maximum of three schools are selected from each divisional secretariat. "These schools would be facilitated with human resources as well as physical resources including computer labs, science labs, sports grounds etc. and we are planning to open three more schools of this nature from the next school term onwards," he said.

