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1 The System of Law

2 Fundamental Law of Education

3 Reform Movements in Educational Administration (1)

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5 The Board of Education

6 Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

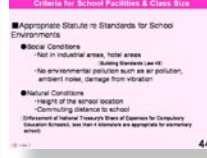
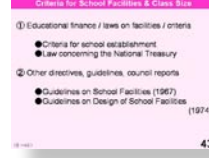
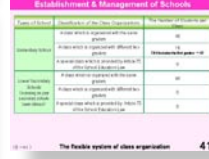
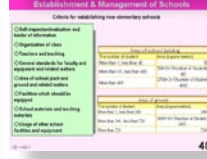
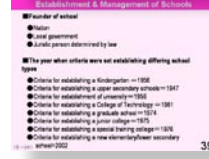
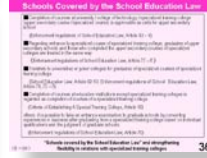
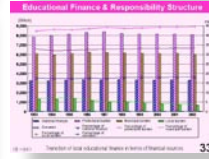
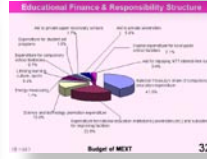
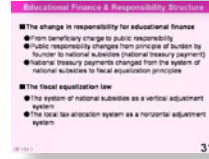
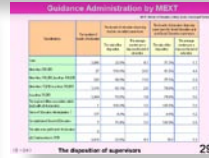
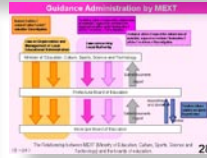
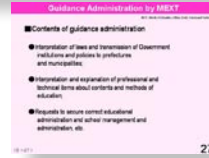
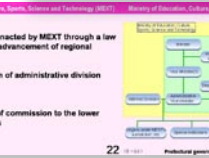
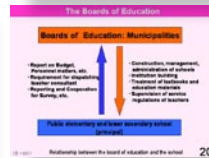
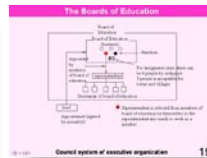
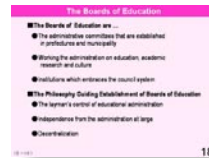
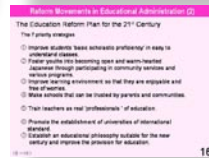
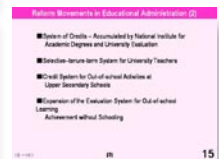
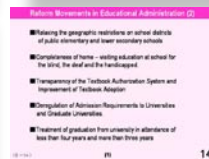
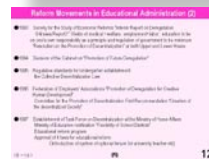
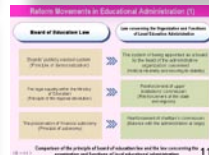
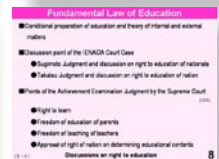
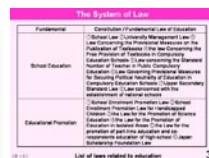
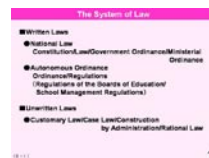
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Enrollment & Non-Attendance

●Duty of guardians to make children enroll
●Designation of school to enroll
●Compulsory school attendance (compulsory)
●Encouragement and assistance to attendance

●Actions Concerning non-attendance
●Arrangement of school resources
●Arrangement of counselor of moral education
●Class for school refusal children
●Private free schools

Enrollment & Non-Attendance

Year	Enrollment	Non-Attendance	Proportion of non-attendance
2000	14,444	1,234	8.55%
2001	15,123	1,345	8.89%
2002	16,789	1,456	8.67%
2003	17,234	1,567	9.09%
2004	18,567	1,678	9.04%
2005	19,890	1,789	8.99%
2006	21,123	1,890	8.95%
2007	22,456	1,901	8.47%
2008	23,789	2,012	8.46%
2009	25,123	2,123	8.45%
2010	26,456	2,234	8.41%
2011	27,789	2,345	8.44%
2012	29,123	2,456	8.43%
2013	30,456	2,567	8.43%
2014	31,789	2,678	8.42%
2015	33,123	2,789	8.42%
2016	34,456	2,890	8.39%
2017	35,789	2,901	8.11%
2018	37,123	3,012	8.11%
2019	38,456	3,123	8.12%
2020	39,789	3,234	8.13%
2021	41,123	3,345	8.13%
2022	42,456	3,456	8.14%
2023	43,789	3,567	8.14%
2024	45,123	3,678	8.15%
2025	46,456	3,789	8.15%
2026	47,789	3,890	8.14%
2027	49,123	4,012	8.17%
2028	50,456	4,123	8.17%
2029	51,789	4,234	8.17%
2030	53,123	4,345	8.18%

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Self-Evaluation / Third Party School Evaluations

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●Third Party School Evaluations

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Disclosure of Educational Information

●Providing information to parents
●Disclosure of educational information

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School Councilor System

●The placement of school councilors
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Textbooks & Supplementary Materials

●Criteria for textbook authorization for various compulsory education schools (January 1986)
●Evaluation toward Learning which 2002 appeal for improvement of "Students Ability"
●The Textbook Survey and Authorization Council
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Disciplinary Action Against Children & Students

●School Education Law article 11
●Disciplinary action against children and students

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Specially Supported Education System

●Change of situations regarding education of handicapped students
●Basic ways of thinking of specially supported education
●Individual educational support plan
●Current situation and ways to deal with Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
●Permitted Enrollment

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Students of the Permitted Enrollment System

●Conditions of the student
●Students of the Permitted Enrollment System

Students of the Permitted Enrollment System

●Conditions of the student
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Education of Children in Isolated Areas

●The Law for the Promotion of Education in Isolated Areas
●Grading of isolated areas
●Special allowances for teachers working in isolated areas
●Project for development of IT application method for schools in isolated areas

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Evening Lower Secondary Schools

●What is an evening lower secondary school?
●Evening lower secondary schools

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Evening Lower Secondary Schools

●What is an evening lower secondary school?
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Evening Lower Secondary Schools

●What is an evening lower secondary school?
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Lower Secondary Equivalency Examination

●Purpose
●Qualifications for examination
●Subjects

Lower Secondary Equivalency Examination

●Purpose
●Qualifications for examination
●Subjects

Lower Secondary Equivalency Examination

●Purpose
●Qualifications for examination
●Subjects

Lower Secondary Equivalency Examination

●Purpose
●Qualifications for examination
●Subjects

The System of Law

■ Written Laws

● National Law

Constitution/Law/Government Ordinance/Ministerial Ordinance

● Autonomous Ordinance

Ordinance/Regulations
(Regulations of the Boards of Education/
School Management Regulations)

■ Unwritten Laws

● Customary Law/Case Law/Construction

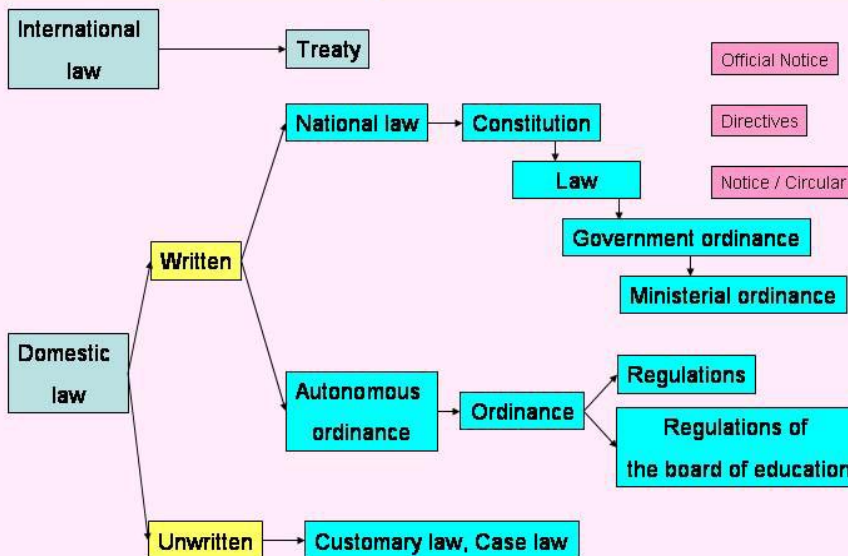
by Administration/Rational Law

(Ⅱ-1)

1

Japanese laws are composed of written laws and unwritten laws. Written laws in which the supreme statute is the Constitution of Japan, are divided into two types of law: one is national laws that are enacted by the Diet, the Cabinet and Ministries, while the other is autonomous ordinances provided by autonomous regional entities and other organizations. The kinds of unwritten laws are customary laws, case laws, construction by administration and rational laws. In Japan, construction by administration such as through notification and reply on provisions by the responsible Civil Service authorities has substantial function as law formulation.

The System of Law



(Ⅱ-2)

2

In this slide, the genealogy of the national law in statute form is briefly explained. Japan's supreme law is the Constitution. The government ordinance is issued by the cabinet to utilize laws that are formed through concrete deliberations of the Congress. The ministerial ordinance is an order from the Ministers of State of each ministry or government office. For instance, in the School Education Law, the enforcement regulations of the School Education Law consist of ministerial ordinances. In the ministerial ordinance, the criteria for establishment of schools and textbook authorization are included. The official notice, directive, and the notice / circular on the top right corner of the figure are issued by Ministers of State. However, when compared to ministerial ordinances which have legislative restraints, these alternatives carry legislative restraints.

Therefore, penalties or sanctions aren't applied if they are violated. Though the Course of Study is the directive, the administrators of curriculums who don't follow the Course of Study are likely to be punished for violations of the enforcement regulations of the School Education Law, which provide that a curriculum has to be in line with the Course of Study.

The System of Law

Fundamental	Constitution / Fundamental Law of Education
School Education	①School Law ②University Management Law ③Law Concerning the Provisional Measures on the Publication of Textbooks ④the law Concerning the Free Provision of Textbooks in Compulsory Education Schools ⑤Law concerning the Standard Number of Teacher in Public Compulsory Education ⑥Law Governing Provisional Measures for Securing Political Neutrality of Education in Compulsory Education Schools ⑦Upper Secondary Standard Law ⑧Law concerned with the establishment of national schools
Educational Promotion	①School Enrollment Promotion Law ②School Enrollment Promotion Law for Handicapped Children ③the Law for the Promotion of Science Education ④the Law for the Promotion of Education in Isolated Areas ⑤the Law for the promotion of part-time education and co-respondents education of high-school ⑥Japan Scholarship Foundation Law

(Ⅱ-3)

List of laws related to education

3

Various educational laws of Japan are based on Article 11 of the Fundamental Law of Education and were laid down as necessary laws for enforcement. In terms of their form as a law, the Fundamental Law of Education and other laws related to education have the same characteristics. However, because of its special features, the Fundamental Law of Education is treated in correspondence with the Constitution.

- Private schooling:
- Social education:
- Educational Laws: Law for the Special Regulations Concerning Educational Public Service / Law concerning Local Public Servants / National Public Services Personnel Law / Law on Share of Allowance / Law of Securing of Capable

Educational Personnel / Special Measures Law for the Payment of Salary etc. to Educational Personnel / Educational Personnel Certification Law

○ Educational Administration and Finance : Law concerning Local Administration and Finance / Autonomous Law / Ministry of Education Establishment Law / Local Financial Law / Law concerning Tax Grants of Local Government / Law concerning the National Treasury's Share of Compulsory Education Expenses / Law on Share of Allowance / Law concerning the National Treasury's Share of Facilities Expenses / Law concerning Relief of Natural Disaster Expenditure / Extraordinary Treatment Law concerning Rebuilding of Dangerous Facilities of Public Senior High School / Law Governing Special Measures for the Establishment of Special Schools for the Disabled

The System of Law



2005

Every year, publishing companies publish a revised edition of the statute book related to education. This updated statute corresponds to changes in the field of education because of revisions of educational laws in sequence. Recently, educational institutions have been required to learn diverse laws even though such laws don't directly relate to education, such as the Copyright Law. As a result, the volume of statute books has been increasing yearly. There is an indication that deregulation has helped to cause such increases in the revisions in laws.

(Ⅱ-4)

The compendium of educational laws

4

Fundamental Law of Education

- Article 1 Aim of Education
- Article 2 Educational Principle
- Article 3 Equal Opportunity of Education
- Article 4 Compulsory education
- Article 5 Co-education
- Article 6 School education
- Article 7 Social education
- Article 8 Political education
- Article 9 Religious education
- Article 10 School Administration
- Article 11 Additional Rule

(Ⅱ-5)

5

Article 1: Aim of education = "the full development of personality"

Article 2: Educational principle = "all occasions" "in all places"

Article 3: Equal opportunity of education = "according to ability"

Article 4: Compulsory education = ""

Article 5: Coeducation = ""

Article 6: School education = ""

Article 7: Social education = life-long education

Article 8: Political education = ""

Article 9: Religious education = ""

Article 10: School administration = ""

Fundamental Law of Education

■ Fundamental principles and issues

- ① The significance of regulations on educational objectives
- ② The equal opportunity of education and prohibition against discrimination in education
→ The interpretation of "according to their ability"
- ③ Compulsory education
→ Nation's obligation to have their children receive secular education, and the country and autonomies' obligation for conditional maintenance
- ④ Public nature of school education
- ⑤ Lifelong learning and social education
- ⑥ Neutrality of education (politically/ religiously)
- ⑦ The educational administration in the course of maintenance and establishment of educational conditions

(Ⅱ-6)

6

① Japan's Fundamental Law of Education has regulations on educational objectives, and it was designed to eradicate the super-national education of the pre-World War II period.

② Breaking economic barriers to receive education was a major objective of the Fundamental Law of Education system. The interpretation of education "according to ability" is unequivocal.

③ There is a discussion on the meaning of compulsory education, that is whether it means to enroll formally in schools as provided by the law or should it be understood in a broader sense.

④ There is a discussion on the public nature of education.

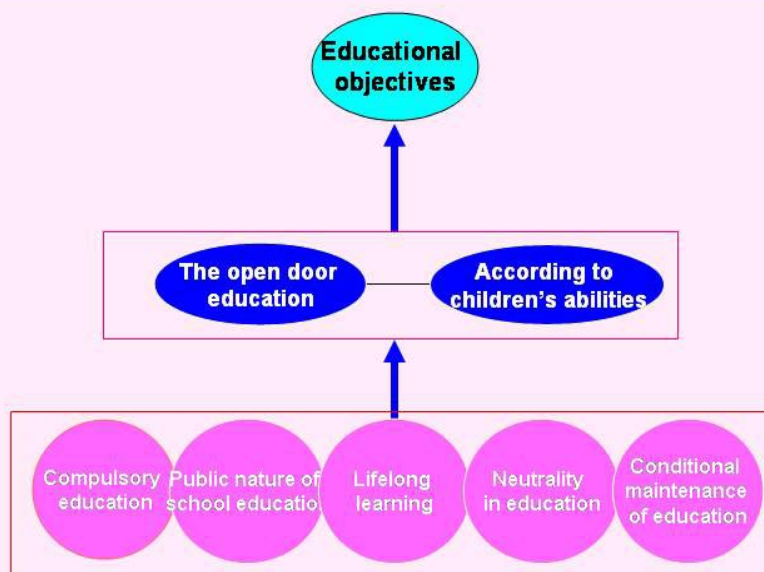
⑤ It includes the idea of lifelong learning and the relationship between

lifelong learning and Social Education.

⑥ There is a sense of avoidance of politics and religion among teachers because of the strong demand for the political and religious neutrality in education.

⑦ There has been a discussion on the bounds of the state, that is how far it can participate in the stipulation and maintenance of appropriate educational conditions.

Fundamental Law of Education



(Ⅱ-7)

7

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Fundamental Law of Education

■ Conditional preparation of education and theory of internal and external matters

■ Discussion point of the IENAGA Court Case

- Sugimoto Judgment and discussion on right to education of nationals
- Takatsu Judgment and discussion on right to education of nation

■ Points of the Achievement Examination Judgment by the Supreme Court

(1976)

- Right to learn
- Freedom of education of parents
- Freedom of teaching of teachers
- Approval of right of nation on determining educational contents

(Ⅱ-8)

Discussions on right to education

8

The review below mentions two key court cases and illustrates various arguments that were made concerning participation by the state in education, and that had a large influence on reforms of educational administration in Japan after World War II. Specifically, the Court Case on Textbooks, and the Court Case on the Achievement Examination dealt with the issues of citizens' right to learn and on who in Japan has the right to education.

It is clear that discussions on how much a nation should be involved in the education of Japanese nationals was one element that raised awareness of educational issues after the World War II. Namely, what type of educational

administration is required and desirable?. It was clear that initiatives for restructuring educational administration fell behind actual needs, such as mechanisms that could representative parents and promote community involvement, as well as to nurture school autonomy. These days, cooperation between the state (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) and teachers (Association of Teachers in Japan) has increased substantially, thereby encouraging reforms on educational administration.

Reform Movements in Educational Administration (1)

- 1948 Board of Education Law
- 1954 Revision of the Educational Personnel Certification Law, and Promulgation of Law concerning Continued Neutrality of Education
- 1956 Law concerning the Organization and Functions of Local Educational Administration
- 1971 Final Report of the Central Council for Education
- 1987 Final report of the National Task Force for Educational Reform
- 1999 Law concerned with the advancement of regional devolution

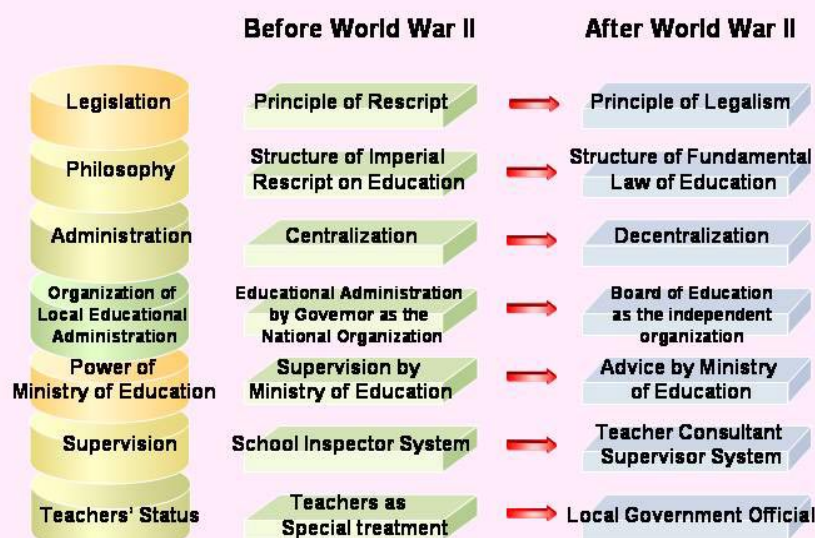
(II-9)

9

The adjacent flow chart shows that until the 1960s, post-World War II reforms focused mostly on educational administration. After the 1970s, reforms shifted from centralization to decentralization. The Board of Education Law in 1948 enabled Japanese educational administration to start over based on the principle of democratization. During the 1950s, when the key policy concern was to secure political neutrality in education, the Board of Education Law was revised and the Law concerning the Organization and Functions of Local Educational Administration was enacted. These reforms promoted centralization of educational administration. We

can see the prototype of the educational reform steps taken since the 1980s in the Report of the Central Council for Education based on the three principles (respect for the individual, transition to a lifelong learning system, accommodation to the changes in society such as internationalization and information exchange).

Reform Movements in Educational Administration (1)



(II-10)

Comparison of educational administration before and after the war

10

When comparing the pre-war and the post-war Japanese educational philosophy and responsibility there are three prominent features. First, before World War II, legislation re educational laws was based on the principle of Imperial Ordinance. After the war, it switched to the principle of legislative enactment embodied in the Constitution of Japan and the Fundamental Law of Education. Second, before the war, education was a national affair, not autonomous. While the Government was responsible for administration of schools and personnel management, regional entities were responsible for maintenance of school plan and the pay for teachers. After the war, whereas regions have responsibilities for education based on the principle of decentralization, the national

government retains the functions to provide guidance and advice to the regional bodies. Third, before the war, educational authority in Japan was based on a top-down mechanism centered in the School Inspector System: Minister of Education (School Inspector) – Governor (Prefecture School Inspector and County School Inspector) – Mayor (Education Affairs Committee) – Principal and Teacher. After the war, however, the basic principle was adopted that the Ministry of Education and the Boards of Education are legally equivalent.

Reform Movements in Educational Administration (1)

Board of Education Law

Boards' publicly elected system
(Principle of democratization)

The legal equality within the Ministry
of Education
(Principle of the regional devolution)

The preservation of financial autonomy
(Principle of autonomy)

Law concerning the Organization and Functions of Local Educational Administration

The system of being appointed as a board
by the head of the administrative
organization concerned
(Political neutrality and securing its stability)

Reinforcement of upper
institutions' commission
(Reinforcement of the state
and regions)

Reinforcement of chieftain's commission
(Balance with the administration at large)

(II-11) **Comparison of the principle of board of education law and the law concerning the organization and functions of local educational administration** **11**

The adjacent Figure shows the meanings of the principle of democratization, regional devolution, and autonomy enacted by the Board of Education in 1948 as well as alterations under the Law concerning the Organization and Functions of Local Educational Administration. The revisions associated with recent decentralization are also mentioned. The Law concerning the Organization and Functions of Local Educational Administration distanced itself from the legislative substance of the Board of Education Law, with methods for activating Boards of Education remaining an issue. The Law concerning the Organization and Functions of Local Education Administration in 1999 restructured educational administration

under general administration, involving repeals of aspects of decentralization such as the superintendent appointment system and the institution of commission affairs.

Reform Movements in Educational Administration (2)

- 1993 Society for the Study of Economic Reforms "Interim Report on Deregulation (Hiraiwa Report)" (fields of medical • welfare, employment • labor, education to be on one's own responsibility as a principle and regulation of government to be minimum "Resolution on the Promotion of Decentralization" at both Upper and Lower House
- 1994 Decision of the Cabinet on "Promotion of Future Deregulation"
- 1995 Regulative standards for kindergarten establishment the Collective Decentralization Law
- 1996 Federation of Employers' Associations "Promotion of Deregulation for Creative Human Development" Committee for the Promotion of Decentralization First Recommendation "Creation of the decentralized Society"
- 1997 Establishment of Task Force on Decentralization at the Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Education notification "Flexibility of School Districts" Educational reform program Approval of 4 laws for educational reform (Introduction of system of optional tenure for university teacher etc)

(II-12)

(1)

12

In a contemporary welfare state, where educational administration is required to actively provide education, the role of the central educational administration is strengthened and the financial burden on the state increases. As a result, reforms were needed in various aspects of educational administration and accompanying financial systems. These include i) the administration participation system, ii) implementation of educational plans, iii) preparation of an educational research system. A common problem of contemporary welfare states is that tax revenue levels are inversely proportional to the provision of welfare. A major feature of social reforms regarding education in developed countries during the 1980's was deregulation. Deregulating

countries entrusted their private sectors with public works projects or privatized nationalized industries, and promoted "small government," trying to activate their economic activities based on the principle of competition. Educational administration under a deregulation policy involves shifting the role of educational administration from a pre-regulated type to post-check-type, performing the important task of trying to maintain the public nature of services. While the educational administration of a welfare state attempts to control educational plans in order to carry out efficient educational undertakings with limited educational resources, the educational administrative approach under deregulation attempts to mobilize the energy of the private sector in order to maximize the value of money rather than educational plans, and to make effective use of competitive educational resources.

Reform Movements in Educational Administration (2)

- 1998 Partial amendment of School Education Law (Optional introduction of consistent secondary education)
Central Council for Education Report "How Local Administration on Education Should Be"
- 1999 Law concerned with the advancement of regional devolution
- 2000 Amendment of enforcement regulations of the School Education Law (school councilor, appointment qualification of principal / vice – principal, position of teachers' meeting)
- 2001 Education reform plan for the 21st century (the Rainbow Plan)
Approval of six laws related to educational reform
(public opening of board of education's meetings, appropriate correspondence to non-qualified teachers, skipping entrance to school)

(Ⅱ -13)

(2)

13

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Reform Movements in Educational Administration (2)

- Relaxing the geographic restrictions on school districts of public elementary and lower secondary schools
- Completeness of home – visiting education at school for the blind, the deaf and the handicapped.
- Transparency of the Textbook Authorization System and Improvement of Textbook Adoption
- Deregulation of Admission Requirements to Universities and Graduate Universities.
- Treatment of graduation from university in attendance of less than four years and more than three years

(Ⅱ -14)

(1)

14

The Educational Reform Program is one of the six structural reforms carried out by the Hashimoto cabinet. After the announcement of the program in January, 1997, it was revised several times and finally the program was completed in September, 1999 (the sub-title "to forge an educational nation.") The reform items on the program are steadily becoming institutions over time.

Reform Movements in Educational Administration (2)

- **System of Credits – Accumulated by National Institute for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation**
- **Selective–tenure-term System for University Teachers**
- **Credit System for Out-of-school Activities at Upper Secondary Schools**
- **Expansion of the Evaluation System for Out-of-school Learning Achievement without Schooling**

(II-15)

(2)

15

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Reform Movements in Educational Administration (2)

The Education Reform Plan for the 21st Century

The 7 priority strategies

- ① **Improve students 'basic scholastic proficiency' in easy to understand classes.**
- ② **Foster youths into becoming open and warm-hearted Japanese through participating in community services and various programs.**
- ③ **Improve learning environment so that they are enjoyable and free of worries.**
- ④ **Make schools that can be trusted by parents and communities.**
- ⑤ **Train teachers as real 'professionals' of education.**
- ⑥ **Promote the establishment of universities of international standard.**
- ⑦ **Establish an educational philosophy suitable for the new century and improve the provision for education.**

(II-16)

16

The progress of the seven priority strategies and their position in the overall Japanese educational policy are under discussion and review. Key aspects are as follows:

① Increase in the number of teachers capable of providing small-group guidance, such as the 20 students per class system for fundamental subjects in public elementary schools and lower secondary schools. ② Undertake decisions by the prefectural boards of education to set up exceptional standards regarding class size which fall below that of the average determined by the state. (40 students per class) ⇒ Improve students' basic scholastic proficiency 'in easy to understand classes'.

③ Establish the 'Children's Dream Fund' and implement programs (a) for children to experience nature, to conduct hands-on activities such as volunteer work (b) of subsidizing children's book-reading activities such as book clubs ⇒ Enhance various hands-on and reading activities in the community.

④ Diversify the composition of members of the boards of education and recruitment of parents. Open meetings of the boards of education to the public. Provide greater discretion for principals to transfer school personnel. ⇒ activate boards of education.

Transfer incompetent teachers to a different job. ⇒ Take appropriate measures on incompetent teachers

The figure on http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/shougai/21plan/main_b2.htm or

http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/shougai/21plan/p5.htm,

http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/soshiki2/07.htm

Reform Movements in Educational Administration (2)



(Ⅱ-17)

February 2004

17

English Training for in-service teachers (from Kindergarten, elementary and lower secondary schools in an English education special zone in Mito, Ibaraki). Mito city will start English education in elementary school from next year as a special educational plan.

The Boards of Education

■ The Boards of Education are ...

- The administrative committees that are established in prefectures and municipality
- Working the administration on education, academic research and culture
- Institutions which embraces the council system

■ The Philosophy Guiding Establishment of Boards of Education

- The layman's control of educational administration
- Independence from the administration at large
- Decentralization

(Ⅱ-18)

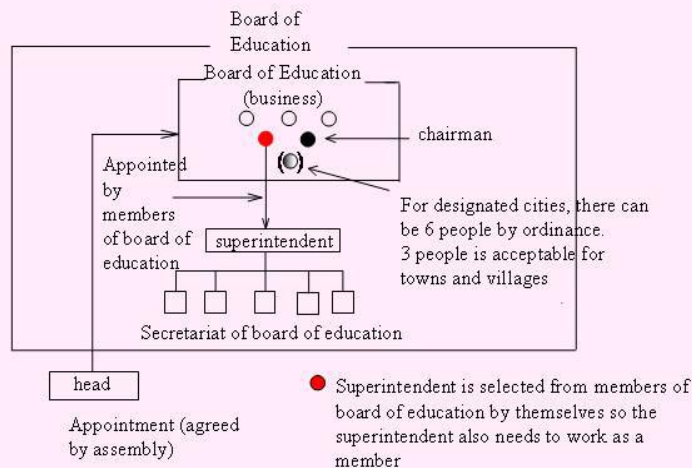
18

The Japanese Board of Education system was made by drawing from the example of America's educational administrative system after World War II. While the latter system did not address Japan's actual conditions, the concepts and philosophy of the Japanese system clearly reflect America's Board of Education system. Aspects of the Japanese system are shown in the next slide. We will cover the philosophy, actual conditions, and issues re the Board of Education system that are central to educational administration in Japan.

The Municipal Boards of Education which establish public elementary schools and lower secondary schools need to cooperate with the heads of municipalities regarding financing of general education because the boards don't have authority over

budgeting. Also, they need to explain the meaning and contents of the philosophy of independent general administration because municipality heads are concerned with educational administration. In addition, the distinction between the theoretical philosophical level and actual practice is needs clarification under decentralization policies, since these are directly linked to the recent revisions of the Law concerning the Organization and Functions of Local Education Administration.

The Boards of Education



(II-19)

Council system of executive organization

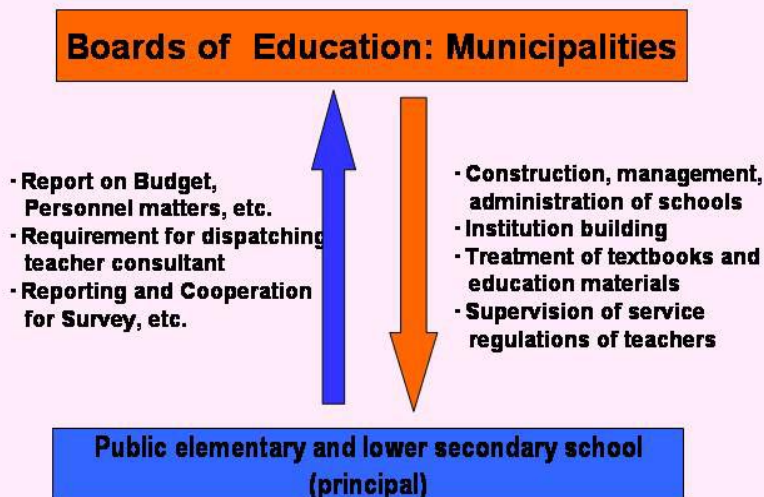
19

The board of education is a council system of organization that usually consists of five members. While the board of education has the right to decide policies about the management and enforcement of educational / academic / cultural administration from a broad point of view, a major duty of the superintendent of the board of education as an expert on educational administration is the actual execution of policies. The superintendent is required to attend all meetings of the board and to give advice on proceedings. The secretariat is also set up to deal with office work that is under the authority of the board's scope of duties. The secretariat includes teacher consultant supervisors, clerical staff and technical staff.

In this diagram, the sixth member of

the board is listed in parenthesis. This indicates that the board of education "can consist of six people." As indicated above, the secretariat is under the authority of the superintendent and is viewed as comprising a part of the board of education in a broad sense.

The Boards of Education



(II-20)

Relationship between the board of education and the school

20

The above chart shows school related functions of general educational administration, academic research and cultural aspects, that are functions of the Boards of Education. This chart shows the relationship between the municipal boards of education and the founders of public elementary and lower secondary schools. The relationship between the prefectural board of education and private schools are omitted from the chart. Also, the items indicated by the arrow show the main features of the roles of the Boards of Education and public elementary and lower secondary schools and do not cover all the relationships between them.

Typically, the relationship between the Boards of Education and schools

was conflictual involving opposition. Recently, through educational administration reforms, such relationships have become more cooperative and collaborative. Local autonomous bodies have been set up that delegate additional rights to principals, such as budget implementation and school management that under the stronger authority delegated to principals has improved the rate educational progress.

(Legal regulations of principal's duty → VI- 15)

The Boards of Education



(Ⅱ - 21)

Meeting of a board of education

February 2004

21

The decision-making of Boards of Education is done at meetings that are convened and presided by the superintendents of the boards of education who represent and act on behalf of the boards. The attendance of the chairpersons of individual boards of education and more than half of the committee members is needed to stage an official meeting and vote. The order of business is decided by the majority of committee in attendance, but if the pros and cons are equal, final decisions are referred to the chairpersons of the boards of education. Provided that decisions are viewed as fair, the committee will not discuss any aspects related to personal and business affairs of individual

committee members. The meetings are basically open to the public as indicated by the presence of observers in the above picture.

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

■ Revised aspects enacted by MEXT through a law concerned with the advancement of regional devolution

- 1) The specification of administrative division
- 2) Deregulation
- 3) The delegation of commission to the lower administrative levels

(Ⅱ - 22)

22

This slide shows aspects of revised functions of the government and local regional entities as a result of the establishment of Law concerning the Advancement of Regional Devolution and the Law concerning the Organization and Functions of Local Education Administration in 1999. The legislation made 475 laws concerning 23 ministries. The revisions that relate to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology amount to 20 laws and one ordinance. The following points summarize the substance of the revisions.

1) Specification of administrative division

Deletion of School Educational Law § 106 and clarification of the functions of the Supervision Agency. It also includes clarification of legal trust

duties in the Private School Promotion Subsidy Law § 17.

2) Deregulation

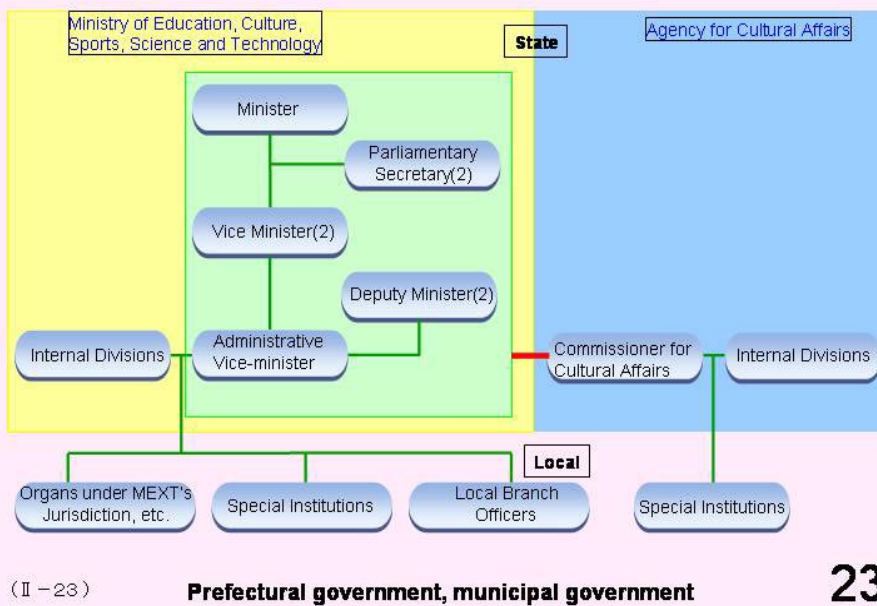
Changed provisions "give the general instruction" to "establish a technical standard" under the Law concerning the Organization and Functions of Local Educational Administration § 43:4, "shall / should do" becomes "allowed to do" in the same law, § 48:1, and "approval" shifts to "consultation and agreement" in regulations concerning the standard class-size and the fixed number of educational personnel at public compulsory schools.

3) The delegation of commission to the lower part

For example, the Law concerning Organization and Management of Local Education Administration abolished the followings:

- "appointment and approval" of superintendent of boards of education
- "authorization" to boards of education of designated cities by prefectural boards of education
- "authorization" concerning secondary school

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

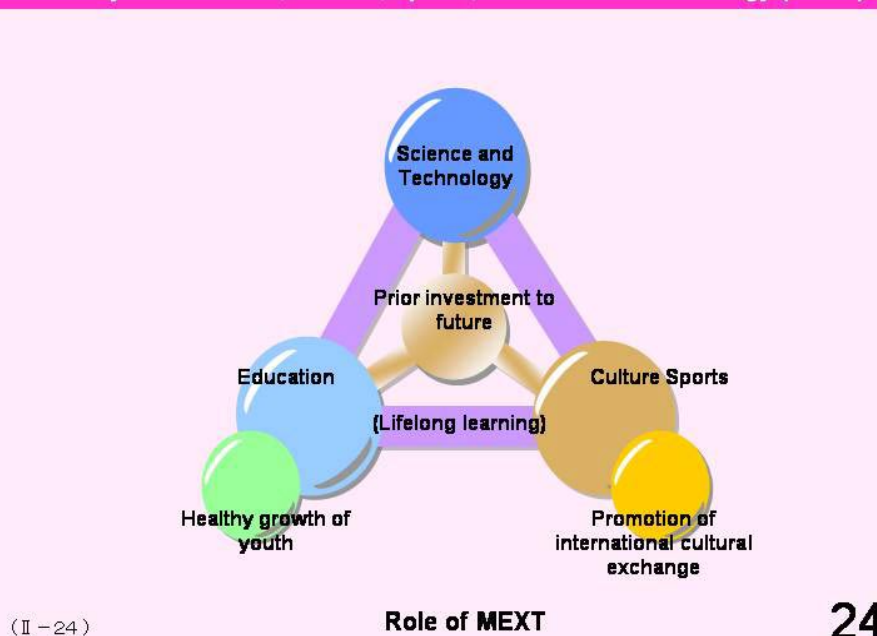


The educational administrative organization of Japan consists of the Cabinet and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The right of administration of the state belongs to the Cabinet, and the Prime Minister directs and supervises each section of administration. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) mainly takes charge of educational affairs among all the ministries under the control of Cabinet that plan and carry out policies. The Education ministry was formed by integrating the former Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture and the Science and the Technology Agency under ministerial reforms enacted in 2001. It also functions as a government policy-making office was

strengthened. In MEXT, councils were set up including the Central Council for Education and the Council of the Textbook Survey for Authorization. The councils discuss and submit reports requested by MEXT.

(The diagram http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/soshiki2/index.htm)

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)



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. → http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/soshiki2/index.htm

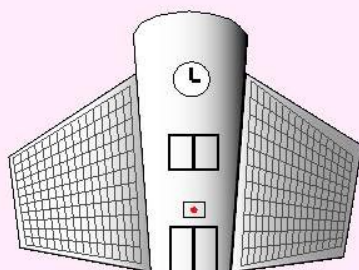
■ The role of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

- Establish a nationwide basic framework of educational system
- Set national standards
- Support improvements in local educational conditions
- Support measures for appropriate implementation of programs

(Ⅱ-25)

25

The law concerning the Advancement of Regional Devolution basically implemented the content of the Report of Central Council of Education, "Regional Devolution in the Future" in 1998. This law states that the role of the state in educational administration is largely transferred to local governments, and the role of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) is to make a basic policy framework and to set standards of educational contents.



(Ⅱ-26)

26

Since 2000, the Central Council of Education consists of the following subcommittees: ① Subcommittee on Education Systems; ② Subcommittee on Life-Long Learning; ③ Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education; and ④ Subcommittee on Sports and Youth. The Council submitted a Report in 2003, which emphasized: ① revision of standard of university establishment; ② revision of the Fundamental Law of Education and the Basic Plan of Educational promotion; ③ improvement in strategies for presenting curriculum and instruction in primary and secondary education; and ④ development of an international student policy.

Guidance Administration by MEXT

MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

■ Contents of guidance administration

- Interpretation of laws and transmission of Government institutions and policies to prefectures and municipalities;
- Interpretation and explanation of professional and technical items about contents and methods of education;
- Requests to secure correct educational administration and school management and administration, etc.

(II - 27)

27

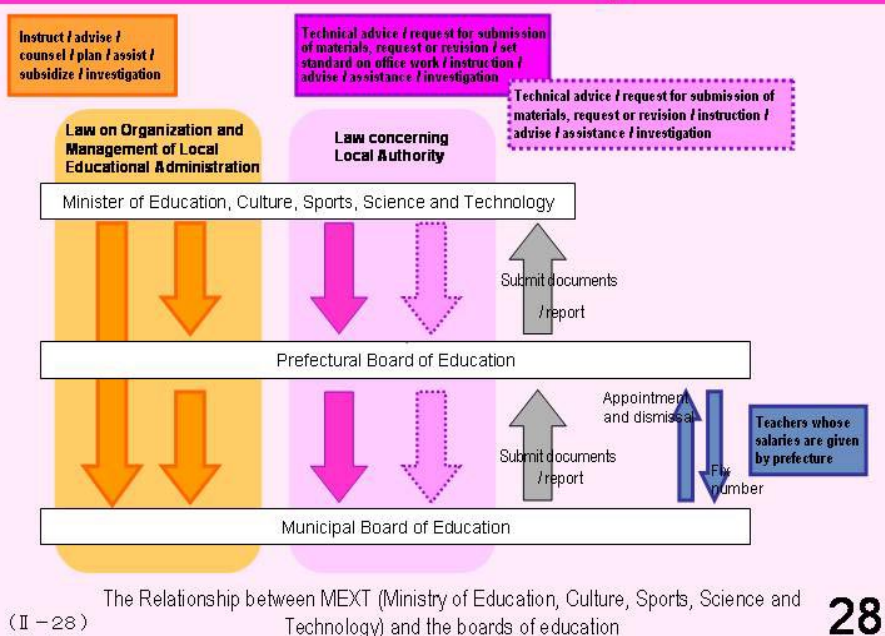
* Emphasize supportive functions, such as collection and provision of information;

* Stress correction of educational administration and school management and administrative aspects that violate laws, such as the Fundamental Law of Education and School Education Law

Guidance administration covers non-authoritative and non-binding administrative actions such as guidance, advice and assistance. As stated in the tenth article of the Fundamental Law of Education, the duty of educational administrators is to prepare and establish appropriate educational conditions. In recent years, educational administrators are also expected to operate in a non-authoritative manner so that educational activities can evolve freely and creatively with respect for the relative independence and autonomy of Board of Education and schools. Key aspects of the task to provide guidance and advice regarding regional ownership of education includes:

* Avoid constraining the judgments by prefectures and municipalities;

Guidance Administration by MEXT



(II - 28)

28

The Law concerning Local Authority and the Law on Organization and Management of Local Educational Administration, were revised on the basis of the Law concerning the Advancement of Regional Devolution enacted in 1999. These laws prescribe the relationship between the state Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and boards of education. In the regulations of the Law concerning Local Authority, the Minister of MEXT has the authority over technical advice, requests for submission of materials, requests for revisions, instructions, advice, assistance, and coordination of the autonomous administration of boards of education. Regarding administration of

the prefectures, whereas previously revisions were issued directly in response to requests, now the situation has changed to a system of instructions re setting criteria for administrative management. Under the Law concerned with the Advancement of Regional Devolution, the Minister of MEXT has authority to instruct, advise, counsel, plan, assist, subsidize, and investigate local boards of education.

Guidance Administration by MEXT

MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Classifications	The number of boards of education	The boards of education disposing teacher consultant supervisors		The boards of education disposing supervisors for Social Education and sent Social Education supervisors	
		The ratio of the disposition	The average number per a disposed board of education	The ratio of the disposition	The average number per a disposed board of education
Total	3,406	32.6%	4.1	71.3%	1.7
More than 500,000	27	100.0%	28.5	81.5%	4.4
More than 100,000, less than 500,000	228	99.0%	11.6	77.1%	2.4
More than 15,000, less than 100,000	1,010	63.1%	2.6	74.6%	1.7
Less than 15,000	1,964	15.5%	1.4	74.6%	1.6
The regional affairs association which deals with all of education	1	100.0%	1.0	100.0%	1.0
Union of Education Administration I	177	4.0%	3.3	9.6%	1.2
Co-established Board of Education	7	71.4%	3.0	100.0%	2.9
The wide area joint board of education	2				
(cf.) Total number in 1999	3,418	31.5%	4.1	76.1	1.8

(II-29)

The disposition of supervisors

29

other is delegated from prefectural boards of education. Among approximately 3,200 municipal boards of education in Japan, only 1/3 of them have supervisors.

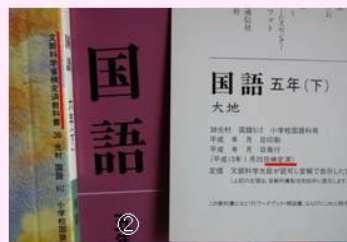
"The Japanese supervisory system reflects the conversion of the former system of directive educational administration into a system of advisory educational administration as an outcome of post-war educational administrative reforms. The aim of this system is to support schools through constructive guidance and advice based on expert knowledge and experience. Supervisors who are assigned to boards of education take charge of specialized guidance for principals and teachers regarding curriculums and teaching. During the pre-war period, this task was handled by inspectors. Currently, there are two types of supervisors: one type is appointed by municipalities while the

Guidance Administration by MEXT

MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology



November 2004



(II-30)

30

The duties of the supervisors, as specified in Article 19 of the Law concerning the Organization and Management of Local Education Administration, are as follows:

- Supervisors, under the direction of their superiors, engage in office work related to guidance of technical matters involving curriculums at schools, instruction improvement and in guidance of other school educational staff.

- Supervisors should have broad backgrounds in education and be cultured and experienced regarding technical matters regarding curriculums at schools, instruction improvement and matters pertaining to other school education staff.

① Initial training for new elementary school principals done by the prefectural education board, November

2004 (In service training → VIII- 15 ~ 22, VIII- 29 ~ 31)

② Textbook authorization (→ II- 63)

③ Course of study (→ IV- 13 ~ 16)

Educational Finance & Responsibility Structure

■ The change in responsibility for educational finance

- From beneficiary charge to public responsibility
- Public responsibility changes from principle of burden by founder to national subsidies (national treasury payment)
- National treasury payments changed from the system of national subsidies to fiscal equalization principles

■ The fiscal equalization law

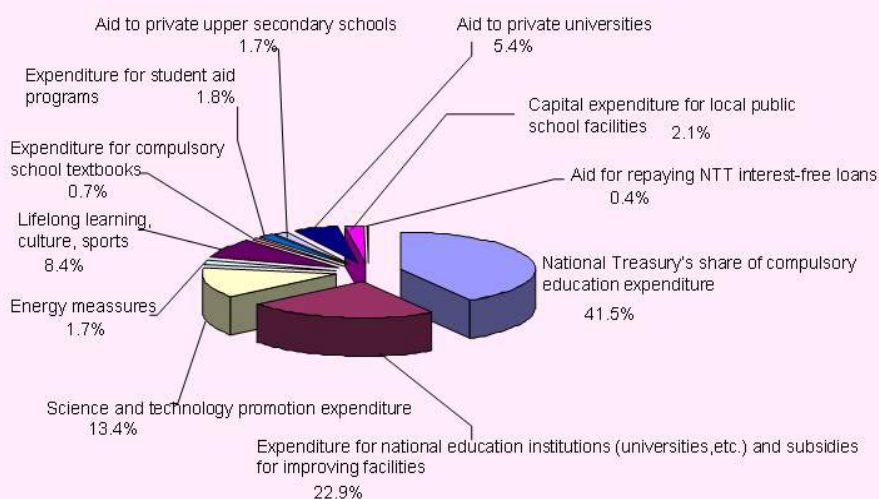
- The system of national subsidies as a vertical adjustment system
- The local tax-allocation system as a horizontal adjustment system

(II - 31)

31

The principle of defraying expenses provides that school founding entities comprising the state, prefectures and school juridical persons remain responsible for paying expenses for their schools. In reality, there is a large financial imbalance in financing capacities, there are many special regulations regarding handling of school expenses and responsibilities that are designed to ensure provision of adequate educational financial resources.

Educational Finance & Responsibility Structure



(II - 32)

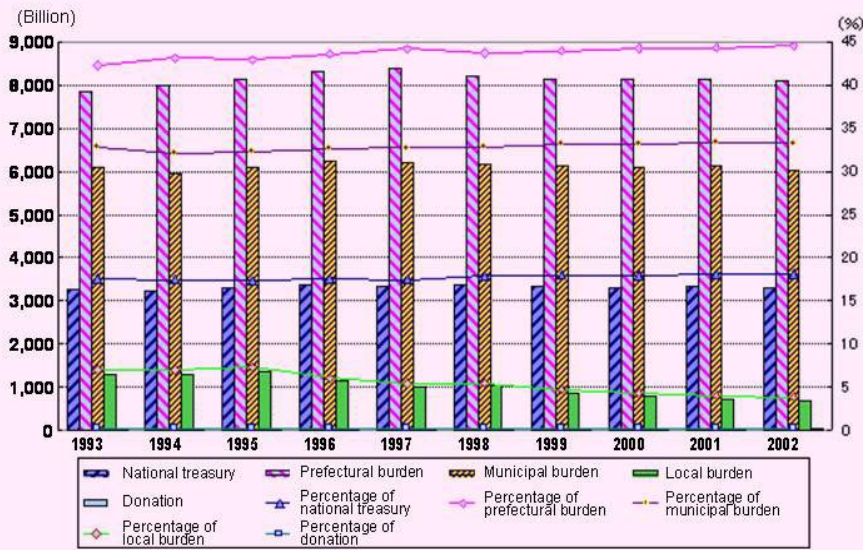
Budget of MEXT

32

In order to reduce financial imbalances and differences, two systems have been introduced to public schools: the system of national subsidies involving vertical adjustments and the subsidy system of local governments involving horizontal adjustments. Subsidy systems for private schools have also expanded in a way that helps to close the financial gap between national/public schools and private schools.

→ http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/15/01/030115b.pdf

Educational Finance & Responsibility Structure



(Ⅱ - 33)

Transition of local educational finance in terms of financial sources

33

The national treasury finances 1/3 to 1/2 of the maintenance expenditure for facilities and equipment in public elementary and lower secondary schools. Also, half of the salaries for teachers working at national / public schools are subsidized by the national treasury.

Educational Finance & Responsibility Structure



(Ⅱ - 34)

April 2004

34

New first year students are given textbooks by the principal at an Entrance Ceremony.

Schools Covered by the School Education Law

■ Schools covered in the first article of the School Education Law

- ・ Kindergarten
- ・ Elementary school
- ・ Lower secondary school
- ・ Upper secondary schools
- ・ Six-year secondary school
- ・ College of technology
- ・ University
- ・ School for the blind
- ・ School for the deaf
- ・ School for the handicapped other than the blind and deaf

■ Specialized training colleges and miscellaneous schools

■ Other schooling facilities covered in other ordinances **35**

National legislation and regulations support the equal opportunities for education as well as the public character, neutrality, and the gratis (free) status of education as a basic feature of Japan's philosophy of schooling. Public school teachers need to hold a teacher's certificate in order to teach at schools covered by the national legislation, where the curriculums need to be based on the principles embodied in the Course of Study. The Fundamental Law of Education provides that private schools must not support a particular political party or conduct political education against a particular political party, and must maintain political neutrality.

Schools Covered by the School Education Law

■ Completion of courses at university / college of technology / specialized training college (upper secondary course / specialized course) is approvable as units for upper secondary school

(Enforcement regulations of School Education Law, Article 63 – 4)

■ Regarding entrance to specialized course of specialized training college, graduates of upper secondary schools and those who completed the upper secondary courses of specialized colleges are treated in the same way

(Enforcement regulations of School Education Law, Article 77 – 5)

■ Transfers to universities or junior colleges for graduates of specialized courses of specialized training college

(School Education Law, Article 82-10, Enforcement regulations of School Education Law, Article 70, 72 – 5)

■ Completion of courses at education institutions except specialized training colleges is regarded as completion of courses of a specialized training college

(Criteria of Establishing A Special Training College, Article 10)

others: it is possible to take an entrance examination to graduate schools by converting experiences in business after graduating from a specialized training college based on individual qualifications and the judgment of graduate schools

(Enforcement regulations of School Education Law, Article 70)

Specialized training colleges, which were first established in 1976, are not covered in Article 1 of the School Education Law. However, with recent amendments regarding enforcement regulations and the criteria for school establishment, there is now flexibility to transfer credits between colleges of technology and upper secondary schools, and between colleges of technology, universities and a junior colleges. (Specialized training colleges → 1 – 37 ~ 40)

“Schools covered by the School Education Law” and strengthening flexibility in relations with specialized training colleges

36

Schools Covered by the School Education Law

Elementary school

(17th article) The aim of elementary schools is to give an elementary education to develop children in mind and body.

(18th article) About education in elementary school, we should make an effort to achieve the aims of the preceding article.

Lower secondary school

(35th article) The aim of junior high schools is to give a secondary education on the basis of elementary education supporting the development in mind and body of children.

(36th article) Education in junior high school should make an effort to achieve the aims of the preceding article.

High school

(41st article) The aim of high schools is to give higher education and specialized education on the basis of secondary education supporting children's development in mind and body.

(42nd article) Education in high school should make an effort to achieve the aims of the preceding article.

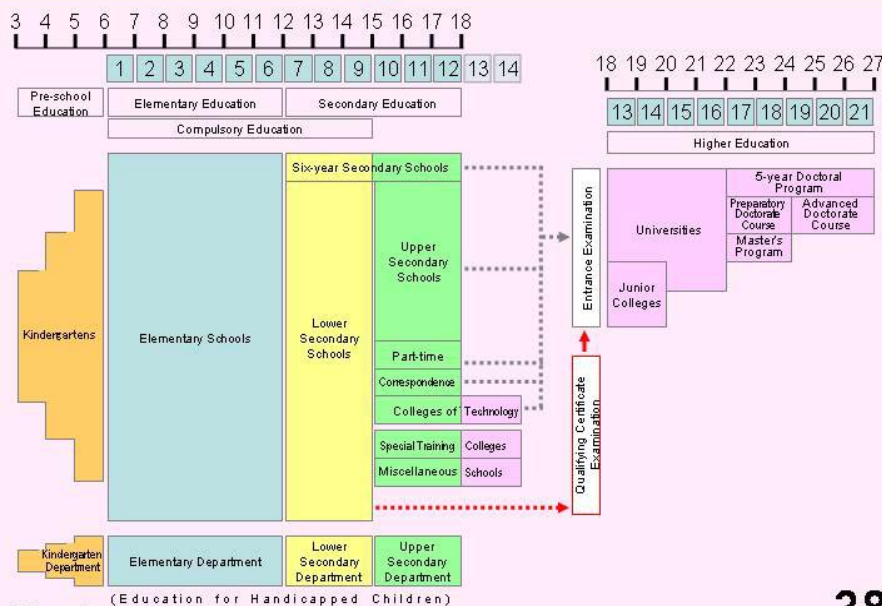
(II - 37)

School objectives, aims (School Education Law)

37

Aims and purposes of elementary and secondary schools are defined by School Education Law. Subjects, moral activities and special education are set up as educational categories.

Schools Covered by the School Education Law



The school system of Japan became a single track system through educational reforms after World War II.

After the reforms, schools, including technical training schools, specialized training schools, and comprehensive secondary schools were added to the system making it appear to be a dual track system. However, measures have been taken to avoid a dead-end situation under the current educational system.

38

Establishment & Management of Schools

■ Founder of school

- Nation
- Local government
- Juristic person determined by law

■ The year when criteria were set establishing differing school types

- Criteria for establishing a Kindergarten = 1956
- Criteria for establishing a upper secondary schools = 1947
- Criteria for establishment of university = 1956
- Criteria for establishing a College of Technology = 1961
- Criteria for establishing a graduate school = 1974
- Criteria for establishing a junior college = 1975
- Criteria for establishing a special training college = 1976
- Criteria for establishing a new elementary/lower secondary school = 2002

(II - 39)

39

According to Article 2 of Japan's School Education Law, "Schools can be founded only by the state, local government, and juridical persons as defined by Article 3 of the Law on Private Schools." However, to found kindergartens and schools for handicapped, a founder does not need to be a school juridical person. A person who wants to found a school must follow the criteria for school establishment, such as the type of school, the equipment and the composition which are determined by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The criteria for establishing new elementary/lower secondary schools were not set until 2002. This is because 99% of the elementary schools and 94% of the lower secondary schools were public

schools due to regulations of the School Education Law and other laws defining criteria for establishment. However, in order to encourage and to promote the establishment of private schools, new criteria for school establishment were formulated in 2002.

Establishment & Management of Schools

Criteria for establishing new elementary schools

- ◇ Self-inspection/evaluation and tender of information
- ◇ Organization of class
- ◇ Teachers and teaching
- ◇ General standards for faculty and equipment and related matters
- ◇ Area of school plant and ground and related matters
- ◇ Facilities which should be equipped
- ◇ School materials and teaching materials
- ◇ Usage of other school facilities and equipment

Area of school building	
The number of student	Area (square meters)
More than 1, less than 40	500
More than 41, less than 480	$500 + 5 \times (\text{Number of Students} - 40)$
More than 481	$2700 + 3 \times (\text{Number of Student} - 480)$

Area of ground	
The number of student	Area (square meters)
More than 1, less than 240	2400
More than 241, less than 720	$2400 + 10 \times (\text{Number of Student} - 240)$
More than 721	7200

(II - 40)

40

Establishment & Management of Schools

Types of School	Classification of the Class Organizations	The Number of Students per Class
Elementary School	A class which is organized with the same graders	40
	A class which is organized with different two graders	16 (if it includes the first graders → 8)
	A special class which is provided by Article 75 of the School Education Law	8
Lower Secondary Schools (including six-year secondary schools lower division)	A class which is organized with the same graders	40
	A class which is organized with different two graders	8
	A special class which is provided by Article 75 of the School Education Law	8

As an example of the flexible system of class organization, each class may be made up of fewer than 35 students if there are more than 3 classes in one grade and the average number of students in one class is more than 35 in the 1st grade. Careful instructions are necessary in school with approximately 100 students.

(Ⅱ -41)

The flexible system of class organization

41

Establishment & Management of Schools



May 2005



April 2005

Many schools have vacant class-rooms because of the decrease in recent birth rates. These vacant class-rooms may be utilized as dining rooms for students; or for facilitating activities for local people in the community, including guardians.

- ① Relaxation room (counseling room)
- ② Utilization of vacant rooms(children club)

In considering the need to conserve local environments at schools and from the viewpoint of environmental education, MEXT is promoting the establishment of environmentally-friendly school facilities, or eco-schools.

Source: http://www.mext.go.jp/english/org/f_formal_16.htm

(Ⅱ -42)

42

Criteria for School Facilities & Class Size

① Educational finance / laws on facilities / criteria

- Criteria for school establishment
- Law concerning the National Treasury

② Other directives, guidelines, council reports

- Guidelines on School Facilities (1967)
- Guidelines on Design of School Facilities (1974)

(Ⅱ-43)

43

Until new criteria for establishing new elementary/secondary school were issued in 2002, laws and criteria described here were the main criteria for determining facilities in elementary schools and lower secondary schools. Even after enactment of the 2002 law, these earlier criteria still in function. These days, the focus has shifted from the provision of facilities to cope with increases in the number of students to the provision of facilities to provide an enabling cultural environment, and to cope with individuality of students and their needs, including diversification of teaching methods. Also, reuse of facilities in response to the decrease in the number of students have eventuated in policies to open school facilities to the public.

① Educational finance / laws on facilities / criteria

*Sharing of Expenses for Various Compulsory Education School Facilities (types of classrooms, appropriate school size

and conditions) * the Law for the Promotion of Science Education (criteria of science education facilities) *the Law for the Promotion of Education in Isolated Areas (Necessity for providing schools in isolated areas) * Law Governing Special Measures for the Establishment of Special Schools for the Disabled (criteria re facilities of special public schools for the disabled) * the School Lunch law, Standards for the Provision of School Lunches (criteria of facilities for school lunch in compulsory education schools)

② Other directives, guidelines, council reports

(1974) * Concerning Creation of Cultural Environment for School Facilities (1967) * Concerning School Facilities which Meet the Needs of Diversification of Educational Methods (1988) * Concerning computer-intelligent educational facilities (1990) * Concerning Compounding of School Facilities (1991) * Guidelines on Management of School Facilities (1992)

Criteria for School Facilities & Class Size

■Appropriate Statute re Standards for School Environments

●Social Conditions

- Not in industrial areas, hotel areas
(Building Standards Law 48)
- No environmental pollution such as air pollution, ambient noise, damage from vibration

●Natural Conditions

- Height of the school location
- Commuting distance to school

(Enforcement of National Treasury's Share of Expenses for Compulsory Education Schools³, less than 4 kilometers are appropriate for elementary school)

(Ⅱ-44)

44

The school environment refers to the natural, physical, and artificial environment surrounding schools. School environments also include problems related to school facilities, size of the classes/schools, school architecture, natural and social environments in local communities, school districts and along school routes.

●Social Conditions

- Avoid industrial areas, love motel areas

(Building Standards Law 48, etc)

- No environmental pollution such as air pollution, noise, or damage from vibration

(Law concerning Enterprisers' Burden of Cost for Environmental Prevention,

Law concerning Special National Financial Expenditure for Initiatives for Environmental Prevention, Law concerning Prevention of Noise Pollution of Airplanes around Public Airports, etc.)

● Natural Condition

- Height of the school location (Building Standards Law¹⁹)
- Commuting distance to school (Enforcement of National Treasury's Share of Expenses for Compulsory Education Schools³, less than 4 kilometers

Criteria for School Facilities & Class Size

The number of class per school		1	2	3~5	6~9	10	11~	Total	Mean
Primary school	1999	×	7	92	125	55	10	297	7.8
	2000	1	5	96	125	56	10	296	7.7
	2001	×	×	96	125	54	11	295	7.7
Lower secondary school	1999	×	×	49	26	36	4	115	8.2
	2000	×	×	22	29	38	4	114	8.1
	2001	×	×	48	29	30	6	114	8

A standard school size is 12 to 18 classes in elementary schools and lower secondary schools. Still, there are many small sized schools nationwide with only one class in each grade. Schools in large cities have been unified or closed due to the urban sprawl phenomenon which has grown over the last 20 years. In recent years, some problems about school and class sizes have arisen, such as the issue of continuance of small schools linked to the abolition of school district s.

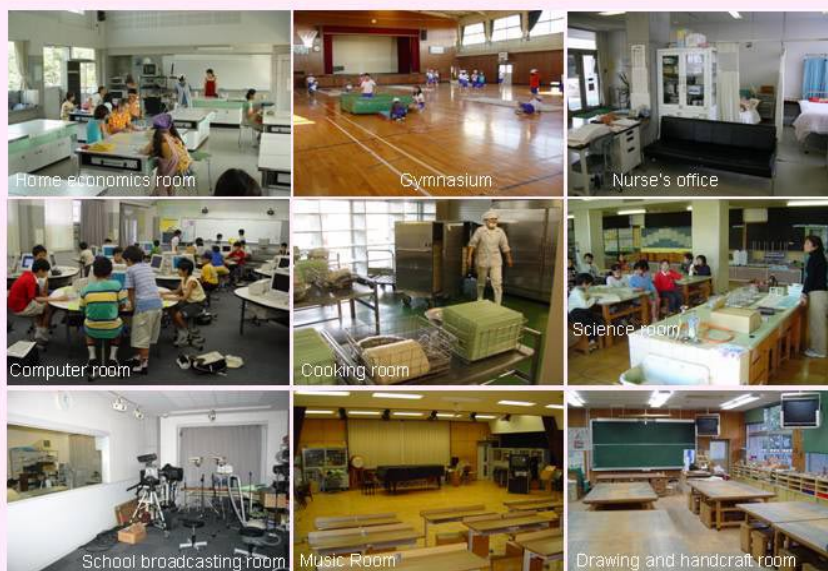
→ <http://www.pref.shimane.jp/section/kyousou/kekkgaiyou/gaiyou02.html>

(Ⅱ -45)

Standard class size and school size

45

Criteria for School Facilities & Class Size



Reforms of school facilities are proceeding at established schools in response to the information-oriented society and to new efforts that school facilities be opened to the local community. In the latter case, establishing safety measures against external intruders who enter school premises is one of the issues.

(Ⅱ -46)

46

Enrollment & Non-Attendance

■Duty of guardians to make children enroll

- Designation of schools to enroll
- Compulsory school attendance postponement
- Encouragement and assistance to attendance

■Actions Concerning non-attendance

- Arrangement of school counselors
- Arrangement of counselor of moral education
- Class for school refusal children
- Private free schools

(Ⅱ-47)

47

Japanese parents have an obligation to send their children between the ages of 6 to 15 to school. Today, there is an increasing number of school-refusal (absentee) students for various reasons, even though in theory such students are formally enrolled. The need to deal with such school-refusal (absentee) children represents an important task that needs to be addressed within current school policies. (Non-attendance → V - 20 ~ 24)

Enrollment & Non-Attendance

Classification	Elementary School		Lower Secondary School		Total	
	Number of no-attendance	Percentage among all students (%)	Number of no-attendance	Percentage among all students (%)	Number of no-attendance	Percentage among all students (%)
1996	19,498	0.24	74,853	1.65	94,351	0.75
1997	20,765	0.26	84,701	1.89	105,466	0.85
1998	26,017	0.34	101,675	2.32	127,692	1.06
1999	26,047	0.35	104,180	2.45	130,227	1.11
2000	26,373	0.36	107,913	2.63	134,286	1.17
2001	26,503	0.36	112,193	2.81	138,696	1.23

(Ⅱ-48)

Proportion of non-attendees

48

The number of students who are absent from school for more than 30 days a year is increasing, not for a valid reason like illness, but for "non-attendance," which means they can't or don't want to go to school. As of 1999, 1 out of 288 students at the elementary school level and 1 out of 41 at the lower secondary school level were recognized as non-attending (absentee) students.

→ http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/14/08/020820c.htm

(Non-attendance → V - 20 ~ 30)

Enrollment & Non-Attendance

Category		The number of organization	The number of instructor					
			Full-time		Part-time		Total	
			number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage
Established by prefecture	1998	34	72	43.9%	92	56.1%	164	100%
	1999	28	76	50.7%	74	49.3%	150	100%
Established by commune	1998	770	516	22.1%	1,817	77.9%	2,333	100%
	1999	855	568	21.5%	2,079	78.5%	2,647	100%
Total	1998	804	588	23.5%	1,909	76.5%	2,497	100%
	1999	883	644	23.0%	2,153	77.0%	2,797	100%

(Ⅱ-49)

The number of classes for non-attending children

49

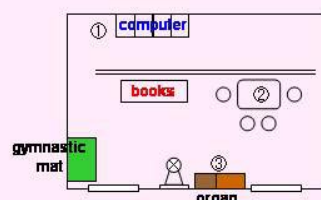
those students belong in order to support their return to school. Organizations that provide only educational consultation are not included in classes and specially adapted classrooms for school dropouts.

(→V-20-30)

The boards of education encourage absentee students to return their schools by by improving their motivation and attitudes through self learning activities, group activities and counseling. (Measures for School Refusal → V - 34・37) Resource) http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/12/12/001219j.htm

Special classes and specially adapted classrooms for school dropouts are established by boards of education excluding such places as educational centers or vacant classrooms in order to guide the absentee students. Efforts are made to provide individual counseling, group guidance and subject guidance systematically in cooperation with the school to which

Enrollment & Non-Attendance



February 2004

(Ⅱ-50)

Classes for absentee school children

50

In addition to special classes for school absentee children, there are similar facilities also in private free schools (→ V - 25) and free spaces to provide educational instruction for school dropouts. Attendance at these classes is considered equivalent to school enrollment.

(Measures for School Refusal → V - 20 ~ 30)

Self-Evaluation / Third Party School Evaluations

■ Self-Evaluation

“In order to improve standards of education and to achieve its goals, elementary schools should make efforts to undertake self-inspection and self-evaluation about educational activities and other aspects of school management and to publish the results”

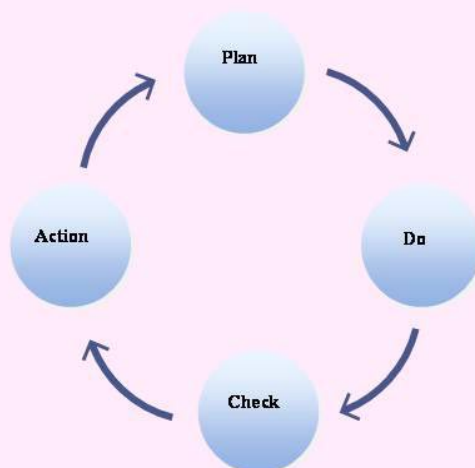
(Criteria of establishing a new elementary school, Article 2)

(II -51)

51

Based on the criteria for establishing new elementary/secondary schools as enacted in 2002, self- inspection and self-evaluation of schools has become an obligation. A regulation providing for a similar obligation was added to the criteria for school establishment for schools at other educational levels such as upper secondary schools and specialized training colleges.

Self-Evaluation / Third Party School Evaluations

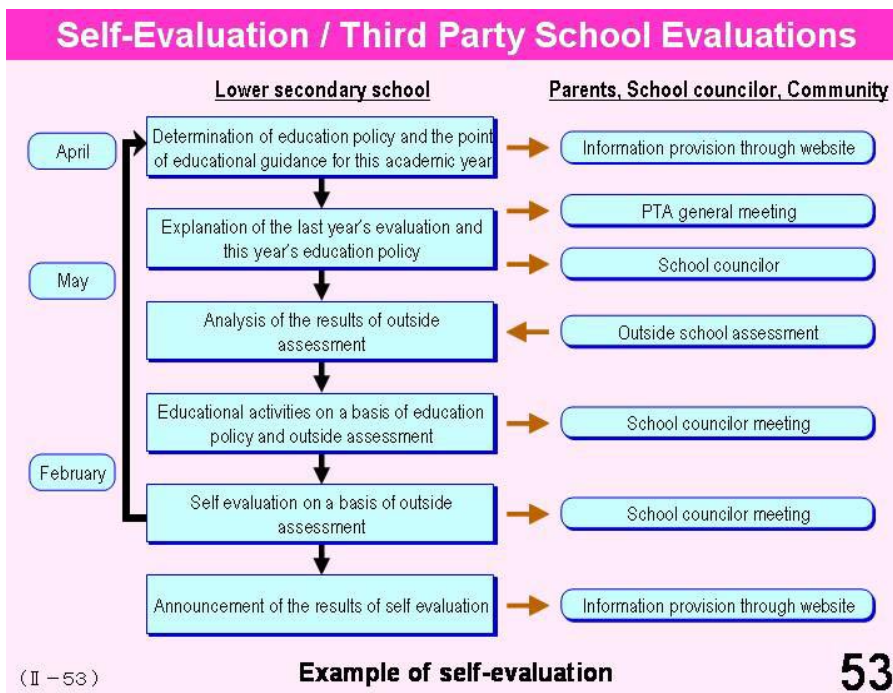


(II -52)

Self-evaluation cycle

52

Generally, school evaluations are based on “management in accordance with objectives” derived from business management methods. In practical terms, school evaluations are conducted based on the “Plan, Do, Check, Action cycle.”



It is important that numerical target sand action targets are set during annual planning phases in schools in order to evaluate progress. There are, however, some problems that derive from the difficulty in quantifying aspects and outcomes of school educational goals and targets each academic year.



External school assessments have not become obligatory under existing ordinances. However, many schools voluntarily have started to assess the validity of self-inspections and the self-evaluations. The main approach is to survey opinions of parents to help them to participate in accountability. Third party school assessments have been introduced in some schools and are carried out by third parties such as educational researchers, sometimes by involving them in the school boards.

Disclosure of Educational Information

■ Providing information to parents

“Elementary schools should actively provide parents information about educational activities, and other aspects of school management, etc.”

(Criteria of Establishing a New Elementary School, Article 3)

■ Ordinance on disclosure of educational information

- Right of Information Explanation on self-information,
Right of request for correction on self-information
(Kanagawa Prefecture Regulation on Private Information Protection)

(II-55)

55

The criteria for establishing new elementary/secondary schools are covered in the regulation that schools should open their information to public scrutiny and to carry out self-inspections and self-evaluations. A key element of debated concerned how far the Free Access to Information Ordinance or the Protection of Personal Information Ordinance of local regional bodies applies to personal information on education. Recently an increasing number of lawsuits and claims have opened the release of information on such aspects as school guidelines, which previously were not open to the public or to individuals.

Disclosure of Educational Information

■ Opinions from both sides of a legal case (comparative list)

Takatsuki City Ordinance of Private Information Protection Article 13
Paragraph 2 implementing agency may avoid giving out private information for the cases below

- (1) When a statute or a regulation exists to protect private information
- (2) When the information is about personnel evaluation, diagnosis, estimation etc. and it is justified not to release the information
- (3) When releasing information obstructs fair and appropriate administration
- (4) When the implementing agency accepts that listening to the council is in the interests of the common good

(II-56)

56

* The argument of the plaintiff (The person who asks for disclosure of information)

① A precedent proves that Article 13 of the Constitution protects the right to privacy. This right includes the right to control private information. Therefore a student has the right to see his/her own school transcript.

② The student's right to see his/her own education information is guaranteed in Article 26 of the Constitution, as the right to education.

③ There is no negative effect, such as undermining the relationship of trust between the student and the teacher, by the student's perusal of his/her school transcript. Therefore, school transcript will

be excluded from non disclosure documents, and nondisclosure of school transcript is illegal.

* The argument of the defendant (The municipal board of education)

① The right to control private information is not set as a positive law. The right to ask for disclosure of private information as in this case, is founded in regulation.

② There is a bad effect such as not being able to secure the fairness of the content if you disclose the school transcript to the student. School transcript will be included in the non disclosure document, therefore, the decision of nondisclosure is not illegal.

Disclosure of Educational Information

Requester	Time to request	Structure	Judgement of implementing organization	Report from the council	Final judgement of implementing organization	Thereafter
Student ○%	Before the entrance examination ○%	Freedom of official documents	All freedom	All freedom	Not freedom (Not disclosure)	Accusation
Father ○%	After the entrance examination ○%	Ordinance ○%	Partial freedom	Adequate procedure	Freedom (Disclosure)	Plea of relief
Mother ○%		Ordinance on protection of individual information ○%	Not freedom at all	Dismissal		

(II - 57)

Examples of disclosure of information

57

The Supreme Court handed down a freedom of grade evaluation or verdict in a November 2003 case where a 23 year-old woman had pleaded for the disclosure of her school record at elementary school. That was the first judgment by the Supreme Court about the disclosure of school records to the said person.

<http://www.asyura2.com/0311/nihon10/msg/699.html>

→ table; www.psn.ne.jp/~jhc-cebc/s-zyouhou/naishin.htm

School Councilor System

■ The placement of school councilors

- 1 School councilors may be placed in elementary schools by the founder's regulation.**
- 2 School councilors are allowed to observe ideas on school administration in response to requests from Principals.**
- 3 The school councilors are selected from people who are not faculty staff of the school in question, and have understanding and insight about education. They are entrusted by the school's founder through recommendation of the Principal.**

(II - 58)

58

The school councilor system is defined as "the role which is newly formed as the mechanism of local people's systematic commitment to school administration" "to encourage the future school to be administered systematically and flexibly under the leadership of a Principal, in an independent and autonomous fashion, in order to be able to evolve a distinctive school program that complies with the actual conditions of students and local communities". (A Notification from Administrative Vice-Minister of Education, January 21st, 2000.) The system needs to be accountable to and reflect the demands of parents and local communities for effective school administration.

School Councilor System

Total Number of Schools	School Councilor				Similar School Councilor System				Either System is already set up	
	School Councilor already set up (A)		School Councilor being considered		Similar System already set up (B)		Similar System being considered		(A)+(B)	
	Number of Schools	Ratio	Number of Schools	Ratio	Number of Schools	Ratio	Number of Schools	Ratio	Number of Schools	Ratio
23,260	9,706	41.7%	6,382	27.4%	1,959	8.4%	1,022	4.4%	11,665	50.2%

(January, 2003)

(Ⅱ-59) Setting up situation of school councilors and similar systems at public schools

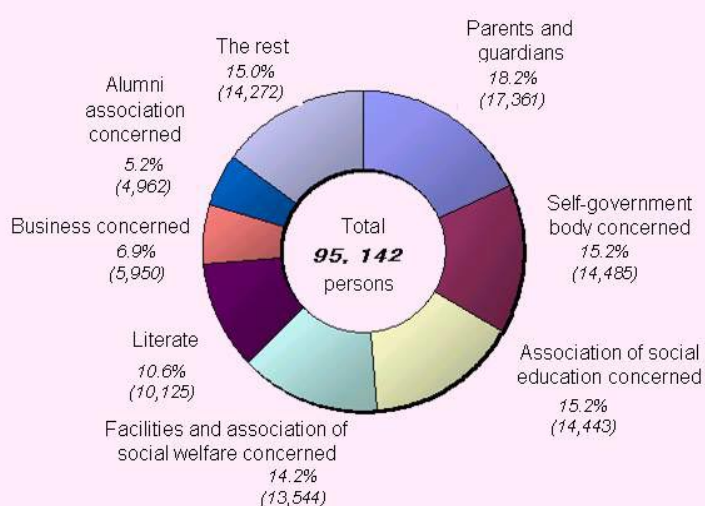
59

By August 2002, a school councilor system was set up in 50.2% of public elementary schools in Japan. An additional 31.8% are considering establishing such a system. The situation varies widely from prefecture to prefecture.

→ http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/15/01/030112.htm

(The number of public school which constitutes school councilor →Ⅶ-49)

School Councilor System



(Ⅱ-60)

Types of careers of school councilors

60

Among school councilors, parents comprise 18.2%, which is the largest proportion. Persons involved in neighborhood associations and social education associations comprise 15.2% each, persons who have worked at schools comprise 10.6%, persons who have worked in private companies comprise 6.3%, and persons from school alumni associations comprise 5.2%.

School Councilor System



(Ⅱ - 61)

February 2005

61

From left side; head-teacher of academic affairs (→ VI - 21), vice principal, principal (→ VI - 12 ~ 15), school councilor 1,2,3

Textbooks & Supplementary Materials

- Criteria for textbook authorization for various compulsory education schools (January 1999)
- "Exhortation toward Learning" which is 2002 appeal for improvement of "Academic Ability"
- The Textbook Survey and Authorization Council "Concerning improvement on the textbook system" (July 2002)
- Partial revision of the Criteria for textbook authorizations for various compulsory education schools and the Criteria for textbook authorization of upper secondary schools (August 2002)

(Ⅱ - 62)

62

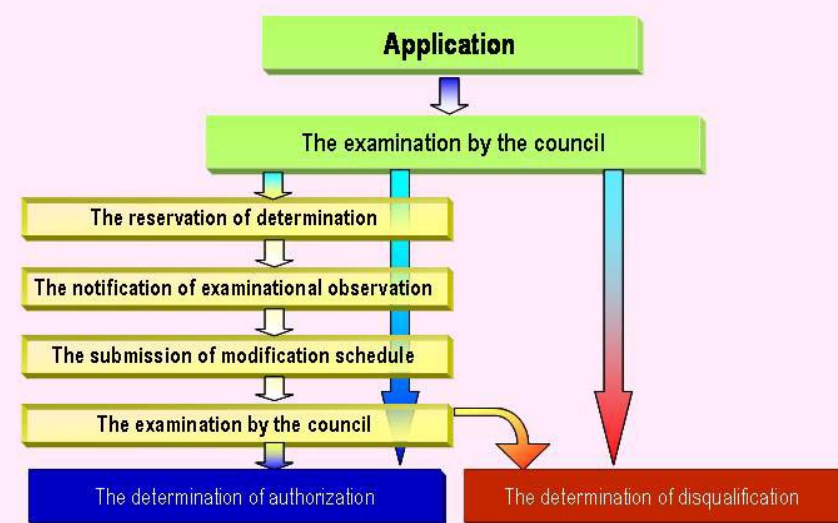
In order to promote and ensure "Academic Achievement" under the 2002 appeal, three things were done: re-interpretation of Course of Study as a minimum standard; incorporation of contents for promoting improved learning from textbooks; and revision of the Criteria for textbook authorization for various compulsory educational schools. In other words:

Following the objectives of the Course of Study of elementary and lower secondary schools and paying attention to contents and treatment;
(2) Avoiding insertion of unnecessary elements into the contents of textbooks based on the treatment of contents in the official Course of Study. Regarding the contents of books that are not textbooks, it is possible to link up aspects not covered in the Course of Study with contents

that are already there without deviating from the aims and meaning nor burdening students with extraneous information, and

(3) The contents of books should corresponded with the levels of mental and physical development of students, and neither be too high or too low in terms of students abilities.

Textbooks & Supplementary Materials



(Ⅱ - 63)

教科用図書と教科書の審査

63

Textbook authorization means that a book that is a candidate to be a school textbook is examined for whether it is proper for subject-use, and authorized as an appropriate book for use as a textbook. The process proceeds as follows:

An author or a publisher of a book applies for book authorization to the Minister of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

The Minister of MEXT determines whether to authorize or disqualify the book as a text book based on hearings of the Textbook Survey and Authorization Council, and notifies the applicant of the results.

In the case of the reservations regarding the determination, the council needs to receive a notice regarding the examination

and the submission of a modified schedule, undertake a hearing, and then make a decision either to authorize or disqualify the book. When the Minister is going to decide to disqualify a book, s/he notices the reasons for it beforehand and listens to objections from the book applicant. If an appeal is filed by the applicant within 20 days after receiving the notification of examination from the MEXT minister and, it is recognized as reasonable, and the Minister withdraws the initial notification in question.

Textbooks & Supplementary Materials

School Education Law Article 21

Clause 1 Elementary schools shall use textbooks authorized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology or whose copyright the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology owns.

Clause 2 Books other than the above-mentioned textbooks and other teaching materials may be used, if they are good and suitable.

Copyright Law Article 35

Reproduction at school or other compound institutions

Teachers at schools and other educational institutions (excluding those for profit-making) are allowed to copy published materials when it is admitted to be necessary and it is used in their subjects. However, it is not permitted when it violates the interests of the author in terms of type and use of the book, and number and modes of the copied materials

Article 21, Clause 1 of the School Education Law

An elementary school should use school textbooks approved by MEXT (the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) or school textbooks owned MEXT.

Article 107, the School Education Law

Regardless of the provision of Article 1, the Clause 1 of the School Education Law, the MEXT Minister supplies, school textbooks other than those stated in Article 1, Clause 1 can be used in upper secondary schools, upper secondary divisions of schools for the blind, schools for the deaf, and schools for the handicapped other than the blind and deaf, and also in special classes.

(Ⅱ - 64) Obligations re the use of textbooks and the use of supplementary materials

64

Textbooks & Supplementary Materials



(Ⅱ-65)

Textbooks and supplementary materials

65

Disciplinary Actions Against Children & Students

■ School Education Law article11

"Based on the decision by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, principal and teachers are allowed to give disciplinary actions against students and children when there is a educational necessity. However, they may not give corporal punishment."

■ Enforcement regulations of the School Education Law

(excerpt)

"When principals or teachers give children disciplinary actions, they must give consideration that is educationally necessary. For example, they must consider children's development mentally and physically."

■ Reasons for expulsion (drop-out) from school

- A person who is recognized with his/her misbehavior and has no chance of improvement
- A person who is recognized as less able and has no chance of success
- A person who doesn't attend class daily without a valid reason
- A person who disturbs school order, or student that fails his/her duty as a student

(Ⅱ-66)

66

Among disciplinary actions, expulsion, suspension and admonition are handled by the school principal. These three are usually called disciplinary actions as punishment. Other disciplinary actions include rebuking, standing, and doing a duty such as a penalty, which can be given by teachers. "Corporal punishment" includes not only physical actions to the body such as hitting or kicking, but also actions that give students physical pain like making them maintain a specific posture for a long time. Since such actions give different levels of pain, such as standing in the classroom and standing under the burning sun, teachers must consider students' age, health, residential, environmental and other constraints, and must judge if there is any physical pain to a student. School detention

is recognized as disciplinary action. However, not allowing students to go to the bathroom or keeping them long after meal time is considered as corporal punishment.

Disciplinary Actions Against Children & Students

	Public elementary and lower secondary school and so on	National and private elementary and lower secondary school and so on	Upper secondary school and university and so on
Drop-out	×	○	○
Suspension of school	×	×	○
Admonition	○	○	○
Disciplinary action without legal effect	○	○	○

Limits of application and disciplinary action of drop-out and suspension from school

(Ⅱ-67)

67

When a principal dismisses or suspends students from school and admonishes them through disciplinary action, such actions are generally called disciplinary action as punishment. There are also practical disciplinary actions which can be taken by teachers such as lecturing, forcing students to stand and undertaking duty penalties. Some disciplinary action are set independently by individual schools. For example, absence from school is an offence subject to disciplinary action lighter than actions against drop-out. Some improper student behavior may not be subject to disciplinary action but rather alternative actions may be taken as guidance based on agreements with students. The right to take disciplinary action by teachers

applies only to students who belong to the school where the teacher works, although it is not important of the students actually attend their class. Under the guidance structure established at every school, it is important for teachers to understand the character of individual students and their health conditions. There are limits to circumstances where dismissal and suspension from school is an option. This means that it is difficult to dismiss students who belong to public schools and to suspend students of school age.

Disciplinary Action Against Children & Students

Reasons for the measures	Disciplinary measures		Disciplinary measures, admonitions or dismissal	
	2002	2001	2002	2001
Traffic accident	619(5)	597(3)	2,052(168)	1,931(107)
Labor disputes	31(0)	20(0)	43(0)	32(0)
Corporal punishment	137(10)	125(3)	451(200)	424(194)
Indecent assault	148(35)	100(14)	175(165)	122(93)
Oblique execution of public expenses or oblique receipt of expenses	16(14)	19(20)	38(46)	39(37)
Relating to displaying the national flag and singing the national anthem	26(0)	94(0)	44(5)	164(37)
Others	236(35)	138(29)	742(284)	1,272(454)
Total	1,213(99)	1,093(69)	3,545(868)	3,984(922)

Numbers inside parenthesis are not included as it was by supervisory responsibilities

(Unit: student)

(Ⅱ-68) The number of the disciplinary measures relating to the corporal punishment

68

In 1991, 196 teachers were submitted for disciplinary punishment for administering corporal punishment in their schools, including assuming responsibilities assigned only to supervisors. In 2000, 428 teachers were submitted to disciplinary punishment, which is more than double the number in 1991.

While it is recognized through court judgments that actions by a teacher to strike a student's head with his or her hand, even when assaulted, is legally wrong, there are some cases in which teachers can apply power to students within definite limits if it is needed. Such situations, however, are confined to cases where alternative forms of disciplinary

action, such as vocal lectures are viewed as weak by students and do not leave an impression. Such actions are limited to the discharge of educational functions in educational settings. This judgment, however, does not provide leeway for teachers to become physical with students.

Specialty Supported Education System

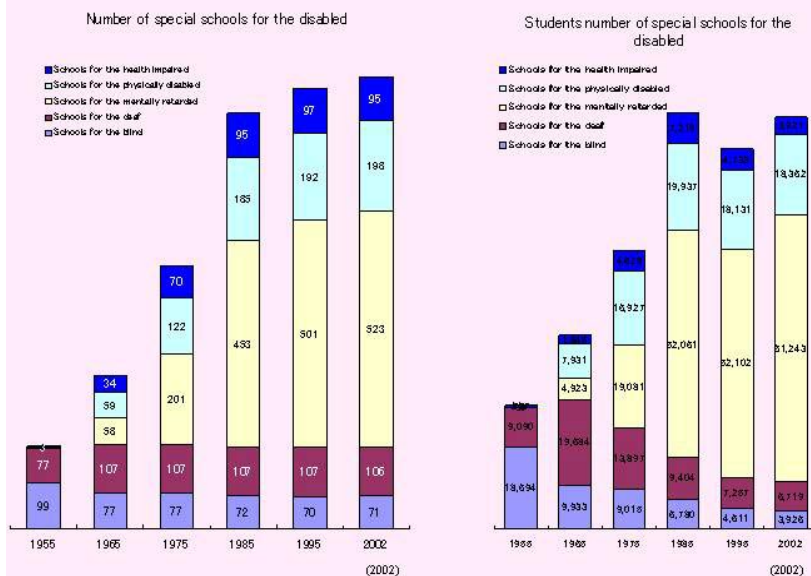
1. Change of situations regarding education of handicapped students
2. Basic ways of thinking of specialty supported education
3. Individual educational support plans
4. Current situation and ways to deal with Learning Disabled, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
5. Permitted Enrollment

(II-69)

69

The enforcement regulations of the School Education Law was amended in 2002 in order to reconsider the approach to guidance on enrollment. This was done so that the appropriate education could be designed to meet the special educational needs of individual students with disabilities, consistent with the changing educational situation for the disabled, such as the evolution of social norms and the push for decentralization of education.

Specialty Supported Education System



(II-70)

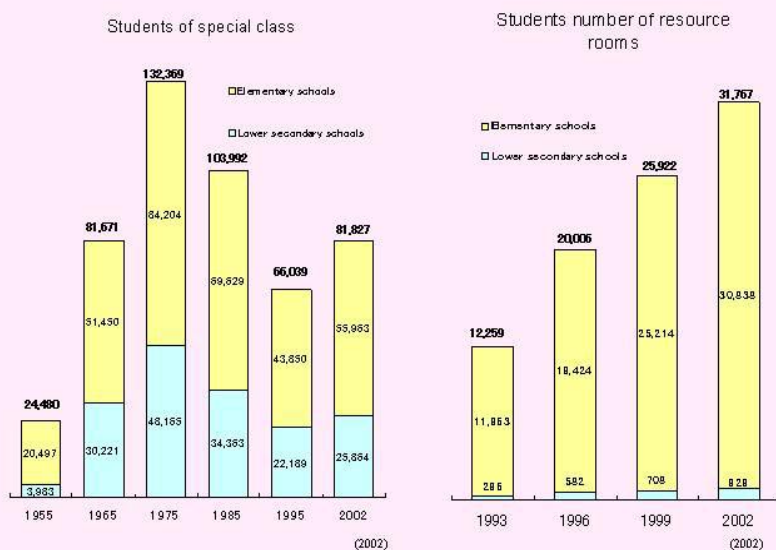
Current situation of specialty supported education 1

70

As of May 2001, about 199,000 infants and students were being taught at schools for the blind, deaf, handicapped, in special classes at elementary, lower secondary schools, and in resource rooms. Among these students, about 157,000 were in compulsory education, which comprised 1.4% of all the children of the same age. Recently, in response to rising demands, attention has been paid to students with severe handicaps and multiple handicaps. There has been progress in providing early education of children with milder handicap, increases in their advancement rates to upper secondary schools, increased diversity of career options after graduation, and social normalization. (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) white paper,

2003, p.143) According to data on the implementation of resource room teaching, of 30,000 students in resource rooms, speech handicapped comprise 84% and the emotionally disturbed comprise 10%.

Specially Supported Education System



(Ⅱ-71)

Current situation of specially supported education 2

71

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Specially Supported Education System

Address the actual condition of student with disabilities

Evaluation

Setting up guidance objectives on the basis of actual conditions

Making clear the concrete contents of educational guidance

Individual education support plan

(Ⅱ-72)

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Individual education support plans are designed to support handicapped students appropriately and consistently from early childhood through graduation from school by using a long-term perspective. It is based on the idea of the need to correctly assess the needs of individual handicapped students and to respond to them adequately from the viewpoint of education. The educational support plan has been formulated and revised, including the contents of special educational needs, adequate targets and effective educational support measures along with appropriate staff and organization.

Specially Supported Education System



The scene of specially supported education class.

(Ⅱ-73)

2002

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Students of the Permitted Enrollment System

1. Intention of the system

Based on changes in circumstances around special education such as the spread of normalization of society and progress on decentralization of education, the system intends to reconsider enrollment guidance that allows appropriate education in response to special educational needs of individual handicapped students.

2. Who is a student of permitted enrollment?

Students who, are usually judged that they need to enroll in schools for blind, schools for deaf, or schools for handicapped other than the blind and deaf due to their degrees of handicaps, may be admitted to have appropriate education at elementary school or lower secondary schools.

3. Important aspects regarding authorization of students for permitted enrollment

- Environment for enrollment (school facilities corresponding to handicaps, disposition of teachers with professional skills on guidance)
- There should be consideration towards safety and appropriate guidance according to types and degrees of handicaps. (such as double handicaps or a case when daily medical care is needed.)
- Hearing from professionals and parents about contents and methods of appropriate education according to types and degrees of handicaps

4. Preparation of teachers to deal with handicaps and environment for enrollment

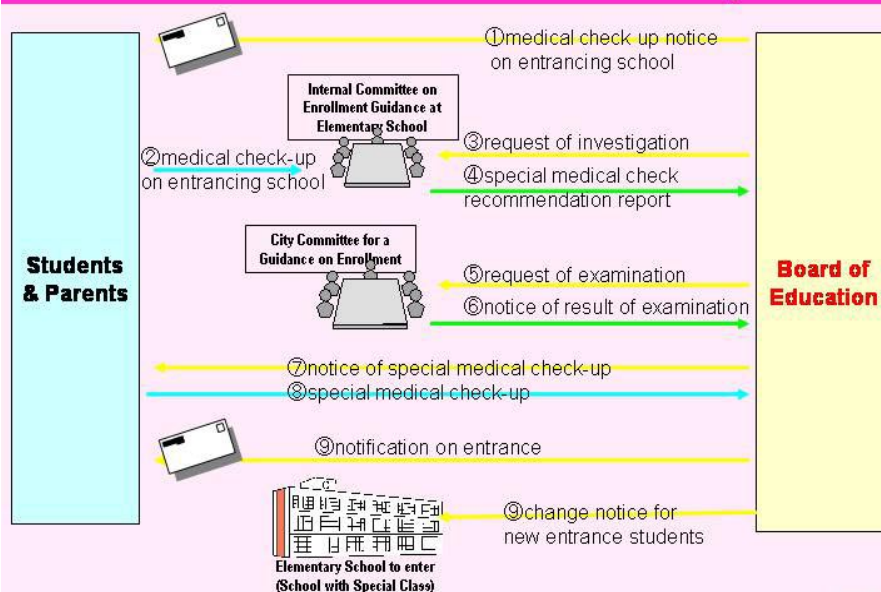
- Preparing counseling system
- Preparing enrollment guidance system

The permitted enrollment system allows students with handicaps who meet standard enrollment criteria to enroll in elementary schools or lower secondary schools. The municipal boards of education certify the students' enrollment, and are required to assess arrangements to ensure a that there is a proper environment for them to enroll, such as availability and placement of teachers who have a high level of expertise in guidance.

(Ⅱ-74)

74

Students of the Permitted Enrollment System



(Ⅱ-75)

Flow patterns for entrance to special classes

75

There are some cases of disputes between disabled students' parents who wish to send their children to ordinary schools and the boards of education that recommend them to attend schools for the handicapped that are designed to meet their special needs. In order to carry out guidance and to ensure smooth enrollment, it is important that the boards of education provide opportunities for confidential educational consultation for the parents. This can be done when initial contacts are made with principals of schools, where both parties can listen to concerns and help to build up mutual trust in their relationships. Such trust can help facilitate accurate judgments on which type of school is appropriate for individual students to enroll in, based on

mutual understandings and cooperation with the parents.

Students of the Permitted Enrollment System

■Conditions of the student

- Independence of the student, and communication ability of the student in daily school life
- Any other disabilities, the type of disability, and behavior problems (for example, human relations)
- Medical and physical considerations, learning conditions for each subject, consideration when participating school events, accepting system of founder

■Conditions of elementary and lower secondary schools

- Distribution of teachers with high degree of specialty, support system in school, facilities, evacuation in a time of disaster, emergency contacting system

■Other conditions

- Support and cooperation from outside school, intention of the parents about educational contents and methods

(Ⅱ-76)

Examples of survey points to assess qualified students for enrollment

76

Students of the Permitted Enrollment System



(II-77)

This class is not concerned with the permitted enrollment system.

77

The Course of Study for the school of blind, deaf, and the handicapped and kindergartens, elementary, lower secondary, upper secondary schools are designed to improve integrated education. Since 2001, practical research has been conducted to encourage self-help and participation in local communities by exchanging students of the school of blind, deaf and handicapped and the ordinary school children of the same generation through various activities. ("White Paper of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology", 2003, p.144)

Education of Children in Isolated Areas

- 1. The Law for the Promotion of Education in Isolated Areas**
- 2. Grading of isolated areas**
- 3. Special allowances for teachers working in isolated areas**
- 4. Project for development of IT application method for schools in isolated areas**

(II-78)

78

The aim of the Law for the Promotion of Education in Isolated Areas: Improvement in standards of education in isolated areas through policies that the Government and regional bodies must implement to promote education for children in isolated areas based on the intention of equal opportunities in education and in view of the need to accommodate specific circumstances of isolated areas.

Education of Children in Isolated Areas

Criteria points

+

Additional points

=

45~79 points	→ 1st degree
80~119 points	→ 2nd degree
120~159 points	→ 3rd degree
160~199 points	→ 4th degree
More than 200 points	→ 5th degree

Examples of assessable points

(The distance to a station or a bus stop)

(The area where is no transportation)

2~4km	→	4 points
4~6km	→	8 points
6~8km	→	12 points
8~10km	→	16 points
...		
36~40km	→	72 points
Farer than 40km	→	80 points

Assessable elements

- The distance to a station or a bus stop
- The distance to a hospital
- The distance to a clinic
- The distance to an upper secondary school
- The distance to a post office
- The distance to municipal board of education
- The distance to the center of the town
- The distance to the seat of prefectural government or the associate of it

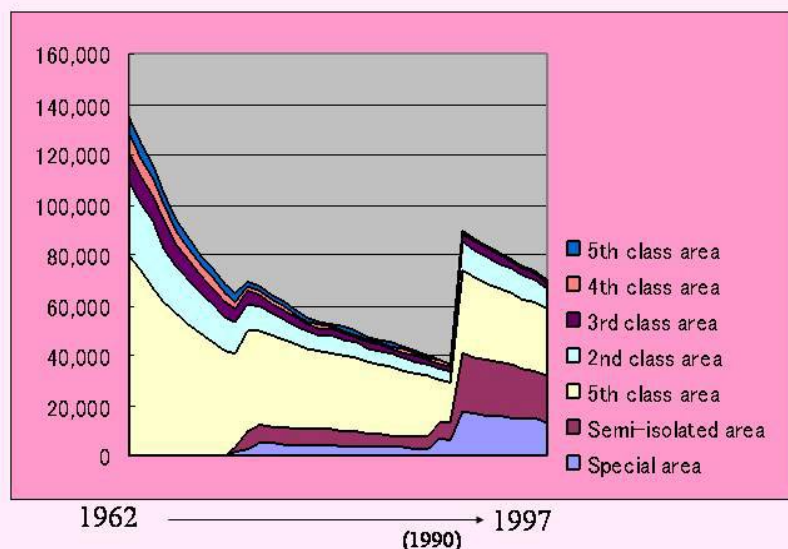
The manner of classes' assessment by the rules for the operation of the law for the promotion of education in isolated areas

(II-79)

79

To assess a school district's degree of isolation, the points linked to specific criteria are calculated by totaling up points for each factor. To assess the extent of relative isolation that is difficult to figure out by using only normal criteria, additional points are added when the schools in question have difficulties to administer education due to specific conditions. These include the absence of facilities to draw or to supply water if the district relies on rain or river water as drinking water resources.

Education of Children in Isolated Areas



(II-80)

Change in number of students at schools in isolated areas (Hokkaido)

80

Although the number of isolated-area schools increased with the revision of the criteria for designation of local areas in 1990, it is now decreasing gradually. However, in Hokkaido and Kagoshima Prefectures, the percentage of the isolated-area schools is over 40% at both elementary and lower secondary schools.

→ Figure: <http://www.pref.niigata.jp/sec40/ja/tyouki/20zu.gif>

Education of Children in Isolated Areas



(II - 81)

81

In addition to the Law for the Promotion of Education in Isolated Areas there are additional provisions concerning educational development and improvement of isolated areas in Japan in the Law on Promotion of Isolated Islands, the Special Treatment Law on Activation of Isolated Area, and the Special Treatment Law on Measures for Areas of High Snowfalls. Educational Development is regarded as an important element of the Comprehensive Area Development Plans.

① An elementary school in an isolated area, October 2004 ② An elementary school in an isolated area with a pool and gymnasium, October 2004

③ Multi grade class, 2003

④ Joint lesson by TV among three elementary schools, 2nd grade, Arithmetic, July 2004

Evening Lower Secondary Schools

1. What is an evening lower secondary school?

- A secondary school with evening classes in order to secure opportunities for education for people who could not have compulsory education for various reasons

2. Progress and the present condition

- This concept started in Osaka in 1947 to provide opportunities of learning for children who could not go to school because they had to work for a living after Second World War.
- Securing educational opportunity for Koreans in Japan, Vietnamese refugees, War returnees from China, foreign workers and their children. Also coping with an increase in number of school refusal students
- At the time of April, 2002, there are 35 evening lower secondary school in 8 prefectures of Japan; 1 in Chiba, 8 in Tokyo, 6 in Kanagawa, 1 in Kyoto, 11 in Osaka, 3 in Nara, 3 in Hyogo and 2 in Hiroshima

3. Requirements for entrance

- Example: Tokyo
 - * Those living or working within Tokyo prefecture, who did not graduate a lower secondary school
 - * age of more or equal to 15
 - * nationality does not matter

(II - 82)

82

Evening lower secondary schools in Japan started amid the confusion after World War II, and were first established in Osaka in 1924 to offer a place to study for children who had to work to live and could not go to school. Then the concept spread throughout Japan. The student age range is wide, varying from teens to people in their eighties, and including people who could not get educated for various reasons, such as Korean Japanese, and recently, repatriates from China, refugees, and increasing numbers of foreigners. Evening lower secondary schools represent an important place for them to study Japanese.

Evening Lower Secondary Schools

History

- 1947 "Yuuma-gakkyu (evening class)" was held at a municipal school in Osaka prefecture but is closed after three years.
- 1948 "Kajikko-gakkyu (class for steersmen's children)" was held by fishermen's cooperative association in Yokohama city. It was permitted as evening class in municipal school after two years.
- 1949 Evening class was held in Kobe city. It was permitted as class for the school refusal.
- 1967 Lower Secondary Equivalency Examination was started.
- 1971 Subsidy from Ministry of Education was started. In Tokyo, Japanese Language Class for Repatriates from China was held.
- 1981 The number of the young students who experienced school refusal. The Japanese Government ratified Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.
- 1994 The number of Japanese-Latin American student was suddenly increased.

Change in the number of students of evening lower secondary schools

	Number of School	Number of Students
1951	47	2,195
1954	87	4,350
1955	84	5,280
1957	60	2,284
1968	21	416
1991	35	2,814
2001	35	3,125

(II-83)

83

In 1955, the number of evening schools in Japan was over 84 and the number of students was over 5,000. By 1968, the number of students had decreased to 400 under a government policy which aimed to stabilize society and make evening lower secondary school students study in the daytime. As of April 2002, however, there are 35 schools attended by around 3,000 students nationwide under the movement to establish evening schools. In 1971, a subsidy from MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) for evening schools and classes started and Japanese Language Classes were held for repatriated Japanese from China. By 1994, the number of Japanese-Latin American students who studied at evening

schools had rapidly increased from previous levels. Since the beginning of 1980s, the number of dropout students attending such schools has been increasing.

(Website of evening school: <http://www.sikasenbey.or.jp/~jkobi/yatyu.htm>)

Evening Lower Secondary Schools



(II-84)

May 2005

84

It is reported that the proportion of students at evening lower secondary schools is Japanese (22.1%), Korean Japanese (26.7%), repatriates (32.2%), refugees (1.5%), immigrants (0.5%) and other foreigners (16.7%) (as of September, 2002).

- ① 6:46 PM. Some full-time course students have almost finished cleaning up the school yard after club activities.
- ② School time table. ③ School lunch. ④ 4th lesson hour. ⑤ Japanese (E class= 1st grade, ordinary class) . ⑥ Arithmetic (D class= 3rd grade, Japanese class) . ⑦ English (D class= 3rd grade, Japanese class) . ⑧ Art class. ⑨ Outline of classes. ⑩ School events

Lower Secondary Equivalency Examination

1. Purposes

- Examination which authorizes enrollment in courses of upper secondary education for those who did not graduate from lower secondary schools
- System which proves the same or more academic ability compared to lower secondary school graduates, for those who were exempted from obligation of enrollment in school due to reasons such as diseases

2 Qualifications for examination

- Those who did not graduate from lower secondary schools in Japan with no obligation of enrollment, and are more than or equal to 15 years old. (graduates or students of international schools and foreign schools)
- Those who were not exempted from obligation of enrollment, but now have no obligation due to their age. (those who are over the age of 15 – age with no more obligation of enrollment- and did not complete compulsory education without exemption due to various reasons such as school refusal)

3 Subjects

- Japanese, social studies, mathematics, science, English

(II - 85)

85

The Lower Secondary Equivalency Examination is the exam for people who have temporary exemptions or exemptions from school to ascertain whether they have the same or above scholastic ability in order to enter upper secondary school. It has been effective since 1967. The exam subjects are Japanese, math, social studies, science and foreign language. If passing grades are attained in some of the subjects, those subjects will be exempted the following year.

Lower Secondary Equivalency Examination

Regulation of School Education Law
Regulations on Approval of Lower
Secondary School Equivalency for
Person Exempted from Compulsory
Education

• Persons who graduate from international
schools and foreigners' schools, and while in
these schools

• Persons of over 15 years old who do
not graduate compulsory education for
various reasons such as school refusal
without permission of exception of duty
of compulsory education

Target

(1) Persons of over 15 years
old who have no duty of
compulsory education and do
not graduate from lower
secondary education in Japan

(2) Persons of over 15 years
old who have duty of
compulsory education

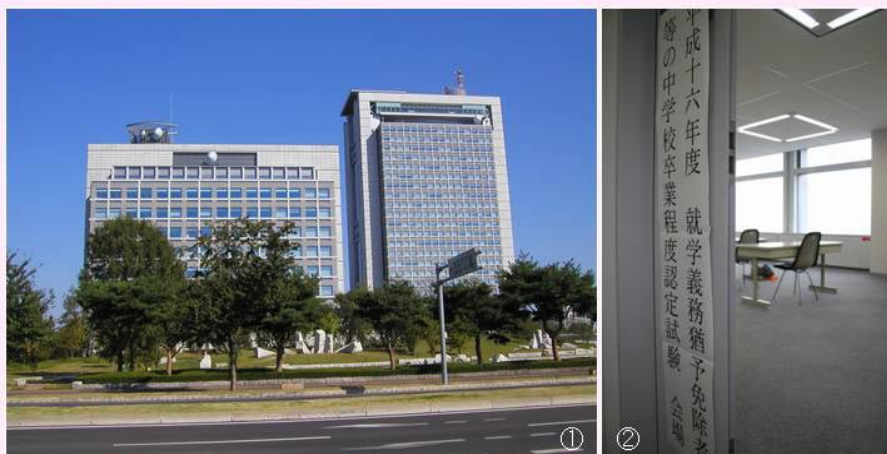
(II - 86) Relaxing requirements for the lower secondary equivalency examination

86

People who did not graduate from compulsory education school for reasons such as war and poverty were permitted to take the examination in 1997. Since 1999, persons who graduate from international schools and foreign schools, or who were still in such schools, were also permitted to take the exam.

Lower Secondary Equivalency Examination

- ① Prefectural office building
- ② Meeting room in the building



November 2004

(Ⅱ-87) **Location of the Lower Secondary Equivalency Examination** **87**

