

## Preamble

Education, as prescribed in Article 1 of the Basic Act on Education, must be provided with the aim of fully developing the individual character, as we endeavor to cultivate a people that is sound in mind and body and imbued with the qualities that are necessary for the people who make up a peaceful and democratic nation and society, so as to achieve the following objectives set forth in Article 2 of the Basic Act on Education:

1. having students acquire wide-ranging knowledge and culture, fostering the value of seeking the truth, and cultivating a rich sensibility and sense of morality as well as building the health of the body;
2. developing individuals' abilities, cultivating creativity, and fostering a spirit of autonomy and independence by respecting the value of the individual, as well as emphasizing the relationship between one's career and one's everyday life and fostering the value of respect for hard work;
3. fostering the values of respect for justice, responsibility, equality between men and women, and mutual respect and cooperation, as well as the value of actively participating in building our society and contributing to its development, in the public spirit;
4. fostering the values of respecting life, caring about nature, and desiring to contribute to the preservation of the environment; and
5. fostering the value of respect for tradition and culture and love of the country and regions that have nurtured us, as well as the value of respect for other countries and the desire to contribute to world peace and the development of the international community.

Schools, henceforth, are required to aim to achieve these objectives and goals of education as well as enable each student to recognize their own good points and possibilities, respect all others as valued members of society, overcome various social changes while cooperating with diverse people, establish to a fulfilling life, and be a builder of a sustainable society. What embodies the nature of education necessary for this is curriculum, which each school assembles the contents of education, etc. in an organized and systematic way.

In order to realize education required in the future through the curriculum, it is important to realize the curriculum open to society, where schools and society share the principle of creating a better society through better school education, each school works toward the realization of education required in the future through cooperation and joint initiatives with society clarifies in its curriculum how to learn the necessary learning content and what kinds of competencies to be acquired and schools work toward the realization of education required in the future through cooperation and joint initiatives with society.

The National Curriculum Standards broadly prescribe the standards for curriculum

necessary to realize these principles. One of the roles of the National Curriculum Standards is to ensure adequate educational standards nationwide in schools which are public in nature. It is also important for each school to work toward the further enrichment of its educational activities, based on the National Curriculum Standards, by grasping the current status and issues of students and the local community, and by cooperating with families and the local community, while making use of their originality and ingenuity by utilizing its features, and using the accumulation over the years of educational practices and academic research.

Putting in place an environment in which students can see the significance of learning and making it possible to develop each student's competencies is a role that is expected of all adults involved with students and schools from various standpoints, not only school personnel and persons related to schools, but also families and members of the local community. We hereby enact the Elementary School National Curriculum Standard, based on the foundation of early childhood and elementary school education, with the expectation that it will be widely utilized for the purpose of foreseeing and building upon the nature of student's learning, with the anticipation of its ties with high school education and lifelong learning.