Improving the Quality of Education Through the GIGA School Program

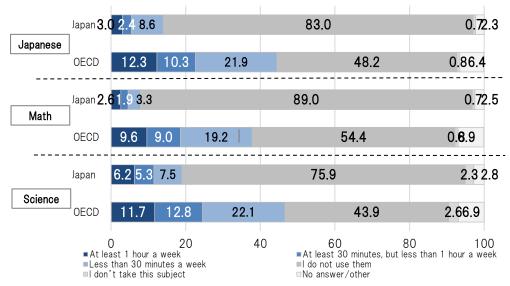
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Findings from PISA 2018 (questionnaire survey on the educational achievement of students in OE<u>CD countries</u>)

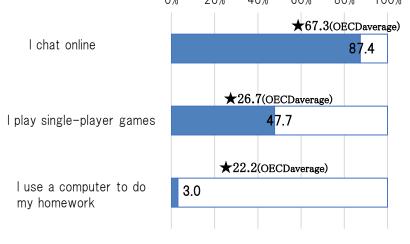
- In terms of the use of ICT among students, the amount of time that is spent on using digital devices during school classes (Japanese, math, science) in Japan is short, and is the lowest among OECD member countries (37 countries).
- In Japan, the use of digital devices outside of school tends to be skewed towards chatting and games (the number of responses for "I chat online" and "I play single-player games" is the highest among OECD member countries). The number of responses for "I use a computer to do homework" is the lowest among OECD member countries.



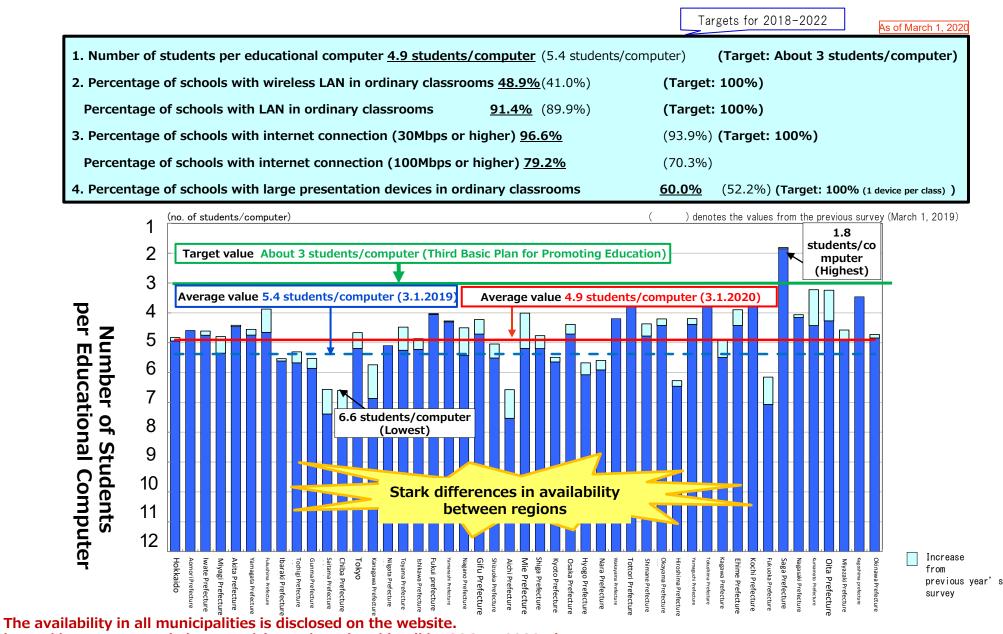
Time Spent on Using Digital Devices During Classroom Lessons Within a Week

Use of Digital Devices Outside of School During Weekdays

(The blue bars represent Japan and the \star represent the OECD average for the combined number of responses for "every day" and "almost every day") 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

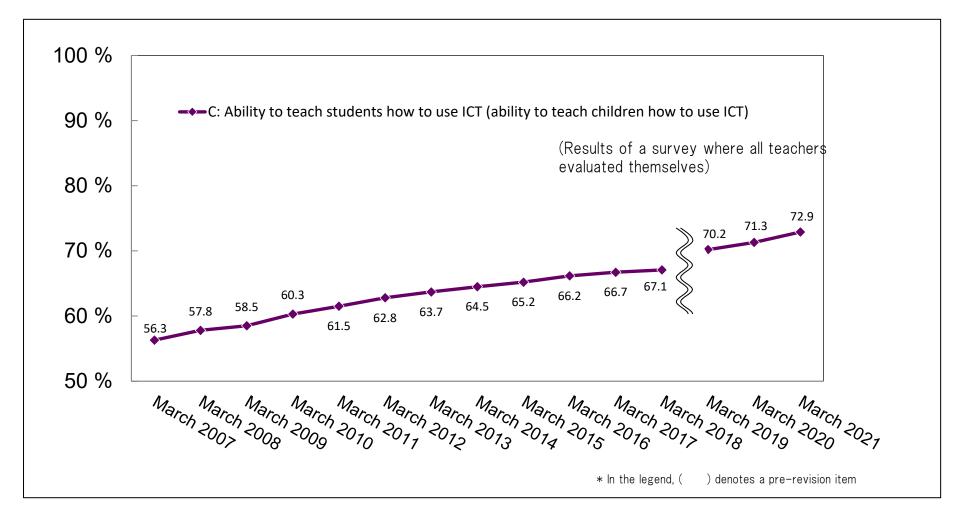


Current Availability of ICT Equipment in Schools (March 2020)



https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/shotou/zyouhou/detail/1420641_00001.htm

Changes in Teachers' Ability to Teach Students How to Use ICT



* These are values calculated by averaging the percentage of teachers who answered "I can do it" and "I can somewhat do it" on a 4-point scale with the options, "I can do it", "I can somewhat do it", "I can't really do it", and "I can't do it at all". (Source: Survey on the State of Computerizing Education in Schools (as of March 2021)

Promoting the concept of the GIGA School Program





Concept of GIGA School Program: To improve the quality of education by the integrated enhancement of personalized, self-regulated learning and collaborative learning through the preparation and utilization of a school-wide ICT environment equipped with high-speed networks in each school and provision of 1 device for 1 student.

Background of concept: ① By international comparison, Japan ranks at the bottom for the amount of time students use digital devices for learning. (OECD survey) ② There are significant disparities among regions in the preparation of ICT environments at schools. (MEXT survey)

⇒ For children living in the Society 5.0 era, PC devices are must-have items along with pencils and notebooks. The 1-device for 1-student environment will be the standard for schools in the current Reiwa era. (December 2019 MEXT Minister message)

1. Preparation of school ICT environments based on the GIGA School concept

→ Due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic, the preparation plan based on the GIGA School concept, continuing from fiscal 2019 (supplementary budget) to fiscal 2023, has been significantly advanced ahead of schedule.

(1) 1 device for 1 student

(2019, 2020 supplementary budgets)

Current situation: Support for provision of 1 device per student: 314.9 billion yen → Provision of 1 device per 1 student already achieved in public elementary and junior high schools (March 2021)

Issues: Lack of, or only old, learning guidance PC terminals for teachers (July 2021 Digital Agency survey)

- **Initiatives**: For guidance terminals for teachers, 1 PC device will be provided for each classroom through allocation of local tax revenue. * A separate PC will be provided for administrative duties.
- Upgrading of class ICT environment, including terminals for teachers Preparations advancing through utilization of temporary grants for regional revitalization for terminals in high schools.

(2) Preparation of high-speed communications networks

Current situation: 136.7 billion yen allocated for nationwide preparation of school network environments → Around 98% of schools have started using networks. 54% of local governments have no plans to assess school network environments.
Issues: Networks are slow, cannot connect (July 2021 Digital Agency survey)
(Survey as of end of May 2021)
Initiatives: Study of nationwide assessment of networks and stopgap measures.



2. Enhancing support for utilization of school ICT environments

(1)Support for operation

Current situation: Promotion of assignment of ICT support staff who provide daily support (at direction of MEXT ordinance "Support Staff for IT," August 2021) and GIGA School supporters who provide initial support for preparation of ICT environments. Notification for active utilization of PC terminals, including conducting checklists, in March 2021, and revision of security policy guidelines in May.

Issues: • Burden for setting equipment, etc. falling on teachers • Regional disparities in usage at home, etc. (July 2021 Digital Agency survey)

Initiatives: New GIGA School Operational Support Center Project scheduled to be started in order to develop and enhance regional support systems that shift from person-centered to organization-centered support. Guidelines scheduled to be drawn up by the end of this fiscal year to promote utilization of terminals.

(2) Learning guidance support

Current situation: Around 4% of local governments had completed ICT preparation by September 2020. Many local governments are starting to provide 1 device for 1 student from fiscal 2021. Support for trial-and-error efforts will be important.

Issues: Dissemination of guidance methods insufficient (July 2021 Digital Agency survey)

Initiatives: The GIGA StuDX Promotion Team (established in December 2020) is starting its support activities for learning guidance using ICT to boards of education, schools, etc. nationwide. The team will provide "push-type and accompanying-type" support, including disseminating information on best practices for dealing with concerns and problems at schools, holding online consultation meetings and training, publishing e-newsletters, etc. It will also enhance online training programs, including using explanatory videos produced in collaboration with the National Institute for School Teachers and Staff Development, provide specialist advice and training support by ICT educational advisors, etc.

Future developments: Further collaboration with other related ministries and agencies, beginning with the Digital Agency, to advance the GIGA School concept!

● Contents enhancement (digital texts, online learning system [MEXCBT]) ● CBT of national academic ability, learning situation ● greater efficiency in school admin affairs through digitalization • Post-GIGA models for teachers, school facilities • Roadmap for utilization of education data (Digital Agency) • Evidence-based policy making (EBPM) (under Cabinet Office Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy) ● EdTech, STEAM education (CSTI, METI) etc.

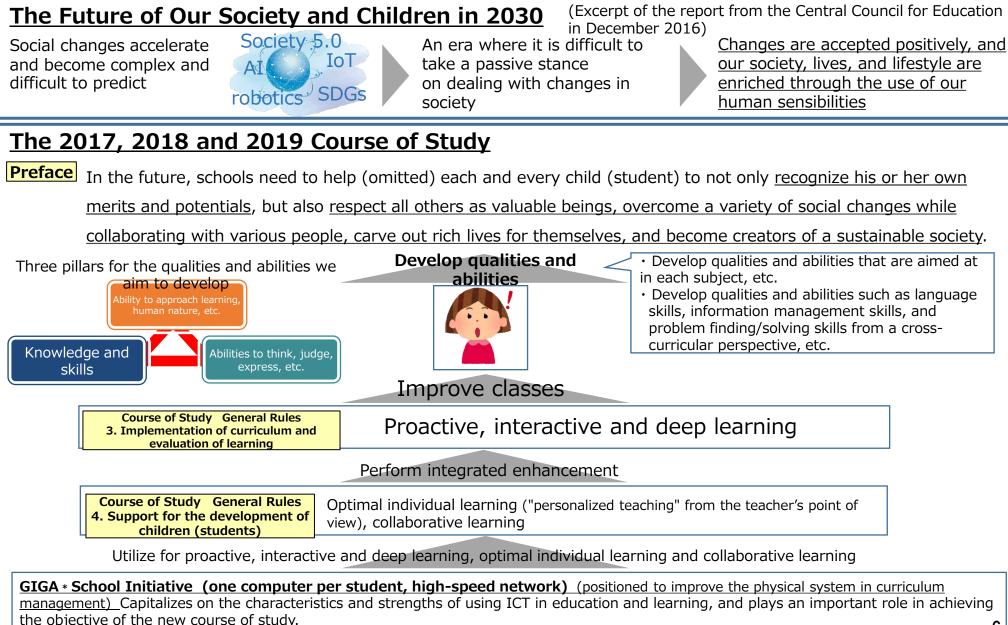








Relationship Between the New Course of Study and the GIGA School Program



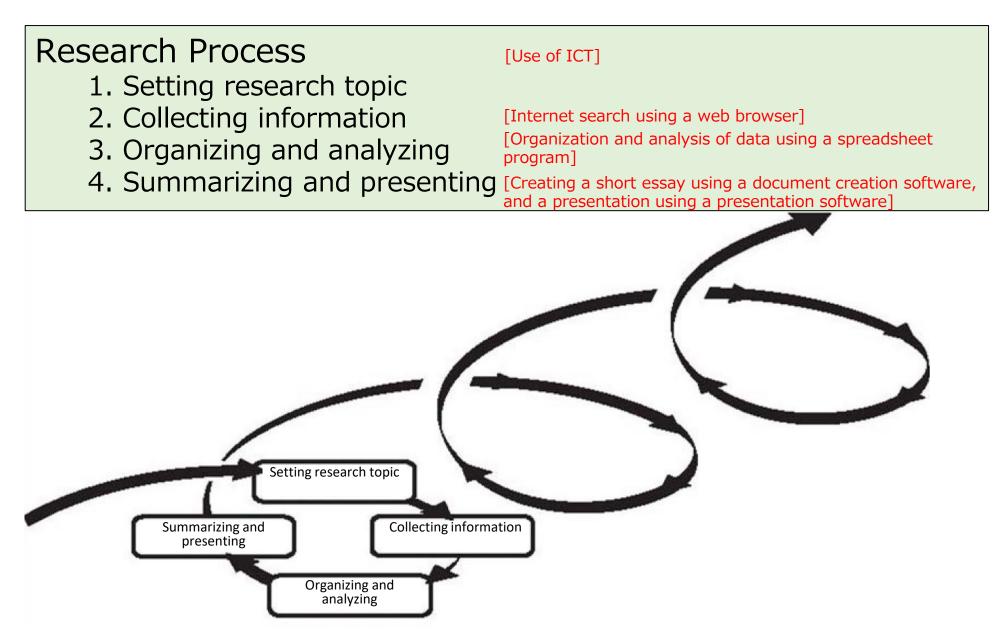
* Abbreviation for Global and Innovation Gateway for All

Special Characteristics and Strengths of Using ICT in Education and Learning (software/functions that can be utilized in the GIGA school standard specifications (examples))

Special characteristics and strengths of using ICT in a high-speed and high-capacity communication network environment where there is one computer per student	Software/functions
(1) Handling of diverse and large amounts of information, and simple trial and error	Web browser, document creation, spreadsheets, presentations, programming
(2) Accumulation of information beyond time constraints, and visualization of processes	(In addition to the software/functions in (1)), class management, photo and video shooting, editing, saving
(3) Mutual and instantaneous information sharing (interactivity) beyond spatial constraints	(In addition to the software/functions in (1)), comments, questionnaires, chats, emails, web conferences, file sharing

By capitalizing on the special characteristics and strengths of using ICT in education and learning, we will improve classes with the aim of achieving "proactive, interactive and deep learning", and enhance optimal individual learning and collaborative learning in an integrated manner. In addition, we will develop qualities and abilities that were difficult to develop in the past, such as information management skills, demonstrate the effects of ICT use on some of the students who had difficulties with conventional learning methods, and make it possible to carry out learning activities that were not possible before.

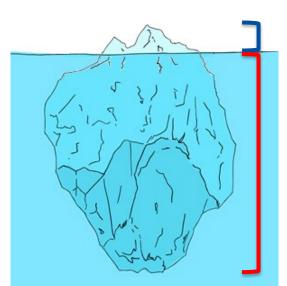
Research Process and ICT Use During Integrated Learning Time



Support for Educational Guidance in an Environment Where There is One Computer per Student

<Basic concept> To help achieve the objective of the new course of study, <u>all boards of</u> education, schools, and teachers will strive to foster qualities and abilities in students by facilitating their use of computers and networks

Current situation (image)



Municipalities where schools have accumulated some experience in teaching in an environment with one computer per student **Approximately** <u>4%</u> (Municipalities where schools have established said environment by September 2020: 4.4%) Municipalities where schools will fully teach in an environment with one computer per student

from 2021 onwards Approximately 96%

 Municipalities where schools will establish said environment from October to December 2020: 18.3%
 Municipalities where schools will establish said environment from January to February 2021: 25.4%
 Municipalities where schools will establish said environment in March 2021: 48.3%
 Municipalities where schools have vet to establish

said environment in 2020: 3.5%

It is important to raise this portion (Push the whole iceberg above the surface of the water)

Viewpoints of the initiative

- For many schools and teachers, it will be their first attempt at facilitating the regular use of computers from their computer rooms to their usual classrooms on a one computer per student basis. Therefore, trial and error is important.
- It is important for <u>each board of</u> <u>education</u> to fully understand the situation in their area before providing their schools and teachers with detailed support.
- The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, centered on the GIGA StuDX Promotion Team, will also maintain close communications with parties such as the boards of education, and will gain an understanding of the latest situation nationwide, before providing <u>encouraging and accompanying</u> <u>support</u> from the <u>specific standpoint of</u> <u>raising standards.</u>

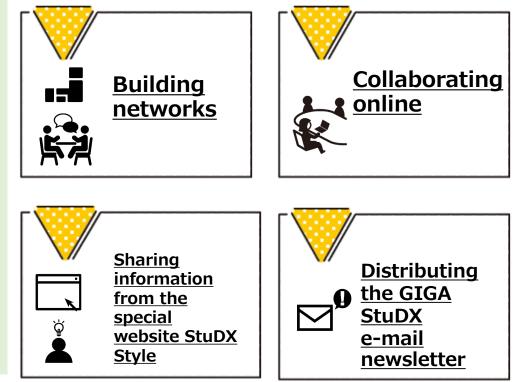
Activities Led by the "GIGA StuDX Promotion Team"

In order to stimulate improvement in the quality of education through efforts such as integrally enhancing optimal individual learning and collaborative learning to bring forth the potential of all children, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has established the "GIGA StuDX* Promotion Team " to carry out support activities such as facilitating educational guidance in environments where ICT is used nationwide.

GIGA StuDX Promotion Team

- Eight teachers from all across the country are assigned to be in charge of each region, subject, and OS
- The teachers build <u>networks to</u> <u>collaborate with the boards of</u> <u>education in the regions they</u> <u>are in charge of</u>, and support the collaboration and selfpropulsion of the boards of education and schools, while maintaining close communications with them
- The teachers gain an understanding of the <u>concerns</u> <u>and issues at the schools</u> and reflect them in the policies of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Activities of the GIGA StuDX Promotion Team

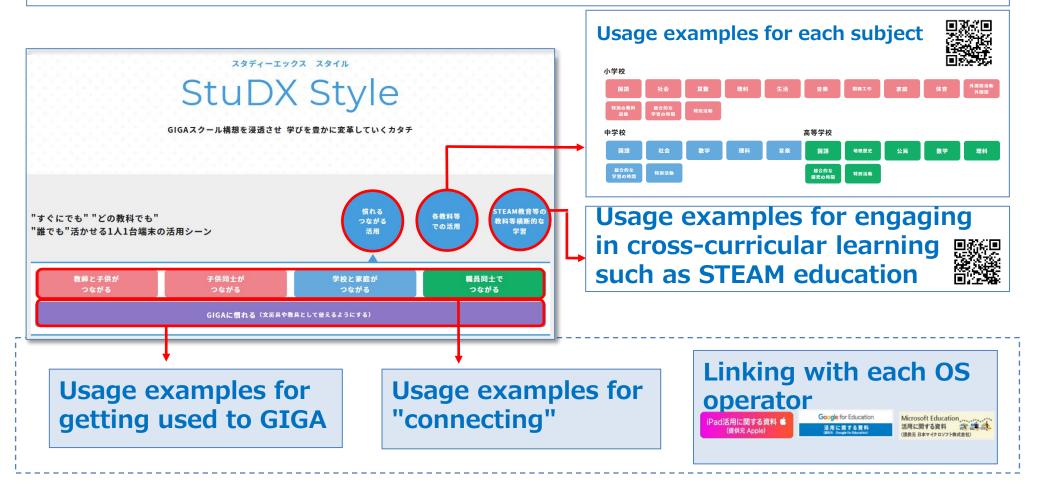


(Note) "GIGA StuDX" is a coined word that combines "DX", which refers to the digital transformation of learning through the spread of the GIGA school initiative, and "exchange", which refers to the exchange of information to promote the use of ICT in educational activities in schools.

The Special Website "StuDX Style"

The special website "StuDX Style" provides many fine examples on how to use the computers provided by schools and municipalities nationwide, in order to further facilitate the use of said computers on a one computer per student basis.

Specifically, it provides (1) usage examples for "getting used to" and "connecting", which are the first step in using the computers, and (2) usage examples for each subject, as well as (3) usage examples for engaging in cross-curricular learning such as STEAM education.



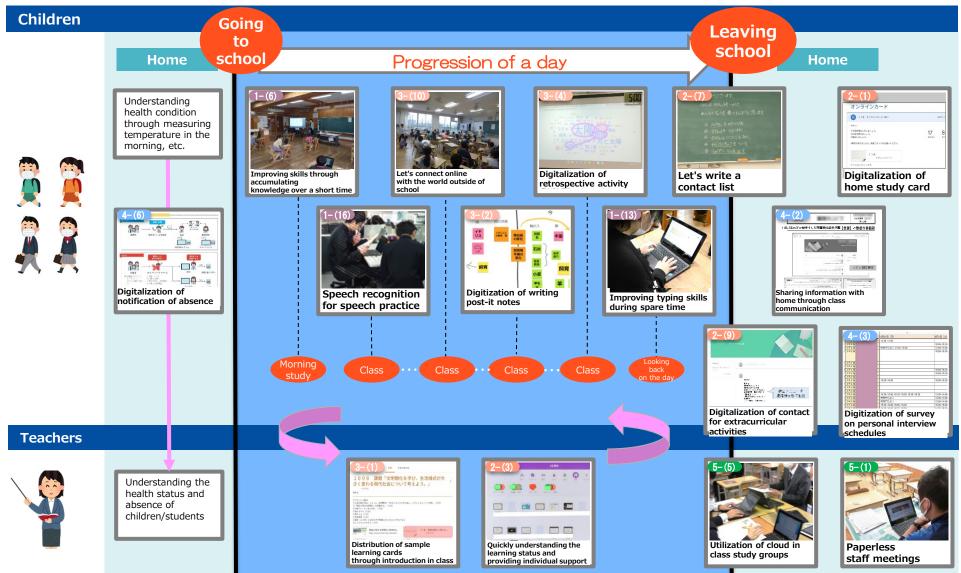
"Promotion of Cross-Curricular Learning Such as STEAM Education"

In an effort to develop the qualities and abilities that are needed of citizens who live in a modern society in which each field of STEAM is complexly related, as well as human resources who will create a society with new values, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is promoting cross-curricular learning to enable students to utilize what they learn in each subject to find and solve problems in the real world.



Scenarios Where Computers can be Used "Immediately", "For Any Subject", and "By Any Student" on a One Computer per Student Basis (example)

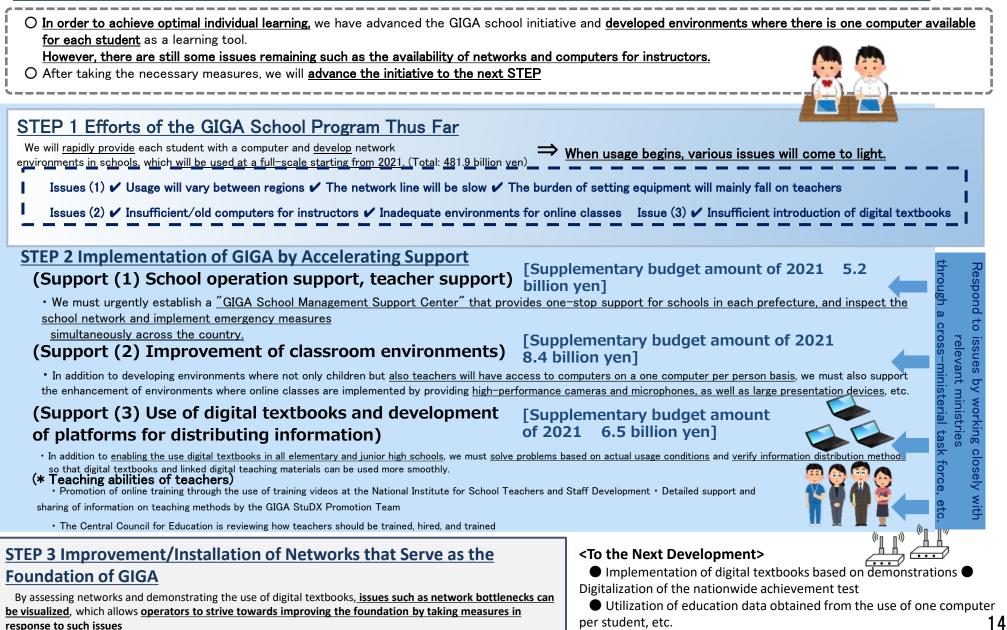
Example of the progression of a day where students use computers at school and at home on a one computer per student basis (this can be considered from the examples published on StuDX Style)



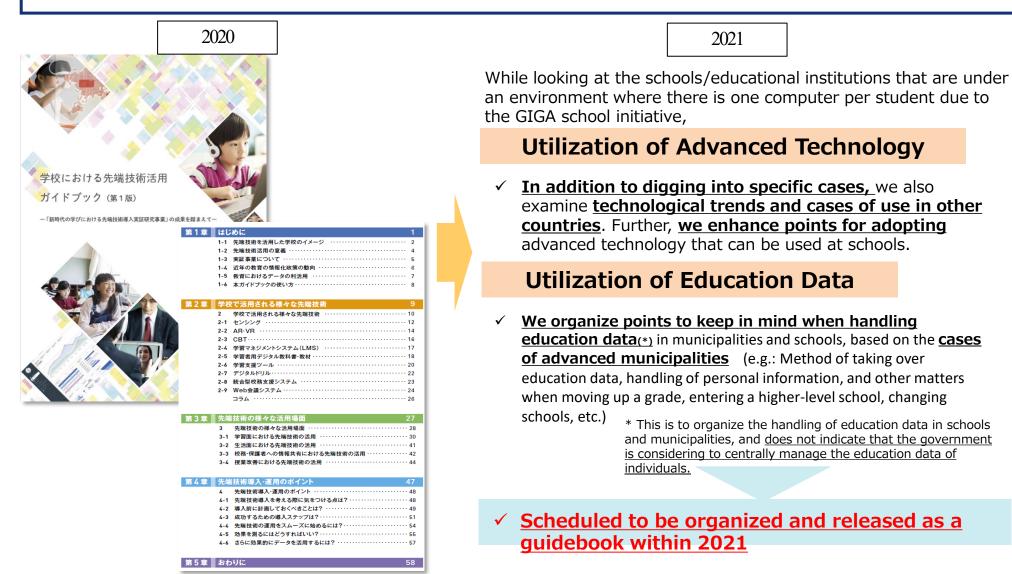
Promoting the GIGA School Program to Achieve Optimal Individual Learning

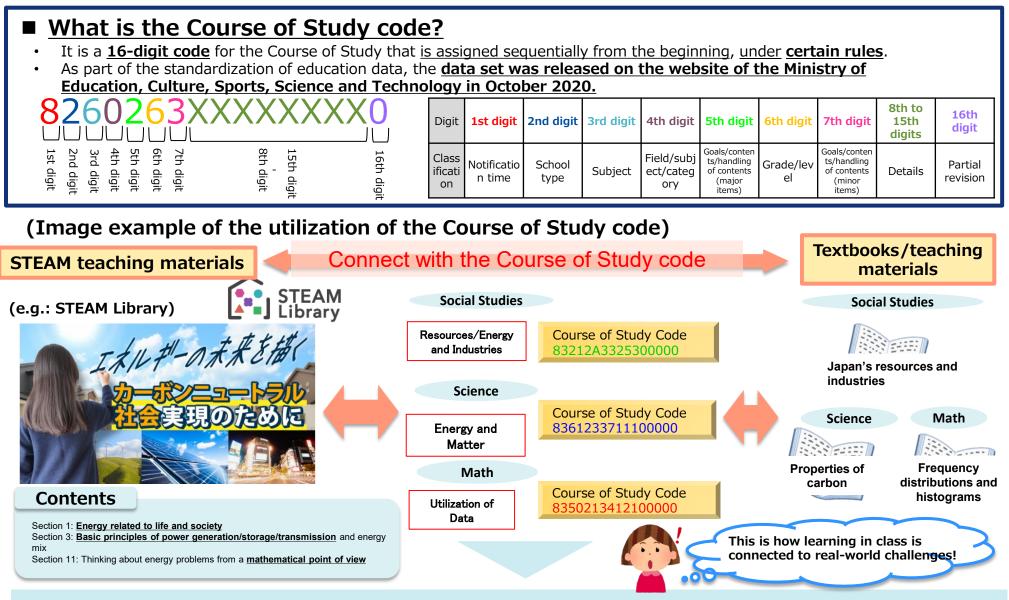
Supplementary budget amount of 2021

20.1 billion yen



 Based on the results of the 2020 "Demonstration Project for Introducing Advanced Technology in Learning in the New Era", the <u>Guidebook for Utilizing Advanced Technology in Schools (1st Edition)</u>" was released in March 2021, in an effort to facilitate the <u>effective use of advanced technology in schools.</u>





✓ While engaging in cross-curricular learning under the theme of real-world issues, learners can easily access relevant information in textbooks and teaching materials, which allows them to use real-world issues as an entrance to understanding the relevance of each subject as they learn