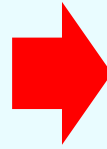


Changes to Be Made in the System of Boards of Education



<Issues surrounding boards of education in the past>

- It is difficult to know who is responsible: chairs or superintendents.
- Deliberations in the meetings of boards of education are losing substance.
- Prompt responses to problems such as bullying are not necessarily provided.
- Public opinion from local residents is not adequately reflected.
- In cases where there are problems with local educational administration, it is necessary to have the national government ultimately fulfill their responsibility.



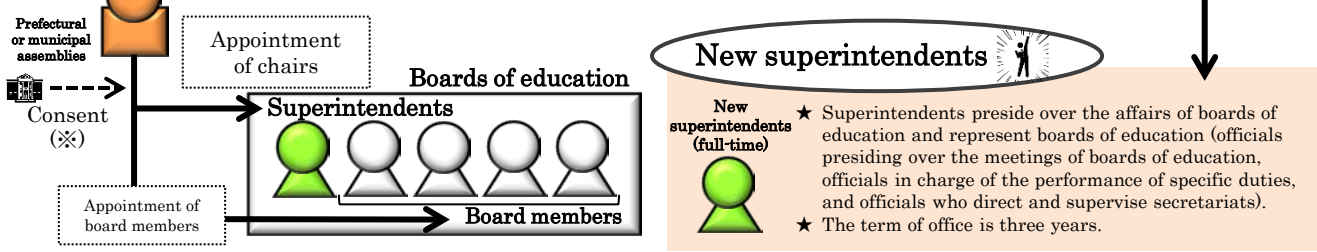
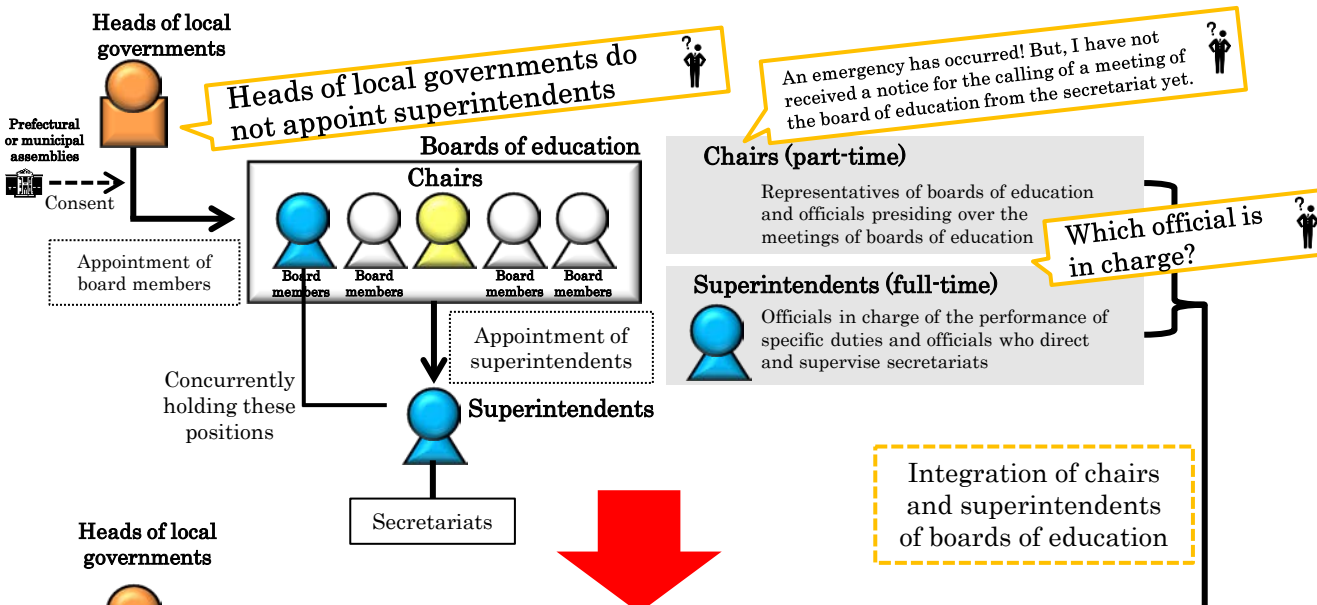
<Vision of new boards of education>

- Clarification of roles and responsibilities within educational administration
- Vitalization of deliberations by boards of education
- Prompt establishment of a risk management system
- Strengthening of partnerships with heads of local governments who represent local public opinion
- Clarification of the authority of the national government to also instruct boards of education for the prevention of the recurrence of suicide cases due to bullying and the like after the occurrence of such cases

Securement of political neutrality

- ◆ Boards of education continue to serve as executive agencies.
- ◆ Although consultations and coordination with heads of local governments are conducted at comprehensive meetings on education, the ultimate executive authority is retained by boards of education.

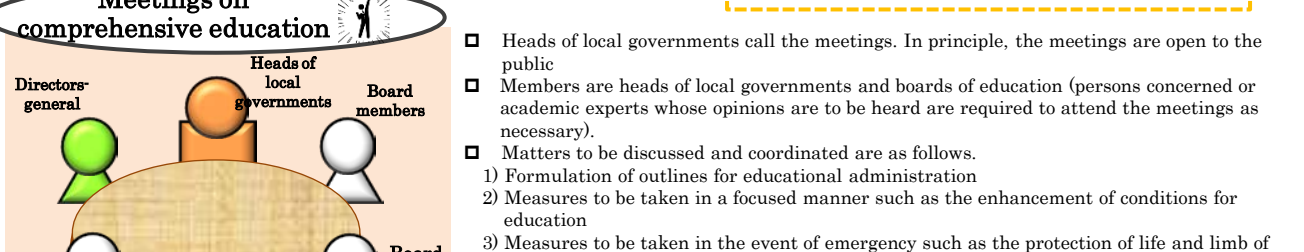
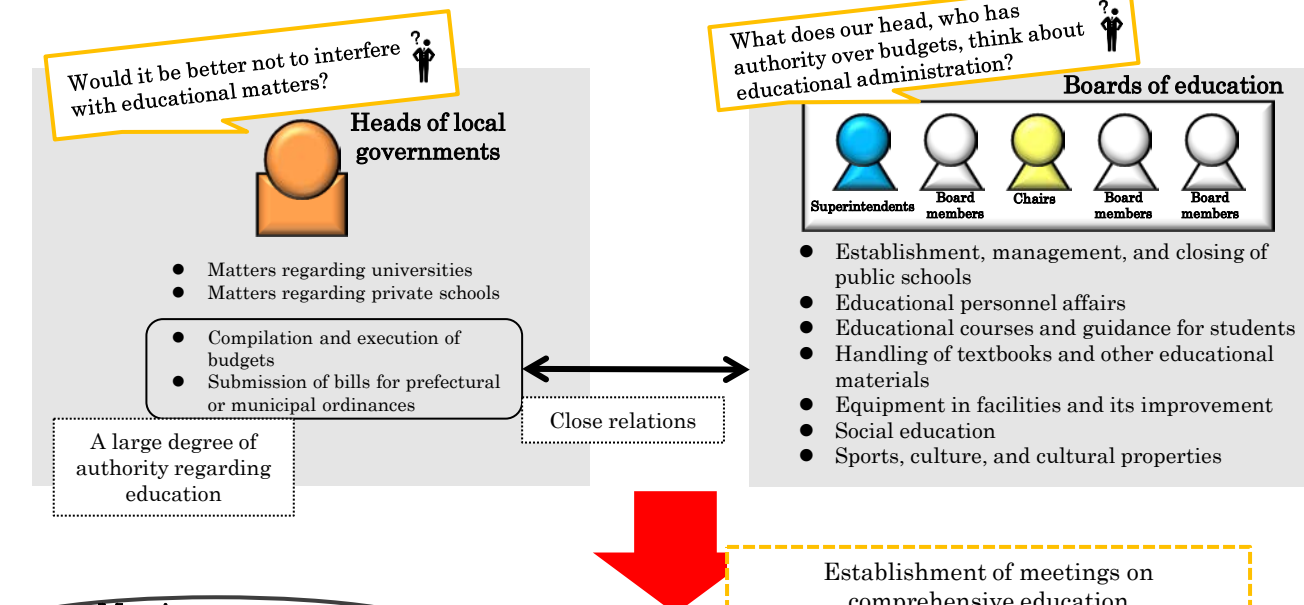
Key Point (1) Superintendents of Boards of Education Establishment of new category of superintendents into which chairs and superintendents of boards of education are integrated



✓ **Heads of local governments directly appoint superintendents, which clarifies who is responsible for appointing them.**

✓ **It has become clear that the officials who have the primary responsibility are the superintendents.**
 ✓ **Full-time superintendents also determine the timing for the calling of the meetings of boards of education in the event of emergency.**

Key Point (3) Comprehensive Meetings on Education Meetings on Comprehensive education are established in all local governments



□ Heads of local governments call the meetings. In principle, the meetings are open to the public
 □ Members are heads of local governments and boards of education (persons concerned or academic experts whose opinions are to be heard are required to attend the meetings as necessary).
 □ Matters to be discussed and coordinated are as follows.
 1) Formulation of outlines for educational administration
 2) Measures to be taken in a focused manner such as the enhancement of conditions for education
 3) Measures to be taken in the event of emergency such as the protection of life and limb of persons such as children and students
 ✓ **Their establishment clarifies the responsibilities that heads of local governments fulfill and the roles that such heads play in educational administration as well as enabling such heads to publicly discuss educational policies.**
 ✓ **Consultations and coordination between heads of local governments and boards of education enable both of them to share directions for educational policies and to collaboratively execute such policies.**

Key Point (2) Boards of Education Strengthening of Checks against Superintendents and the Enhancement of Transparency in the Meetings of Boards of Education

- Realization of the prompt provision of information for board members and calling of meetings of boards of education according to the decisions made by new superintendents
- In order to strengthen the checks that board members may exercise,
 - one third or more of the designated number of members of a board can demand the calling of meetings of that board of education, and
 - the obligation to report the management and performance of the duties delegated to superintendents is stipulated pursuant to the provisions of the Rules for Boards of Education.
- In order to enhance transparency in the meetings of boards of education, in principle, the minutes of such meetings are prepared and released.

✓ **Deliberations by boards of education are vitalized.**

Key Point (4) Outlines Formulation of Outlines regarding Education by Heads of Local Governments

- The outlines contain goals for education and fundamental objectives for measures on education.
- At meetings on comprehensive education, heads of local governments and boards of education conduct thorough discussions and coordination, and such heads formulate the outlines. Heads of local governments and boards of education perform the duties that they independently hold jurisdiction over.

✓ **Local governments clarifying directions regarding educational policies**