

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)

- School education focuses on forming children's basic life habits through the entire educational activities including moral education and special activities. Especially, the guidance for children in the lower classes of elementary school emphasizes forming their basic life habits, such as exchanging greetings, following rules needed in social life, having a clear notion of right and wrong, and knowing what children should not do as a person.
- The National Curriculum Standard partially revised in FY 2015 states that "Special subject: Morality" is supposed to be implemented in all elementary schools from FY 2018 and in all junior high schools from FY 2019.

(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 to Bed, Early to Rise, and Don't Forget Your Breakfast" Campaign. The forum project and the designated schools' project for "Early to Bed, Early to Rise, and Don't Forget Your Breakfast" have been implemented since FY 2017 for junior high schoolchildren so that they establish, keep, and improve such basic habits.

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

- 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 Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (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. MAFF 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 sending 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 the students in elementary, junior high, and high school 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 Fourth Basic Plan concerning the Promotion of Reading Activities by Children (approved by the Cabinet in April 2018).
- MEXT is promoting the improvement of library, community learning 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

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

- The Japan Sports Agency is promoting the comprehensive measures to improve children’s physical fitness, and supports children’s acquisition of routine exercise habits.

(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)

- The Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) conducts flexible operation of the scholarship loans program, in order to support young people who start to study again.

(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.

(Women’s lifelong learning)

- MEXT has been implementing a demonstration project since FY 2017 under “The women’s learning and career development support program for the promotion of gender equality”, in cooperation with universities, local governments, and gender equality promotion centers.

2 Improvement of academic abilities

(1) Cultivation of “Solid Academic Ability”

- 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 2018, 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 junior high schools and to provide the 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 junior high schools, and
 - to improve and expand educational activities on Saturdays for all children with assistance from people in local communities and private companies.
- Based on the report of the Central Council for Education (December 2016), MEXT has revised the National Curriculum Standard, while maintaining the framework and contents of the current one, in order to enhance

children's knowledge and cultivate their competencies required in the future. MEXT revised the National Curriculum Standards for Kindergartens, Elementary Schools and Lower Secondary Schools in March 2017, and announced the new National Curriculum Standard for Upper Secondary Schools in March 2018, thus steadily implementing appropriate measures toward realizing its idea.

(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 high 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 high school education.

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

- MEXT is addressing information-literacy cultivation toward the implementation of the new National Curriculum Standard.
- To raise the educational quality, MEXT and MIC have been conducting a joint demonstration project since FY 2017, by effectively linking the school-affair data and children's learning records. This is carried out by safely and effectively linking "the school affairs system" used by teachers and "the class & learning system" used by schoolchildren in addition to teachers.
- MIC has been conducting the project to "promote computer programming education for young people" since FY 2016; and demonstrated a computer programming education model for disabled schoolchildren in FY 2017. MIC will create a guideline in FY 2018 on the management and operation of places, where schoolchildren interested in IoT can continuously and developmentally learn IoT after school in local communities.

3 Enrichment of university education, etc.

(1) Enrichment of university education

(Enrichment of educational functions)

- MEXT conducts the "Acceleration Program for University Education Rebuilding" and disseminates information in order to support advanced approaches, which match the direction of new educational reforms, such as active learning; visualization of learning achievement; reform toward the linkup of high schools and universities; program for long-term-learning outside schools; quality assurance at the time of graduation, etc.

(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 School Health and Safety Act (Act No.56 of 1958), 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, junior high schools, and high schools, so that children can maintain their mental and physical health by themselves.
- 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.
- 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

- MHLW is making efforts to take 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)

- 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)

- 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 and infants.

(Improvement of pediatric medicine and vaccinations)

- MHLW is promoting the enhancement of pediatric medicine. It provides support for the development of primary pediatric emergency centers, pediatric emergency medical care core hospitals, and pediatric emergency and critical care centers, as well as the provision of a pediatric telephone counseling service during holidays or and nighttime (#8000 Project), 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 with appropriate organizations when facing difficulties such as child abuse, bullying, social withdrawal, and non-attendance at school.

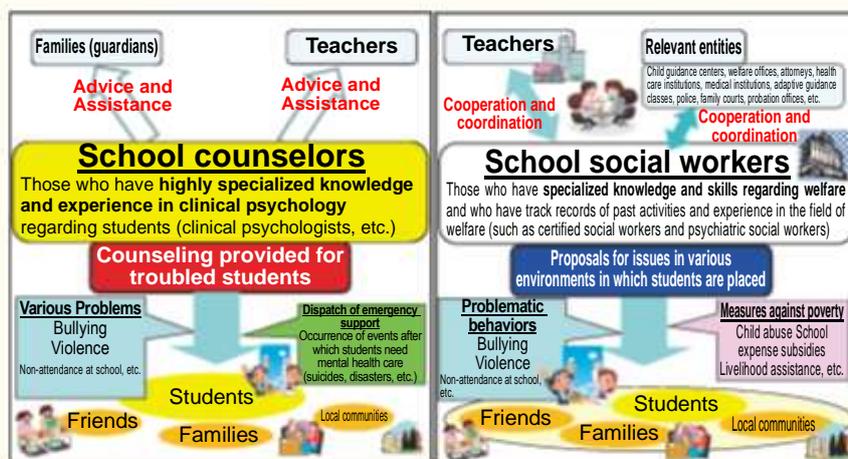
(2) Improvement of Child & Youth Counseling Centers

- 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. MEXT also holds workshops for teachers.

Figure 3 School counselors and school social workers



Source: Materials prepared by MEXT

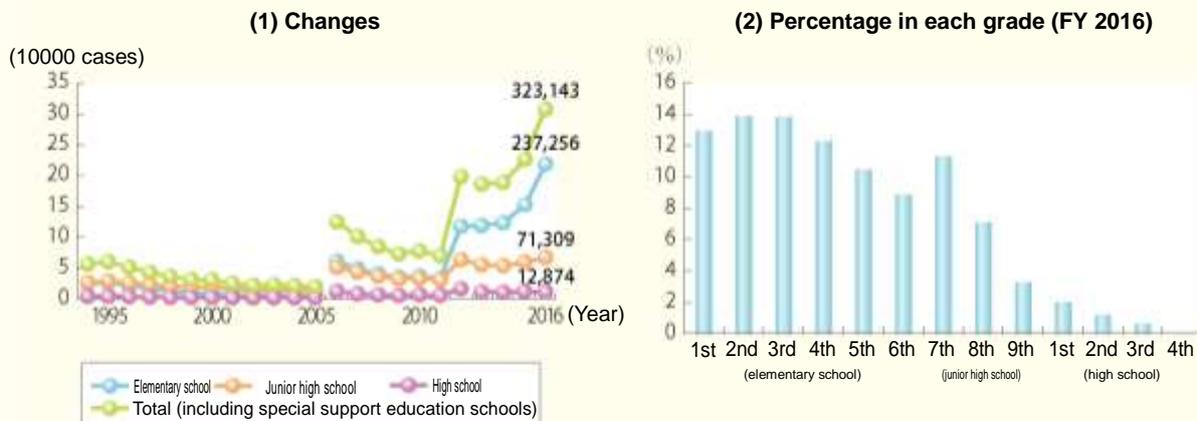
(4) Improvement of counseling systems in local communities

- 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.
- 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 4 Number of cases identified as bullying (occurrences)

- ◆ The number of cases identified as bullying in schools in the year of FY 2016 is approximately 323,000 cases. Observation of the number of cases per the grade tells that the students in elementary school 2nd and 3rd grade children suffers the most.

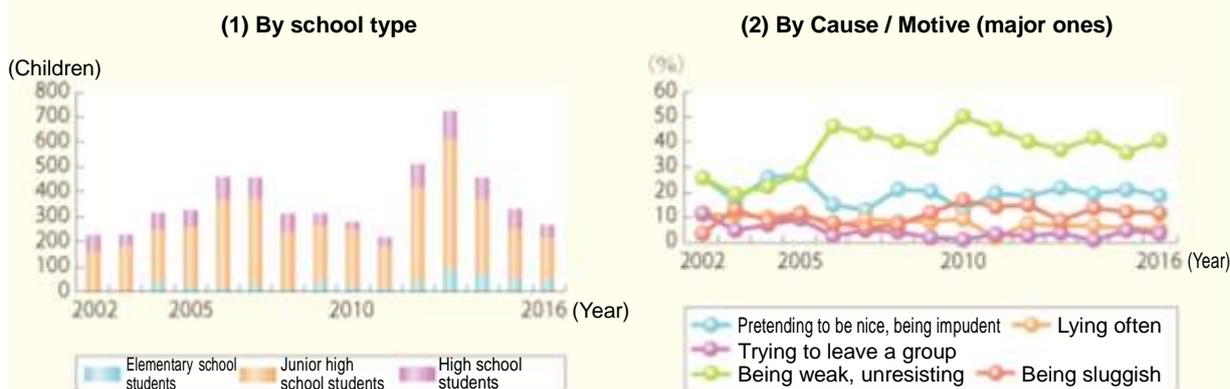


Source: "Survey on Undesirable Behavior and School Non-attendance of Students" MEXT

- 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)."
- 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.
 - The survey has covered correspondence courses provided by high schools since FY 2013.
 - "elementary school" includes a compulsory school lower course; "junior high school" includes a compulsory school upper course and a secondary school lower course; and "high school" includes a secondary school upper course.
 - 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%.
 - Only the graph of the special support education schools is omitted.
 - In "4" year, students are of 4th grade or above of high schools part-time course, or total 4 years, considering the admission year of credit-based system as the 1st year.

Figure 5 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 three 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 2012 to cases in which physical attacks or psychological oppression continued repeatedly). These cases involve crimes (including illegal behavior) committed by elementary school students, junior high school students, or high school students, who are arrested or given guidance by the local police
- Multiple answers for reasons and motives. The reasons and motives of the cases due to retaliation to a bullying have been counted for each reason and motive since the year 2008.

(Comprehensive promotion of measures for preventing bullying)

- In FY 2018, 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
- Early-stage detection and responses
- Increase in the number of educational staffs, and the enhancement of training of teachers
- Conducting surveys and study about practical measures for responding to bullying problems such as proactive prevention, early detection, early response, and post-incident-support

In addition, MEXT is distributing the leaflets enlighten children and their parents to boards of education in order to address bullying that uses inter nets and mobile phones (bullying on internet). Also, MEXT held the “National children’s summit for Bullying problem” in January 2018, 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 FY 2016 (Telephone number is 0120-0-78310). Also, to study the advantages and disadvantages of the utilization of SNS and other tools for the consultation on children’s anxiety including bullying, MEXT held an expert meeting in July 2017, and summarized in March 2018 “An immediate vision about a consultation system using SNS and other tools (final report).” Further, since 2018, MEXT has been supporting local governments which establish the consultation systems utilizing SNS and other tools for schoolchildren.
- 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 (Children’s Rights 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. In FY 2017, MEXT implemented a model project for the development of new methods on safety education mainly focusing on disaster preparedness, etc.

(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 conducts the Disaster Prevention National Meeting, Disaster Prevention Poster Contest, and Disaster Prevention Education Challenge Plan.

- 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 junior high 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 who are in charge of prevention/education programs.
- Regarding the issues of sexual violence against young women, including so-called forced appearance in pornographic materials, and "JK (female high-school student) businesses", urgent measures were compiled by "the Inter-Ministerial Committee on measures against the issue of appearances in pornographic materials and 'JK businesses'". Based on the urgent measures, the April 2017 was designated as the "Month for prevention of so-called forced appearance in pornographic materials, and 'JK businesses'" and prompt and intensive needed actions were implemented by all forces of the government. Further, considering the operation status, the said committee formulated in May 2017 the "Actions for proceeding measures on the issue of so-called forced appearances in pornographic materials and 'JK businesses'", thus promoting the efforts to eradicate such problems.
- 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, 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.
- In cooperation with local companies, MEXT is promoting a work experience, internship, career education in cooperation with local companies, and career education for strengthening attachment to the community.
- 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 high 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 tours for the field with less advancement of women such as the STEM fields aiming at the youth women.

※ STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

- MHLW manages the Comprehensive Women’s Participation and Advancement and Work-Life Balance Support Site so that when students choose the place of employment, they can study how women work in companies and the situation of the enhancement of women’s activity and the approach to realize balance between work and childcare/nursing care.
- 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

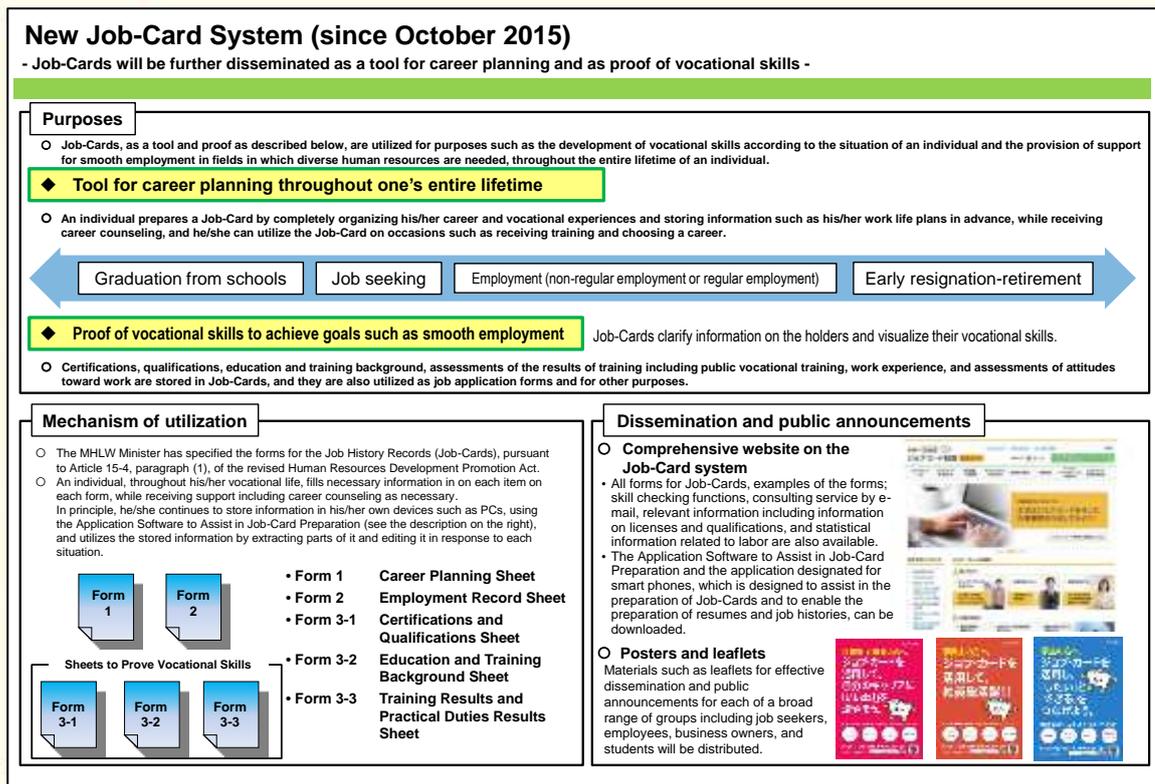
(Hello Training (Public vocational training))

- 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.

Figure 6 Job-Card System



(Source) Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare data

- MHLW is also implementing Young Skilled Workers Development Support Projects in order to develop and maintain young human resources in manufacturing. About the “Human Resource Development Support Subsidies” which partly covers the training expenses and wages of trainees for business operators engaged in internal human resource development, MHLW is promoting the transfer of technology to young workers and the development of core human resources in companies. And based on the “the Act for Employment Promotion, etc. of Youth” (Act No. 98 of 1970), MHLW increases the rate of the subsidies, when the employers who have been accredited under the act, provide their employees with a “Special Training Course” designated in the subsidies.
- Also, 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 industries and educational organizations such as universities and specialized training colleges.

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.
- 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). There was found no major problems in FY 2017 with job-hunting and recruitment activities, it was decided that the starting period for job hunting and hiring for FY 2018 is supposed to be set in the same periods.
- 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.)

- 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)

- 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.

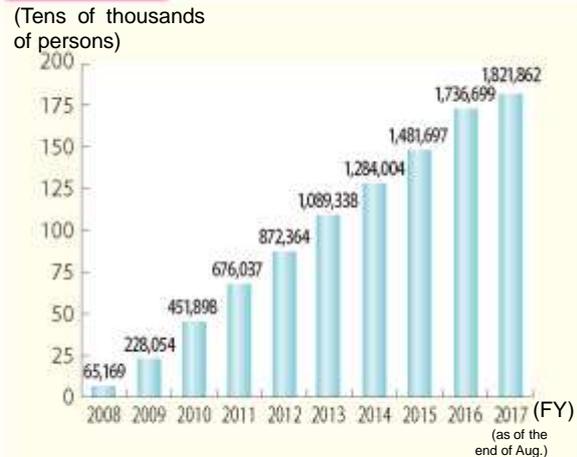
(Promotion of employment of young people in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries)

- 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 convert the employment status of workers who desire regular work from non-regular work and improve the treatment of workers who choose non-regular work, MHLW strongly promotes such conversions and

Figure 7 Number of people who have received Job-Cards (cumulative total)



(Source) Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare data

improvements depending on the requests, willingness, and capabilities of non-regular workers in corporation with prefectural governments, pursuant to policies including the Conversion to Regular Employee and Treatment Improvement Plan, which was formulated in January 2016.

(4) Employment support through enforcement of the Act for Employment Promotion, etc. of Youth

- Based on the Act for Employment Promotion, etc. of Youth enacted in FY 2015, 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

- 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, MHLW conducted “Survey on awareness about part-time jobs for high school students” from December 2015 to February 2016, following “Survey on awareness about part-time jobs for university students”. 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. Furthermore, based on “the Karoshi (death from overwork) emergency measures” decided in December 2016 by “the Headquarters for the Promotion of the Reduction of Long Working Hours” headed by the MHLW minister, MHLW implements the following measures:

- 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

Moreover, in April 2018, MHLW established a special team in all the Labour Standards Inspection Offices, “a working hour improvement support team” who intensively guides and disseminates the legal system on working hours in order to reduce long working hours and prevent health disorders due to long working hours. The team is supervised by the labor standards inspector, who is appointed as “a supervisor of working-hour improvement special measures.”

3 Realization of Work Style Reform

- 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.
- Work Style Reform 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 Work Style Reform” chaired by the Prime Minister was launched in September, 2016 in order to contribute in formulating the implementation plan for realizing the Work Style Reform. At this council, the topics such as correcting long work hours by limiting overtime hours, improving the treatment of non-regular workers through equal pay for equal work and developing the environment that makes women and young people active were discussed. “The Action Plan for the Realization of Work Style Reform” was compiled in March, 2017. In this plan, promotion of employment and self-reliance support for high 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. The government will continue the measures along the roadmap by looking ahead 10 years.

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)

- Under the current National Curriculum Standard, for instance, elementary school students study important rules and regulations needed to lead social lives; junior high school students study the importance of contracts and the support for consumers' self-reliance; and high school students study consumer problems. The new National Curriculum Standard, which were revised in March 2017, intends to enrich the contents of education about citizenship and consumers. For example, elementary school education includes the role of tax for improving public facilities, and basic sales contracts; junior high school education includes the promotion of democracy, formation of fair public opinions, and the political participation of the people, such as elections, and the background of consumer damage and its measures. The new National Curriculum Standard for Upper Secondary Schools, which were revised in March 2018, created a new subject of "Public."

(Citizenship education)

- MIC and the MEXT, 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 FY 2015. Also both Ministries were distributed for 10th graders to all high schools in FY 2017.
- MIC is taking the following measures, so as to promote citizenship education.
 - Support for the long-term citizenship education plan made by local governments
 - Creation of a citizenship education advisor system, and support for citizenship education provided by election administration commissions and schools
 - 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
 - Holding of awareness-raising events for young people in order to deepen their understanding of politics and elections
- MEXT examined and announced the state of implementation of citizenship education in high schools and shared excellent cases. 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)

- 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 and economic education)

- The Financial Services Agency strives to enhance financial literacy of students, by means such as revising "the Financial Literacy Map", running classes for university students, and sending out instructors to high schools.

(Education about the rights and duties of workers)

- MHLW is disseminating and enlightening the knowledge on labor law at high schools and universities 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)

- MHLW is conducting dissemination and awareness-raising activities for educational sites, by means such as distributing teaching materials for high school students that were prepared by a group of experts named the Study Group on the Promotion of Social Security Education to high 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 period for integrated studies 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.