

Chapter 2 Sound Development of All Children and Young People

Section 1 Support for Self-development

1 Acquisition of daily life skills

(1) Formation of basic lifestyle habits

(Efforts made in school education)

- The national curriculum standard as revised in 2008 and 2009 (hereinafter referred to as the current national curriculum standard) plans to improve moral education. It emphasizes guidance on morals to ensure that children, especially those in the lower classes at elementary school, learn basic rules regarding their life habits and their social lives, such as greetings, making moral judgments, and not doing what one must not do.
- The national curriculum standard was partially revised in March, 2015, in order to position moral education as a special school subject at elementary schools from FY 2018 and at lower secondary schools from FY 2019. Also, since April 2015, it has been possible to implement the revised national curriculum standard wholly or in part, as a transitional measure.

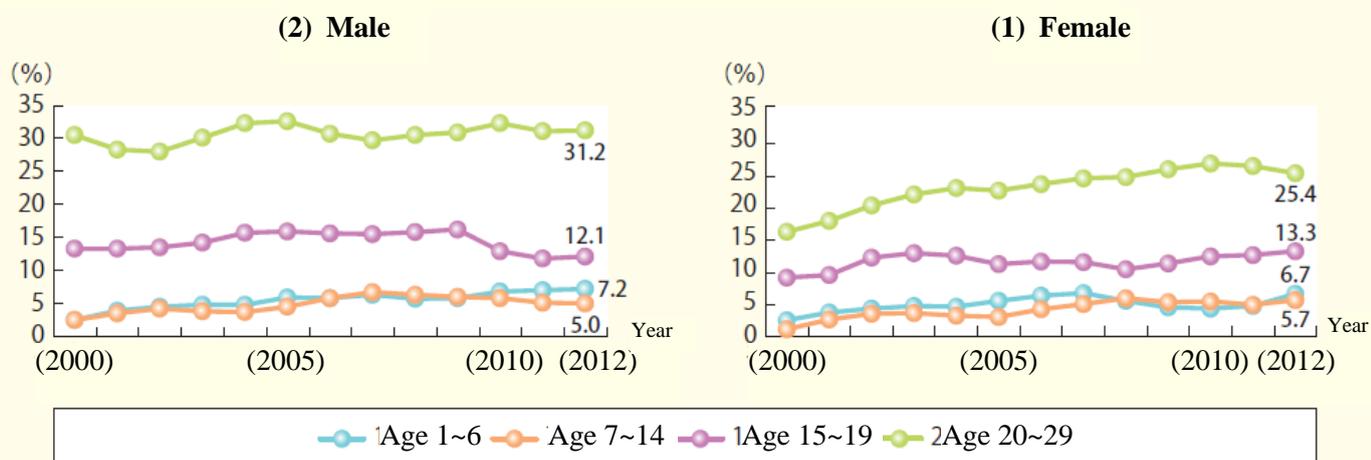
(Formation of children’s lifestyle habits through efforts made by all of society)

- The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) is promoting the National “Early Bedtime Get Up Early Take Breakfast” Campaign. In FY 2016, the memorial magazine was published and the commemorative forum and ceremony was held in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of this campaign.

(Promoting *Shokuiku*(food and nutrition education) activities)

Figure3 Percentage of people who skip breakfast

◆ The percentage of people in their twenties who skip breakfast has remained particularly high.



Source: “National Health and Nutrition Survey,” MHLW

Note: Skipping a meal includes the following three cases: 1) Not having a meal, 2) Getting nutrients by taking pills or an energy drink only, 3) Having sweets, fruits, dairy products, or one’s favorite drink only.

- The Third Basic Program for Shokuiku Promotion (approved by the Shokuiku Promotion Meeting on March 18, 2016) specifies that food and nutrition education should be promoted particularly for the young people as one of the priority issues because there are many issues in knowledge, attitude, and practices regarding food and nutrition education in the young people. And it also sets the new targets regarding the young people, including an increase in the percentage of young people who have a well-balanced dietary life, thereby making further efforts to promote food and nutrition education for children and young people.
- MEXT is promoting the allocation of diet and nutrition teachers who provide guidance on food in public elementary and junior high school across the country.

- The MHLW is providing learning opportunities and information on food for pregnant women, nursing mothers, and families with children.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), in addition to promoting the use of "A Guide to Shokuiku" and "Food Guide Spinning Top ", is promoting the practice of "Japanese dietary patterns" which provides an excellent nutritional balance. It is also promoting the operation of educational farms for deepening the understanding of food and the agriculture, forestry, and fishery industries.
- The Food Safety Commission of the Cabinet Office holds the "Junior Food Safety Commission" which provides opportunities for fifth and sixth graders and their guardians to learn about food safety in a fun way and deepen their understanding through the exchange of opinions with the Food Safety Commission members.

(2) Fostering of norm consciousness, etc.

- At school, teachers tell students to have compassion for others and to open-mindedly respect others' opinions and viewpoints that are different from their own. In addition, they emphasize the development of communication skills and conduct learning activities that profoundly incorporate presentations and discussion.
- Youth education facilities provide various opportunities for experience-based learning activities such as experiences in nature and overnight group trips, in order to nurture sociability and cooperative attitudes.
- The police hold delinquency prevention classes by dispatching officers to schools and in cooperation with juvenile police volunteers.
- The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) is developing and lending out educational materials for elementary, lower secondary, and upper secondary school students to improve their media literacy, and it is providing packages of practical teaching materials for teachers.

(3) Promotion of experience-based learning activities

- MEXT is promoting public awareness towards families and companies to understand the experience-based learning activities and at the same time, is making efforts to implement the research and study on assessment and manifesting system of the experience-based learning activities and to honor companies that promote the experience-based learning activities.
- The National Institution for Youth Education is promoting the "*Taiken no kaze wo okosou*" (Let's create a wind of experience) campaign in cooperation with youth organizations, in order to mobilize all of society to promote experience-based learning activities.

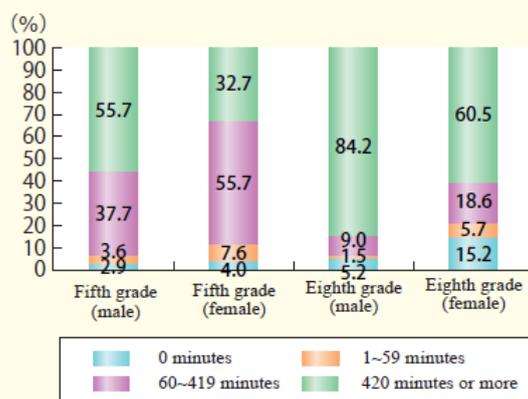
(4) Promotion of reading activities

- MEXT is promoting children's reading activities, based on the Act on the Promotion of Children's Reading (Act No. 154 of 2001) and the Third Basic Plan concerning the Promotion of Reading Activities by Children (approved by the Cabinet in May 2013).
- MEXT is promoting the improvement of library, community center and museum environments, so that they can serve as facilities that are convenient and readily accessible for local residents.

(5) Improvement of Physical Fitness

Figure 4 Total exercise time per week (FY 2016)

◆ A little more than ten percent of fifth-grade girls and about twenty percent of eighth-grade girls do little exercise every week apart from the physical education classes and health and physical education classes.



(Source) "National Survey on Physical Fitness, Motor Ability and Exercise Habits" Japan Sports Agency

(Note) It is the total exercise time each day during an ordinary week, which is written in answers from students to the question, "Approximately how many minutes a day do you exercise (including recreation involving physical activity) and play sports in total on occasions other than physical education classes and health and physical education classes?"

(Promotion of efforts made to improve physical fitness in local communities)

- The Japan Sports Agency is promoting comprehensive measures taken to improve children's physical fitness, as well as promoting activities conducted to improve physical fitness at schools and in local communities.

(Promotion of physical education and sports club activities at schools)

- The Japan Sports Agency is developing and disseminating a program that will solve various problems on the site from FY 2017 in order to enrich the physical education and health and physical education classes.

(6) Approaches to lifelong learning

(Efforts made to enrich learning opportunities at institutions of higher education)

- Starting in FY 2016, MEXT will make efforts to prepare teaching materials and guidance manuals that will support young people's life planning, so that, when choosing their career paths, upper secondary school students can comprehensively consider not only entrance into universities and employment but also how they should lead their future lives, taking various life events such as marriage, childbirth, and child-rearing into consideration.

(Appropriate evaluation of learning outcomes)

- In the report from the Central Council for Education (May 2016), the promotion of quality assurance and social use for the certificate examination by promoting the disclosure of information and by establishing the mechanism of evaluation has been proposed. Based on this report, MEXT hold a meeting to discuss about self-evaluation and the Third party evaluation of the certificate examination.

(Women's lifelong learning)

- To drive female human resources in local communities who have left their jobs to participate in society through learning, MEXT, has been holding deliberations on the formation of networks between entities including relevant agencies in local communities, universities, and centers for gender equality and the ideal state of efforts to be made through such networks, and it has been conducting the nationwide dissemination of these deliberations.

(Lifelong learning to realize gender equality)

- Starting in FY 2016, MEXT will make efforts to prepare teaching materials, so that, when choosing their career paths, upper secondary school students can comprehensively consider not only employment but also how they should lead their future lives, taking various life events such as marriage, childbirth, and child-rearing into consideration.

2 Improvement of academic abilities

(1) Establishing solid academic abilities, including “knowledge and skills”, “the abilities to think, make judgement, and express oneself”, and the desire to learn

- To smoothly and steadily implement the current national curriculum standard, MEXT is providing support for an increase in the number of teachers, the preparation and distribution of necessary new teaching aids, and the improvement of equipment for science education. It is also supporting the improvement of educational activities about science, mathematics, foreign languages, and other subjects. In FY 2017, MEXT is planning:
 - to understand and analyze the academic abilities and learning status of children based on the results of the National Assessment of Academic Ability,
 - to support the allocation of assistants for scientific observation and experiments to elementary and lower secondary schools and to increase grants for the improvement of equipment for science education pursuant to the Science Education Promotion Act (Act No. 186 of 1953), for the purpose of enriching scientific observation and experiments carried out at schools including elementary and lower secondary schools, and
 - to improve and expand educational activities on Saturdays for all children with assistance from people in local communities and private companies.
- Moreover, in the Central Council for Education, the discussion about the next national curriculum standards was progressed and "(Report) about improvement of the national curriculum standards for kindergartens, elementary schools, lower secondary schools, upper secondary schools and schools for special needs education and the necessary measures" is summarized in December 2016.

(2) Ensuring basic academic abilities, etc.

- MEXT has been allocating more than the usual number of teachers to schools that exercise ingenuity and make improvements, such as using small-group education according to students' levels of proficiency, team teaching, and specialized instruction in elementary schools, and schools that require special attention.

(3) Ensuring and improving the quality of upper secondary school education

- MEXT is taking various types of measures including the revision of the national curriculum standard and the promotion of school evaluations at each school, in order to ensure and improve the quality of upper secondary school education.

(4) Promoting the use of information technology in school education

- In MEXT, "Education Information Acceleration Plan" (approved by MEXT) was planned in July 2016, for the promotion of information literacy by looking at the next national curriculum standards and for the enhancement of ICT usage in course instruction, from the viewpoint of accelerating the ICT environmental development at school.
- MEXT and MIC, through collaboration between both Ministries, have been implementing new demonstration projects ("Leading education system construction projects") utilizing the most advanced technologies including cloud technology since FY 2014.
- The execution model of low cost and effective programming education, in which cloud was used, has been implemented in "The Program to Promote Youth Programming Education" of MIC since FY 2016.

3 Enrichment of university education, etc.

(1) Enrichment of university education

(Enrichment of educational functions)

- MEXT is providing financial support to and disseminating information on unique, distinctive, and excellent activities conducted in universities. For example, MEXT is implementing the Acceleration Program for University Education Rebuilding, which supports cutting-edge activities consistent with the new strategy for educational reform.

(Maintenance and improvement of the quality of education and research)

- MEXT is making efforts to maintain and improve the quality of education and research through Certified Evaluation and Accreditation in which all public and private universities are periodically evaluated by

evaluation organizations certified by the MEXT Minister.

(Enhancement of graduate school education)

- MEXT is conducting the Program for Leading Graduate Schools, in which integrated degree programs for both master's and doctoral courses are developed and provided, crossing the boundaries of specialties through industry-academia-government partnerships, thereby supporting the fundamental reform of graduate education.

(Study support services)

- MEXT is promoting efforts made in universities by disseminating the results of surveys on efforts made in each university to support students' study activities, which have diversified.

(2) Enrichment of specialized training college education

- MEXT is making the following efforts in order to promote post-secondary training college education.
 - Professional Post-Secondary Course system has been implemented, in which the MEXT Minister certifies post-secondary courses provided at specialized training colleges that are making efforts to secure the quality of more practical vocational education in an organized manner as Professional Post-Secondary Courses
 - A project has been implemented to strategically promote measures including the development of core professionals in growing fields, in which educational institutions including specialized training colleges develop and demonstrate educational programs that will promote and facilitate the learning of participants such as working adults through collaboration with industry.

Section 2 Securement of Health and Peace of Mind for Children and Young People

1 Promotion of health education and the securement and promotion of health, etc.

(1) Promotion of health education

- At schools (based on Act 33 of 56 of the School Health and Safety law), the nursing teachers and relevant teachers collaborate and offer health guidance in an organized manner. They are also making efforts to improve first aid, health consultations, and health guidance through collaboration with relevant institutions including medical institutions in local communities.

(2) Responses to issues specific to adolescence

- MEXT has prepared educational materials that comprehensively describe smoking, drinking, drug abuse, and infectious diseases and is distributing them to elementary schools, lower secondary schools, and upper secondary schools, so that children can maintain their mental and physical health by themselves.
- The MHLW is providing information on the influences of smoking and drinking on people's health through symposiums and its website. Also, it is promoting various efforts, including the dissemination of and education on correct information, aiming to reduce the ratio of teenagers with abortions and sexually transmitted diseases, and the ratio of underweight children among children and students.

(3) Education regarding pregnancies, childbirth, and child-rearing

- According to the national curriculum standard, the goal of education regarding sex to be provided at schools is to ensure that students acquire correct knowledge on pregnancy and childbirth so as to act appropriately, and accordingly, instructions are given throughout all educational activities conducted at schools mainly in health and physical education classes.
- The MHLW is making efforts to disseminate information and provide education on pregnancies, childbirth, and child-rearing, by means such as holding health classes and lectures provided by specialists including doctors and public health nurses who have expert knowledge.

(4) Support for teenage parents

- The MHLW is taking regional financial measures for all of the expenses associated with the necessary number of pregnancy checkups and items in such pregnancy checkups, so that pregnant women can have such pregnancy checkups, which also serve as an opportunity for such women to receive advice on pregnancies, childbirth, and child-rearing from specialists including doctors and midwives.

(5) Securement of worry-free and safe pregnancies and childbirth, and improvement of pediatric care

(Securement of worry-free and safe pregnancies and childbirth)

- The MHLW is making efforts to reduce the economic burdens associated with pregnancy and childbirth, to develop a system for perinatal medical care, to ensure hospitals' preparedness to receive patients transported by ambulance, and to provide support for infertility treatment. It is also making efforts to provide information on pregnancy and childbirth, to develop counseling and support systems, and to raise public awareness of the Maternity Mark.

(Improvement of regional healthcare)

- The MHLW is promoting projects for maternal and child health such as medical checkups and health guidance for pregnant women, infants, and preschool children. These projects are provided by municipal governments, in order to increase and maintain the mental and physical health of pregnant women, infants, and preschool children.

(Improvement of pediatric medicine and vaccinations)

- The MHLW is promoting the improvement of pediatric medicine, including pediatric emergency medicine. It provides support for the development of pediatric urgent care centers, pediatric emergency hospitals, and pediatric critical care centers, as well as the provision of a pediatric telephone counseling service in a holiday and night (#8000), which is intended to resolve guardians' anxieties.

2 Improvement of counseling systems related to children and young people

(1) Public announcements and awareness-raising activities concerning consultation services, etc.

- The Cabinet Office is making efforts to provide thorough information on the dedicated consultation services and consulting agencies on its website, so that children and young people can consult properly when facing difficulties such as child abuse, bullying, social withdrawal, and non-attendance at school.

(2) Improvement of Child & Youth Counseling Centers

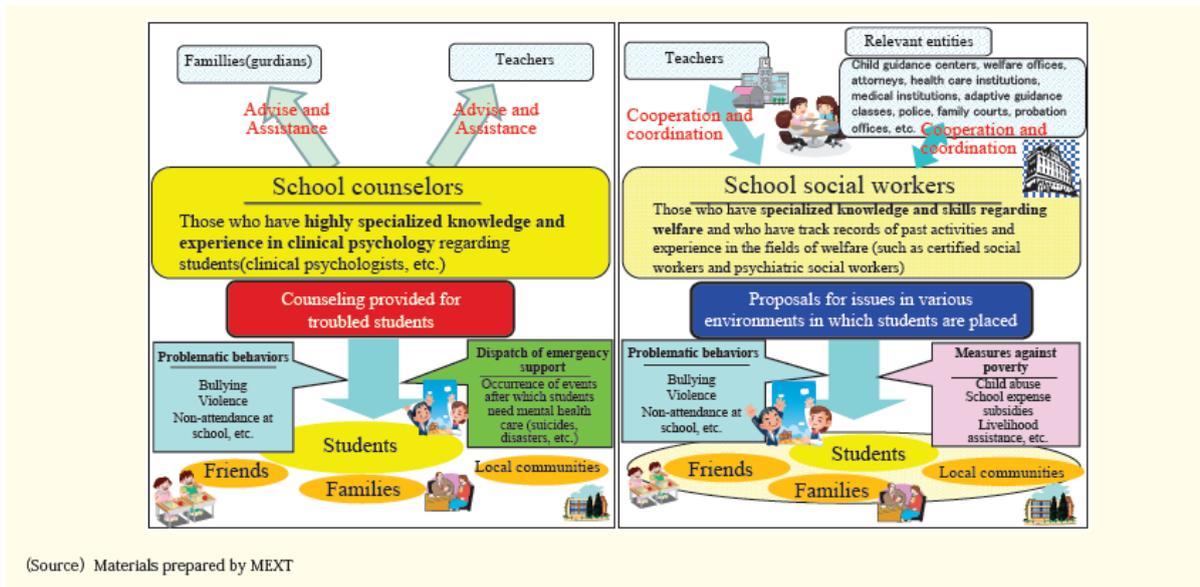
- The Cabinet Office provides training for the staff of public counseling institutions including youth centers that will be able to function as Child & Youth Counseling Centers.

(3) Improvement of counseling systems in schools

- MEXT is increasing the allocation of school counselors and school social workers (Figure 5). MEXT also holds workshops for teachers.
- The MEXT has held the "Collaborators conference for research and study about educational counsel, etc" since December 2015, and published the report to propose enhancement of educational counseling for the youth students including the concept of future educational counseling, the duties of school counselors and school social workers, and concept of the system in schools and school boards.

Figure 5

School counselors and school social workers



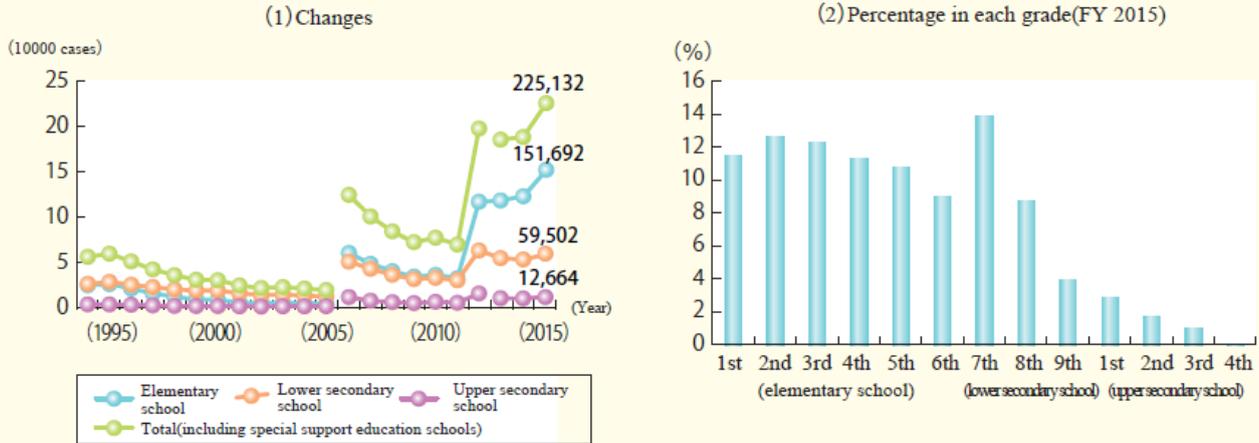
(4) Improvement of counseling systems in local communities

- The MHLW is taking measures such as the establishment of Regional Centers for Child Care Support, promoting the counseling provided at mental health and welfare centers, public health centers, and child guidance centers, promoting counseling and educational activities performed by young people of the same generation who share a sense of values, providing support for counseling for children with disabilities to all guardians whose children use support for admission to facilities in principle, running the Project for a Medical Care Network for Children's Minds, and opening the Consultation Hotline for Working Conditions.
- The Consumer Affairs Agency has been operating a consumer hotline number (188) available from anywhere in Japan that provides information on nearby consumer counseling centers.

(5) Measures for preventing bullying

Figure 6 Number of cases identified as bullying (occurrences)

- ◆ The number of cases identified as bullying in schools in the year of 2015 is approximately 225,000 cases. Observation of the number of cases per the grade tells that the students in the seventh grade suffers the most.

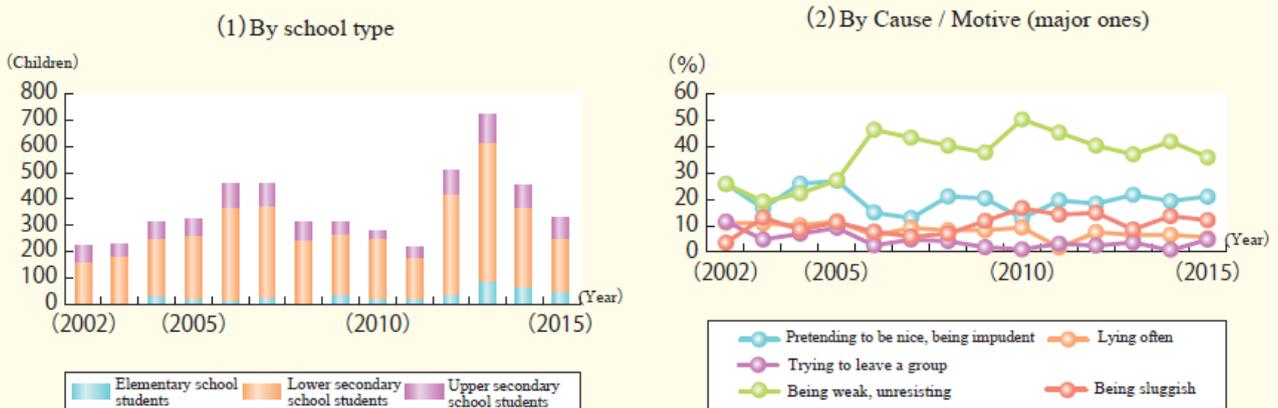


Source: "Survey and Guidance on Undesirable Behavior in Students" MEXT

- Note: 1. Bullying is defined as follows: "acts committed by a person a student has a certain personal relationship with that have physical or psychological impacts on the student, thereby causing him/her to suffer mental and physical anguish (including those committed on the Internet)."
2. The survey has covered special education schools since FY 1994 and national schools, private schools, and secondary schools since FY 2006.
3. The survey methods changed in FY 2006; the number of specifically reported occurrences of bullying was counted until FY 2005, and the number of all cases identified as bullying has been counted since FY 2006.
4. The survey has covered correspondence courses provided by upper secondary schools since FY 2013.
5. The graph of (2) is created from the number of recognition cases of bullying according to the grade in school. The sum total of the graph of all grades in school becomes 100%.
6. Only the graph of the special support education schools is omitted.
7. In "4" year, students are of 4th year or above of upper secondary schools part-time course, or total 4 years, considering the admission year of credit-based system as the 1st year

Figure 7 Arrests and guidance in cases resulting from bullying

- ◆ In every school age including elementary, junior high and high schools, the number of students arrested and taken into custody by the police because of cases resulting from bullying has decreased for the last two years.
- ◆ Regarding the major reasons and motives of bullying, approximately 40% of them are "being weak, unresisting".



Sources: "Overview of the State of Juvenile Protection and Guidance" and "The State of Juvenile Delinquency," National Police Agency

- Note: 1. The term "cases resulting from bullying" includes "cases of bullying" and "cases of retaliation against bullying." "Cases of bullying" are defined as cases in which "a single person or a group physically attacks or psychologically oppresses a certain person or group (such as through intimidation, harassment, or ostracism) one-sidedly and repeatedly, thus inflicting pain on the victim(s)" (excluding cases due to conflicts between delinquent groups such as motorcycle gangs, and limited before 2013 to cases in which physical attacks or psychological oppression continued repeatedly). These cases involve crimes (including illegal behavior) committed by elementary school students, lower secondary school students, or upper secondary school students, who are arrested or given guidance by the local police
2. Multiple answers for reasons and motives. The reasons and motives of the cases due to retaliation to a bullying was counted as "others" by the year 2007, and have been counted for each reason and motive since the year 2008.

(Comprehensive promotion of measures for preventing bullying)

- In FY 2017, MEXT will continue to comprehensively take the following measures regarding various issues related to giving guidance to students including the problem of bullying.
 - Promotion of efforts made to utilize a broad range of external experts so as to provide coordination and support toward solutions for the problem of bullying
 - Proactive prevention of bullying by means such as promoting moral education

- Early-stage detection and responses
- Increase in the number of educational staffs, and the enhancement of training of teachers

In addition, MEXT is distributing the leaflets enlighten children and their parents to boards of education in order to address bullying that uses internet and mobile phones (bullying on internet). Also, MEXT held the "National children's summit for Bullying problem" in January 2017, in order to further propel implementation of various approaches in nationwide, in addition to rearing students who become the leader to positively address the problem of bullying.

- The police are striving to detect bullying at an early stage through providing juvenile counseling and sending School Supporters to schools, while promoting appropriate responses in close cooperation with schools.

(Provision of counseling for bullying problems)

- MEXT sets a unified nationwide phone number so that it can catch children's SOS at all times, including nighttime and holidays, so that calling charges can be more easily consulted from 2016 (Telephone number is 0120-0-78310).
- The police are developing an environment that allows bullied children to feel free to receive counseling. This approach includes establishing juvenile support centers outside police facilities, setting up a juvenile counseling service, making the telephone number for juvenile counseling toll free, and starting e-mail counseling services.
- The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) provide the human rights counseling services on the Internet (SOS e-mail) and the Children's Rights Hotline toll-free telephone counseling (0120-007-110). They also distribute Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letters (letter paper with pre-stamped envelopes) to elementary and junior high school students nationwide.

(6) Measures against violence

- MEXT is calling on boards of education and schools in prefectures and designated cities to:
 - provide tenacious guidance when problem behavior occurs and, if no improvement is made, take resolute action including such measures as suspension and disciplinary punishment, and
 - report the situation to the police immediately and seek police cooperation without attempting to handle matters on their own when the problem behavior may possibly be a case of a criminal act.
 MEXT will continue to ensure that these principles are better known and practiced on such occasions as meetings and workshops where concerned parties in prefectures gather.
- As for school violence, the police, similarly, are making efforts to detect school violence at an early stage by exchanging information with schools while utilizing School Supporters and School-Police Liaison Councils and to take appropriate measures according to each case, in addition to preventing recurrences, by means such as rigorously responding to vicious cases.

3 Education for the prevention of damage

(1) Safety education

(Safety education at schools)

- MEXT is supporting training for teachers and school personnel and the holding of disaster preparedness classes, traffic safety classes, and crime prevention classes intended to improve children's ability to respond to danger.

(Crime prevention education and traffic safety education provided by the police)

- The police hold crime prevention classes at facilities and schools including kindergartens, nursery schools, and elementary schools. The police also provide traffic safety education at nursery schools and other schools.

(Various activities concerning disaster preparedness)

- The Cabinet Office has been holding a disaster preparedness poster contest intended for people of all ages.
- The Fire and Disaster Management Agency has set up Child Disaster Preparedness e-Land on its website.

This web page explains, in an easy-to-understand way, how to prepare for disasters such as earthquakes and the damage caused by storms and floods, as well as how to respond to them, for children ranging in age from toddlers to lower secondary school students.

- The Japan Meteorological Agency is supporting disaster preparedness education, by means such as distributing learning materials and data, supporting evacuation drills, and providing training lectures for teachers, so that children can protect themselves from natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, eruptions, and heavy rainfall.

(2) Improvement of ability to utilize mass media

(Improvement of media literacy)

- MIC is making efforts such as disseminating a program to comprehensively develop children's ICT media literacy and surveying and analyzing the actual status of the Internet literacy of youths so as to announce the results as the Internet Literacy Assessment Indicator for Students (ILAS).

(3) Prevention of violence against women

- The Cabinet Office has provided a seminar for persons who engage in educating the youth to prevent either not to be victim or perpetrator of violence against women, such as staffs of educational organizations, local government and non-governmental organizations.
- Regarding the issues of sexual violence against young women, including so-called forced appearance in pornographic materials, and "JK (female high-school student) businesses", the government established "the Inter-Ministerial Committee on measures against the issue of appearances in pornographic materials and 'JK businesses'" chaired by the Minister for Gender Equality in March 2017. In the end of the same month, the Committee compiled a government-wide urgent measures to take prompt and intensive needed action, which designated the April 2017 as the "Month for prevention of so-called forced appearance in pornographic materials, and 'JK businesses'."
- The police are promoting educational and awareness-raising activities to prevent youths from becoming victims or perpetrators of stalking, by means such as explaining examples of stalking and how to respond to it at crime prevention classes.

Section 3 Provision of Support for the vocational independence and the Employment of Young People

1 Acquiring of professional skills and willingness

(1) Promotion of career education

(Promoting of career education and vocational education)

- MEXT, the MHLW, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) jointly hold the Symposium for Collaboration for the Promotion of Career Education, in order to encourage schools, communities, and industry to work together and promote career education as one.
- MEXT and METI are sponsoring the Awards for Collaboration for the Promotion of Career Education, which commends concerned people at schools, in the community, and in industry for their collaborative activities.
- MEXT is promoting education for starting a business, vocational education, internships and career education for strengthening attachment to the community.
- The MHLW is conducting the Career Search Program, which is intended to help students understand and think about the realities of various occupations and industries, the meaning of work, and their working lives by dispatching people who work at companies to lower and upper secondary schools as instructors.
- METI is sponsoring the Career Education Award, which honors companies and organizations that perform visionary activities in support of education. METI has defined the basic ability to work at a company or in a local community as the *fundamental competencies for working persons* and is promoting the development and evaluation of this ability through university education.

(Promotion of Internships (work experience))

- In December 2015, MEXT, MHLW, and METI partially revised the Basic Policy on the Promotion of Internships and notified universities and industries, so as to disseminate and promote internships.
- MEXT is working on promoting and enhancing occupational experiences and internships in schools as a core approach to career education by the "Portal site to bridge children and society".
- To promote long-term internships, METI has developed tools and methods to increase the number of companies that provide internships and prepared a practical guide for specialists who can connect industry and academia, which the Ministry publicizes on its website.

(Education for young women)

- The Cabinet Office established offering information using the website "Riko-challe (support choosing STEM fields) " and offers events which include visits to workplaces, hands-on experience, and facility tour for the field with less advancement of women such as the STEM field aiming at the youth women.
- The MHLW strives to educate female students at universities and colleges so that they can use the Comprehensive Positive Action and Work-Life Balance Support Site in their job search to study how women work in companies and the situation of the enhancement of women's activity and the approach to realize both of the job and the childcare and nursing are taking.
- The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology propels the learning for life-design construction in order to allow comprehensive concept of life style with life event such as not only just getting job but also marriage, childbirth and childcare taken into consideration when high school students select a course for the future life.
- METI, in collaboration with local agencies, held support events that serve as an opportunity for business operators in local areas to disseminate their attractiveness and an opportunity to promote matching of their needs for human resources with diverse human resources including women, young people, and elderly people inside and outside of each local area.

(2) Further development of measures for skill development

(Hello Training (Public vocational training))

- The MHLW provides public vocational training, using various private educational and training organizations including universities, in addition to public facilities, for the development of vocational capabilities. Also, the job applicant support system provides young people who are ineligible for unemployment insurance with finely-tuned employment support by providing vocational training as well as paying benefits to support their participation for job training.

(Job-Cards and the development of young, skilled human resources)

- Since October 2015, the MHLW has been promoting individuals' career development and the smooth employment of diverse human resources by utilizing Job-Cards as a tool for life time career planning and as proof of vocational skills (Figures 8 and 9).

Figure 8 Job-Card System

New Job-Card System (since October 2015)

- Job-Cards will be further disseminated as a tool for career planning and as proof of vocational skills -

Purposes

○ Job-Cards, as a tool and proof as described below, are utilized for purposes such as the development of vocational skills according to the situation of an individual and the provision of support for smooth employment in fields in which diverse human resources are needed, throughout the entire lifetime of an individual.

◆ **Tool for career planning throughout one's entire lifetime**

○ An individual prepares a Job-Card by completely organizing his/her career and vocational experiences and storing information such as his/her work life plans in advance, while receiving career counseling, and he/she can utilize the Job-Card on occasions such as receiving training and choosing a career.



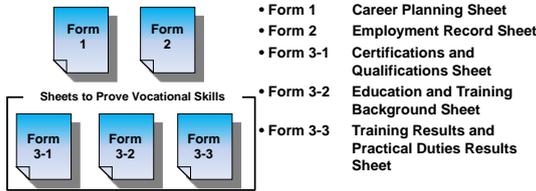
◆ **Proof of vocational skills to achieve goals such as smooth employment**

Job-Cards clarify information on the holders and visualize their vocational skills.

○ Certifications, qualifications, education and training background, assessments of the results of training including public vocational training, work experience, and assessments of attitudes toward work are stored in Job-Cards, and they are also utilized as job application forms and for other purposes.

Mechanism of utilization

○ The MHLW Minister has specified the forms for the Job History Records (Job-Cards), pursuant to Article 15-4, paragraph (1), of the revised Human Resources Development Promotion Act.
 ○ An individual, throughout his/her vocational life, fills necessary information in on each item on each form, while receiving support including career counseling as necessary. In principle, he/she continues to store information in his/her own devices such as PCs, using the Application Software to Assist in Job-Card Preparation (see the description on the right), and utilizes the stored information by extracting parts of it and editing it in response to each situation.



Dissemination and public announcements

○ **Comprehensive website on the Job-Card system**

• All forms for Job-Cards, examples of the forms; skill checking functions, consulting service by e-mail, relevant information including information on licenses and qualifications, and statistical information related to labor are also available.
 • The Application Software to Assist in Job-Card Preparation and the application designated for smart phones, which is designed to assist in the preparation of Job-Cards and to enable the preparation of resumes and job histories, can be downloaded.



○ **Posters and leaflets**

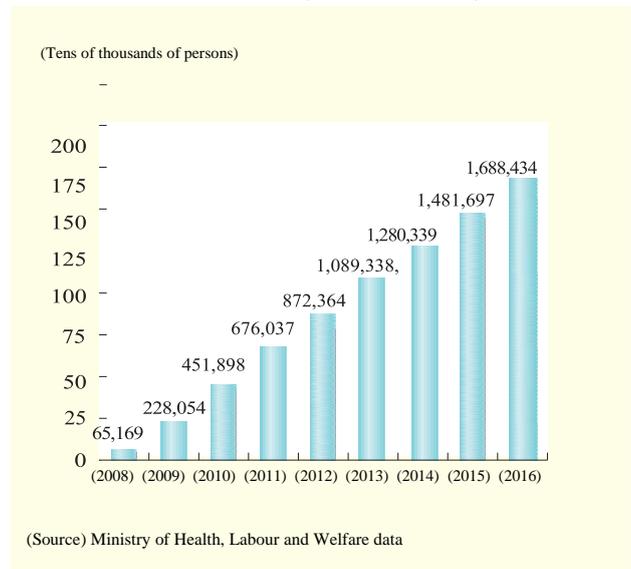
• Materials such as leaflets for dissemination and public announcements for each of a broad range of groups including job seekers, employees, business owners, and students will be distributed.



(Source) Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare data

- The MHLW is also implementing Young Skilled Workers Development Support Projects in order to develop and maintain young human resources in manufacturing. In addition, it is promoting the transfer of technology to young workers and the development of core human resources in companies by expanding the Subsidy system to promote career development, which provide subsidies for part of the training expenses and wages of trainees for business operators engaged in internal human resource development.
- MEXT propels the effort to develop and verify the educational program easy for the adults to learn, which matches the human resource needs in the community and industrial fields, through a collaboration of educational organizations such as specialized training colleges and industries.

Figure 9 Number of people who have received Job-Cards (cumulative total)



2 Improvement of employment support

(1) Provision of employment support for new graduates

(Employment support for students)

- MEXT is strengthening the employment support system in universities by promoting collaboration between career counselors at universities and Job Supporters at Hello Work.
- The MHLW is taking the following measures.
 - It has established Hello Work (job-placement offices) for New Graduates all across the country. These offices are assisting with the nationwide provision of recruitment information, job placement, the matching of job applicants with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the uncovering of job recruitment, employment support seminars, and job fairs including job interviews. Also, Job Supporters in Hello Work for New Graduates provide consistent individual support through the particular supporters in charge of client employment from their job searches through their job retention and clinical psychologists supply psychological support. Also, Hello Work for New Graduates strengthen partnerships with schools, for example, they set up Job Supporter counseling desks at universities and provide on-site counseling services.
 - It informs business owners that graduates from the previous three years can apply for jobs as new graduates. Also, it will make efforts to promote an increase in opportunities for graduates from previous years and dropouts to apply for jobs as new graduates and their employment and retention by using the Subsidies for graduates from previous years and dropouts, which was established in February 2016.

(Measures for orderly job hunting and hiring)

- As for the students, who have graduated or are scheduled to graduate in FY 2017, the starting period for job hunting and hiring is maintained as the starting period for job hunting and hiring of FY 2016 (Starting of publicity activities: March, Starting of employment selection activities: June).
- To smoothly achieve a change in the start for recruiting time, the Cabinet Secretariat, MEXT, MHLW, and METI called on about 440 major economic and industry associations, to conduct publicity activities and recruitment and selection activities in a way consistent with the purpose of the change in the start for recruiting time.

(2) Support for vocational independence

(Support given by Hello Work for Youth, etc.)

- The MHLW provides detailed, consistent support to young people such as non-regular workers (“freeters”), by means such as using the trial employment subsidies at Hello Work.

(Support given by Job Cafés)

- The MHLW holds company information sessions and various seminars at Job Cafés, which are proactively established by prefectural governments, by outsourcing such activities to private associations. At the request of prefectural governments, the MHLW has arranged for Hello Work to work in parallel with Job Cafés in order to provide young people with employment counseling and job placement.

(Promotion of employment of young people in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries)

- To enable young people to obtain employment in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries with peace of mind, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) grants benefits, lends non-interest-bearing loans, and provides information and employment consultations, along with promoting trial employment that makes young people understand how tasks are performed and employment conditions, subsidies that enable employers to enrich training for new employees, and training offered at educational institutions.

(3) Promotion of measures to counter non-regular employment

- To change the employment of non-regular workers who desire regular work from non-regular work to regular work and improve the treatment of workers who choose non-regular work, the MHLW strongly promotes such changes and improvements depending on the requests, willingness, and capabilities of non-regular workers through collaboration with prefectural governments, pursuant to policies including the Plan to Achieve Changes in Employment from Non-regular Work to Regular Work and the Improvement of the Treatment of Non-regular Workers, which was formulated in January 2016.

(4) Employment support through enforcement of the Youth Employment Promotion Law

- Based on the Youth Employment Promotion Law enacted in 2015, the MHLW actively disseminated information and promoted efforts regarding ① a mechanism for providing workplace information by companies recruiting new graduates, ② a mechanism by which Hello Work rejects job offers from job providers who have violated specific laws related to labor, and ③ a system for accrediting Small and medium-sized enterprises having excellent employment management for young people.

(5) Promotion of measures against companies and other institutions that are suspected of treating young people like disposable goods

- The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) has implemented supervision and instruction for companies that are suspected of treating young people like disposable goods, in ways such as enforcing overwork and unpaid overtime on them and has given instructions for correction and improvements in the event that facts such as violations of laws related to labor are confirmed. As for the securement of appropriate working conditions for part-time student workers, the MHLW conducted "Survey on awareness about part-time jobs for high school students" from December 2015 to February 2016. Based on its results, in July 2016, the MHLW called on associations in industries in which many part-time high-school student workers are working, to consider issues such as shift arrangements along with how they observe laws related to labor standards, through coordination with MEXT. The same contents were requested again in March 2017. Moreover, "Confirm the work condition of the part-time job" campaign for the university students nationwide was conducted especially from April to July when a lot of new students started working part-time for the purpose of encouraging confirmation of the work conditions. Furthermore, following measures are implemented on the basis of the decisions by the Headquarters for the Promotion of the Reduction of Long Working Hours, which is headed by the MHLW Minister.
 - Establishment of special teams (Overwork) to respond to cases related to overwork in the Tokyo Labour Bureau and the Osaka Labour Bureau
 - Formulation and dissemination of guidelines related to grasping working hours for enterprises

- Establishment of a mechanism to instruct the entire enterprise concerning long-term working hours.
- Strengthening company name publication system at the corrective guidance stage

3 Realization of Working Style Reforms

- The government aimed at realizing a "Society in Which All Citizens are Dynamically Engaged" in which everyone can play an active role, including youths, the elderly, women, men, people with disabilities, people fighting an illness, and people who have experienced a failure. "The Japan's Plan for Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens" was approved by cabinet in June 2016 and formulated a roadmap of relevant measures.
- Working Style Reforms was considered to be the biggest challenge in realizing the Society in Which All Citizens was Dynamically Engaged in "the Japan's Plan for Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens". "Council for the Realization of Working Style Reforms" chaired by the Prime Minister was launched in September, 2016 in order to contribute in formulating the implementation plan for realizing the Working Style Reforms. At this council, the topics such as correcting long work hours by limiting overtime hours, improving the treatment of non-regular employees through Equal Work for Equal Pay and developing the environment that makes women and young people active were discussed. "Action Plan for the Realization of Working Style Reforms" was compiled in March, 2017. In this plan, promotion of employment and self-reliance support for upper secondary school dropouts and diverse selection opportunities as well as strengthening of measures against companies that are suspected of treating young people like "disposable goods" were incorporated in the promotion of the environmental development and support for young people's activities in addition to develop the educational environment where everyone has opportunities in education such as the creation of benefit-type scholarship for children and youth.

Section 4 Support for Participation in the Development of Society

1 Promotion of education that fosters attitudes favoring participating in the development of society

(Measures for school education)

- The current national curriculum standard emphasizes the concept of participation in society and plans to enrich the quality of education. For example, it now deals with important laws and rules for one's social life (elementary schools), the importance of contracts (lower secondary schools), citizens' participation in the judiciary (elementary schools, lower secondary schools, and upper secondary schools), and consumer-oriented government action including support for the independence of consumers (lower secondary schools).

(Citizenship education)

- The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, through collaboration between both the Ministries, supplementary learning materials and instructional materials for teachers related to matters such as politics and elections prepared and distributed in 2015 were distributed for 10th graders to schools including all public and private upper secondary schools throughout Japan also in 2016.
- MIC is taking the following measures, so as to promote citizenship education.
 - Holding of awareness-raising events for young people in order to deepen their understanding of politics and elections
 - Support for efforts made to promote citizenship education such as visiting lectures provided by boards of elections at schools and events for young people
 - Holding of events such as workshops for associations conducting awareness-raising activities and young people in local communities through collaboration with boards of elections in various areas
- MEXT examined and announced the state of implementation of citizenship education in upper secondary schools and shared excellent efforts. Furthermore, it is disseminating the pioneering efforts made in educational institutions including universities, so that efforts such as enrichment of awareness-raising activities conducted through implementation of early voting in the university campuses and internships, through coordination with the boards of elections of various local governments

(Law-Related Education)

- The MOJ is preparing teaching materials and leaflets as well as providing lectures on Law-related education by dispatching its personnel, in order to disseminate and develop Law-related education.

(Tax education)

- The National Tax Agency is working to develop the environment for and provide support for enhanced tax education, by means such as dispatching instructors to tax education classes upon schools' requests, holding teaching seminars for school teachers, and preparing and distributing supplementary teaching materials for tax education and organizing tax essay contests.

(Financial education)

- The Financial Services Agency strives to improve the financial literacy of students, by means such as revising "the Financial Literacy Map," providing classes for university students, and dispatching lecturers to upper secondary schools.

(Education about the rights and duties of workers)

- The MHLW is disseminating and enlightening the knowledge on labor law at high schools by preparing and distributing Labor law education program and material for teachers in order to implement education of labor law from an earlier stage.

(Consumer education)

- The Consumer Affairs Agency is promoting consumer education, by means such as managing the collection and posting of the latest teaching materials on the Portal Site on Consumer Education, on which information associated with consumer education, is collected.
- MEXT held the Consumer Education Festa, which serves as an opportunity to announce practical examples of consumer education and to promote consumer education through coordination and collaboration with various entities. It is also taking measures such as dispatching consumer education advisors in order to support the establishment of a system to promote consumer education in local communities.

(Provision of information and awareness-raising activities on the social security system)

- The MHLW is conducting dissemination and awareness-raising activities for educational sites, by means such as distributing teaching materials for upper secondary school students that were prepared by a group of experts named the Study Group on the Promotion of Social Security Education to upper secondary schools throughout Japan free of charge and holding workshops for teachers.

2 Promoting volunteer activities and other such ways to participate in society

- Regarding school education, socially participatory activities including volunteer activities are being carried out during the class periods for integrated study and special activities for nurturing children's social sense and enriching their humanity.
- The National Institution for Youth Education holds meetings of the National Conference for Research Exchange for Student Volunteers and Supporters.