Modality and Promotion Policies between Schools and Communities for Education in a New Era and towards Realizing Regional Revitalization (Key Points)

Chapter 1 Modality of Schools and Communities Capable of Corresponding to the Changing Times

Transforming into “Schools in Partnership with Communities”
- Transforming into “schools in partnership with communities” that work to share targets and visions with community members and foster children in close cooperation with the community

Building an Educational System in which Children and Adults Learn and Grow Together
- Building an integrated and comprehensive “education system in which children and adults learn and grow together” by working to advance networks among various community organizations and groups while expanding learning by the entire community through mutual cooperation between schools, households and communities

Promoting Community Building with Schools at the Core
- “Promoting community building with schools at the core” which aims to build foundations for independent regional societies through advancing collaborative measures with schools at the core, and fostering human resources to lead future regional societies

Chapter 2 Modality of Future Community Schools and Comprehensive Promotion Policies

<Modality of a System for Future Community Schools>

(Basic Direction of School Management Council System for Community Schools)
- Clarifying the role of School Management Councils to include providing support for schools, advancing school-building which takes into account the characteristics and conditions of each community;
- Examining a system to secure the flexible management of including the council’s opinions for teacher appointments, while providing the functions of current School Management Councils;
- (approving basic policies for school management established by the school principal, giving opinions on school management and teacher appointments);
- Developing a comprehensive plan and design for school support provided by the School Management Council, creating a system which advances collaborative structures between schools and local residents;
- Creating a system which reflects the principal’s opinions when appointing committee members for the School Management Council from the standpoint of promoting displaying leadership by the school principal;
- Creating a system which enables the establishment of a single School Management Council among several schools to facilitate the smooth integration of education between unified primary and secondary schools.

(Review of Systematic Placement)
- School management must be implemented by the participation of parents, guardians and local residents in order to foster children with the strength to solve diverse and complex issues. The implementation of a Community School System will secure an organizational and systematic structure of collaboration between schools and communities;
- All public schools must aim to transform into Community Schools. Moreover, the systematic placement of School Management Committees must also be reviewed. While it is preferable for such measures to be advanced voluntarily by schools and local education boards, the systematic placement of Community Schools must be reviewed in order for Local Boards of Education to actively promote the establishment of Community Schools.

<Need to Realize Collaboration and Cooperation Between Schools and Communities based on Trends in Education Reform and Regional Revitalization>

- Falling educational standards in regional communities due to weakening community ties and support, increased need for improved household education, diversification and complexity of school issues;
- Collaboration and Cooperation between schools and communities must be strengthened when defining the direction of school education reform and trends in regional revitalization including; revising the Course of Study based on a “curriculum open to society”, promoting team schools, improving the ability and quality of teachers;
- Schools and communities must work in partnership to advance collaborative structures which aim to realize education by the whole of society from the standpoint of; fostering individuals who have the strength to survive a challenging era, building schools which are trusted by communities, and building social educational foundations.

Modality of Collaboration and Cooperation between Schools and Communities>

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(Report by the Central Education Council released on December 21, 2015)
Comprehensive Promotion Policy for Community Schools

Towards further advancement of Community Schools, the government must define a comprehensive policy to improve conditions of financial support and quality improvement:

- Expanding the scope of Community Schools to include a variety of similar systems
- Securing and improving the quality of personnel to serve as members of the School Management Council
- Enhancing systematic and financial support upon setting up Community Schools
- Prefectural Boards of Education: clarification of vision and promotion targets, collaborative structure with the Governor Bureau, building a prefectural-wide promotion system, enhancing teachers’ training opportunities and training contents, promoting the establishment of Community Schools within prefectural schools;
- Municipal Boards of Education: clarification of vision and promotion targets, collaborative structure with the Director Bureau, promoting establishment within non-designated schools.

Prefectural Boards of Education: clarification of vision and promotion targets, collaborative structure with the Governor Bureau, building a prefectural-wide promotion system, enhancing teachers’ training opportunities and training contents, promoting the establishment of Community Schools within prefectural schools;

Municipal Boards of Education: clarification of vision and promotion targets, collaborative structure with the Director Bureau, promoting establishment within non-designated schools.

Community schools and Community Cooperation Network for Learning and Education must work to complement and mutually enhance each other to exert synergistic effects. A system must be established corresponding to the realities of schools and communities and realizes organic linkages between both parties.
Community Schools must solve diverse and complex issues—participation and cooperation by the community members is necessary to foster children with the skills needed to survive in the future.

In order for Community Schools to transform into schools which collaborate with the community, Community Schools must share their targets and vision with community residents in order for both parties to work together in fostering children.

The establishment of Community Schools must further advance from the standpoint of securing an organizational and continuous collaborative system between schools and communities.

**Basic Direction**

- The School Management Council shall support schools and clarify its role upon advancing characteristic school-building which reflects the actual situation of communities;
- Establish a system to secure the flexible operation of teacher appointments while providing functions of current School Management Councils;
- The School Management Council must develop and design a comprehensive plan on school support and create a system to promote a collaborative structure between schools and communities;
- Create a system which reflects the school principal’s opinion when appointing members of the School Management Council;
- Create a system which enables the establishment of a single School Management Council among multiple schools to facilitate smooth connections between schools such as unified primary and secondary schools.

**Institutional Placement**

- All public schools must aim to transform into Community Schools. Policies must be established to review the systematic placement of School Management Councils which are currently established voluntarily. Schools and Boards of Education must also consider the establishment preferably by the voluntary will of Schools and Boards of Education, in addition to defining the systematic placement of Boards of Education upon actively promoting the establishment of Community Schools.
Effectively utilize good practices of community collaborations independently carried out by schools and boards of education. Schools and boards of education must understand the significance and fruits of establishing Community Schools, and the importance of choosing this path.

Key Merits of Developing Community Schools from Similar Systems:

- Developing a School Management Council System from a project-type system to a one based on law will secure an organizational and continuous collaborative structure.
- Opinions of committee members who participate in school management will improve and enhance school management.
- A common vision of educational activities by schools, households and the community will create subjective and active measures.
- Approval of basic principles will improve awareness on the accountability towards communities, and enable school management with a friendly atmosphere which has received the community’s understanding and cooperation.
- Enable securing a PDCA cycle which serves to improve school management.

Municipality-like System (○○-Type Community School):
A forum in which local residents and parents/guardians negotiate and discuss issues related to school management and educational activities.

※A forum established based on rules set forth by Boards of Education and School Guidelines defined by Principles laid down by Local Boards of Education. The forum is not limited to requests by the school principal, but holds subjective discussions on school management and school activities (includes forums established for issues other than teacher appointments).

School Evaluation Council:
Implemented at approx. 94% of all public schools

School Councilor System:
Implemented at approx. 80% of all public schools

School Support Measures:
Implemented at approx. 59% of all public elementary and junior high schools

Steps towards Receiving Community School Designation:

- Promoting Transitional Step
- Essential Measures to Lay Foundations for Establishing Collaborative and Trusting Relations Between Schools and Communities

Establishing a Sustainable System for the Participation of Communities in School Management:

- Review Current System to Create Better Structure
- 2,389 Schools (as of April 1, 2015)

Visualization of Expanding and Enhancing Community Schools:

- Integral Promotion with School Management Council
- Active Promotion of Transition to School Management Council
- Integral Promotion with School Management Council

Effectively utilize good practices of community collaborations independently carried out by schools and boards of education. Schools and boards of education must understand the significance and fruits of establishing Community Schools, and the importance of choosing this path.
Community-wide support for educating children (activity map)

- Community and school collaborate to decide what kind of qualities should be developed in children, who will lead the next generation.
- Improvement of educational capability of community through new ties not limited to only neighborhood groups will lead to collaboration for resolving community issues and become basis for sustainable regional communities.

★ Participation of more residents from broader bases, building of “flexible networks” for sharing aims.
System for collaboration/cooperation with schools in the future
(Community Cooperation Network for Learning and Education)

Current

School Support Regional Headquarters
※ Coordination of activities aside from those related to school support due to regional characteristics and policies

School Support Activities
- Watching over children going to and from school
- Flowerbed maintenance
- Classroom support

Saturday Educational Activities

After-School Classes for Children

Support for Education at Home

Coordinator

Future

Community Cooperation Network for Learning and Education

(1) Coordinating functions
(2) Diverse activities (participation by various local residents)
(3) Continuous activities

Enhancing Coordination Functions, Integrating and Networking of Individual Activities
- Transition from "Support" to "Collaboration/Cooperation"

Support for Education at Home

Saturday Educational Activities

After-School Classes for Children

Community Activities by regional societies

Community Building through Learning

Collaboration/Cooperation

Coordination of activities according to situation in community

Voluntary system for building "flexible networks" by community residents, organizations. Selection and implementation of activity contents according to local needs.
Visualization of a System Promoting Community Cooperation Activities for Learning and Education

- Active promotion of “Community Cooperation Activities for Learning and Education”: Promoting activities in which communities and schools collaborate and cooperate that foster individuals who will lead the country and society in the future.
- Establishing “Community Cooperation Network for Learning and Education” as a new system which aims towards transition form “Support” to “Collaboration/Cooperation” by enhancing individual activities and establishing integrated networking.

Basic Policy Direction

- School Support Regional Headquarters and After-School Classes for Children shall function as a base towards developing Community Cooperation Network for Learning and Education by: ① Strengthening coordination functions ② Diversifying activities by advancing participation of a diverse range of local residents; ③ Transition into “Community Cooperation Network for Learning and Education” by continuous implementation of Community Cooperation Activities for Learning and Education;
- Implementing policies to promote Community Cooperation Activities for Learning and Education by taking into account the characteristics of communities and schools, along with their background and actual situation
- Strengthening coordination functions which serve as the core of Community Cooperation Activities for Learning and Education

School Support Activities

Saturday Educational Activities

After-School Classes for Children

Support for Education at Home

Community Activities by Regional Societies

Community Building through Learning

A. Community Cooperation Network for Learning and Education

【Community Coordinator】

① Collaboration and coordination between schools
② Correspondence and coordination between local residents and parents

Create a highly voluntary “Moderate Network” System in the field of social education, comprised of local residents and organizations. Activities shall be chosen corresponding to the region’s actual situation.

3 Components of Network

1) Coordination Functions
2) Diverse Activities (participation by various local residents)
3) Continuous Activities

Collaboration/Cooperation

Participation by Local Residents, Parents/Guardians, Businesses/Organizations

B. Community Cooperation Network for Learning and Education

【Community Coordinator】

① Correspondence and Coordination
② Advice, Guidance
③ Fostering Human Resources

General Coordinator

Commission

Prefectural Board of Education

- Implementing policies related to promoting Community School Collaborative Activities
- Supporting the advancement of Community School Collaborative Activities carried out by Local Boards of Education
- Includes cases in which general coordinator is commissioned by prefectural board of education

Local Board of Education

- Implementing policies to promote Community School Collaboration Activities (establishing an organizational structure to promote the establishment of Community School Collaboration Headquarters, formulating plans to advance the appointment, fostering and unearthing of coordinators)

Collaboration/Cooperation

Elementary School

Junior High School

High School

C. Community Cooperation Network for Learning and Education

【Community Coordinator】

※ Includes cases for establishing system among several schools
Building flexible networks among local residents and organizations

- **3 essential points**
  1. **Coordination Functions**
  2. **Diverse Activities** (Participation by various local residents)
  3. **Continuous Activities**

**Community Cooperation Network for Learning and Education**

- Liaison for community side
- Coordinating school support, extracurricular activities, securing volunteers
- Attached to Community Cooperation Network for Learning and Education

**School Management Council**

- General window for school
- Coordination of management operations by School Management Council
- Planning and coordinating regional collaboration of school support by local residents

**School staff in Charge of Regional Collaboration (tentative name)**

- Participation of Local Residents, Parents/Guardians in School Management

**Promoting As Two Wheels**

- Realizing an educational curriculum which is open to society by utilizing local human and material resources and collaborating with social education
- Carrying out community school support activities, extracurricular educational activities, community cultural activities by local residents
- Revitalizing regional communities where adults and children learn from each other, with schools serving as a base

**Community School**

- Schools Implementing a School Management Council System

**Visualization of a Promotion System for Effective Collaboration and Cooperation between Schools and Communities**

- Education for a New Era Based on Partnership Building, Realizing Regional Revitalization