

<Provisional Translation>

Comprehensive Package for Ensuring Children's Learning

in the COVID-19 crisis

June 5th, 2020

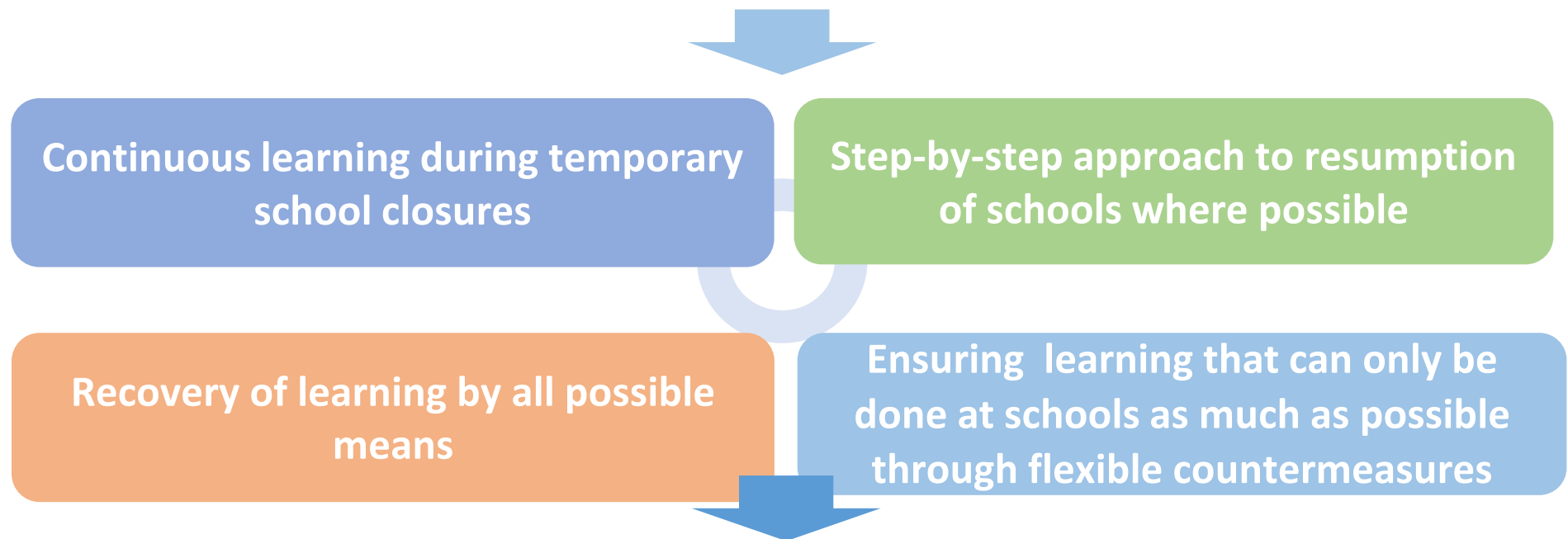
Comprehensive Package for Ensuring Children's Learning

in the COVID-19 crisis

Basic Concepts



Society as a whole needs to live together with COVID-19 over a long period



Ensuring children's learning as much as possible regardless of the COVID-19 infection status

Based on these basic concepts, MEXT will:



I. Clarify policy on organizing and implementing curricula to ensure effective learning



II. Provide human resources and material support necessary for ensuring children's learning nationwide



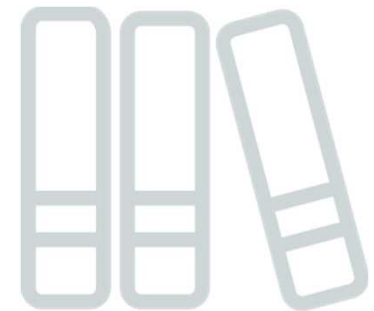
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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE, SPORTS,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN

Comprehensive Package for Ensuring Children's Learning

in the COVID-19 crisis

I . Clarification of policy on organizing and implementing curricula to ensure effective learning





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Basic policy when it is necessary to revise curricula formulated at the beginning of academic year 2020* due to the impact of COVID-19

*An academic year runs from April to March in Japan

- ◆ **Recover learning at school** by setting special attendance days, making staggered attendance schedules, redesigning the timetable, reviewing the length of long vacations, using Saturdays for school, prioritizing school events and shortening their preparation time, etc.
- ◆ **Special measures can be taken** when it is still difficult to complete the curricula scheduled even if the measures above are taken:
 - ① **Partial moving of learning contents from this year into 1 or 2 years later**
 - ② **Prioritizing of learning activities at school lessons**
- ◆ Each management body should **support educational activities at each school** education and prefectural boards of educations should support municipal and town boards within the region.





I . Clarification of policy on organizing and implementing curricula to ensure effective learning

Measures to ensure examinees do not suffer disadvantages in high school and university entrance exams

* Entrance exams are mainly held between January and March in Japan

High school entrance exams

- ◆ MEXT has requested that prefectural boards of education, the implementers of the entrance exams, show **special consideration** for the FY 2021 high school entrance.
- ◆ For example, regarding admission to high schools, in cases where **a student's performance record in club activities and other special events is used for evaluation but the events were cancelled or postponed**, evaluation can be done of the student's performance in other activities the student was able to participate in. Efforts should also be made to ensure that students will not suffer a disadvantage because their **school records show fewer attendance days and fewer descriptions of learning assessments**. Moreover, based on the learning situation in the region, necessary measures can be devised regarding the scope, contents, and type of entrance exam questions.

University entrance exams

- ◆ So that applicants who were not able to take qualification/proficiency tests or participate in special events will not be disadvantaged in the selection process, MEXT has requested that **all universities develop special measures such as evaluation of the process of applicants' efforts to achieve results, individual interviews online, and so on**.
- ◆ MEXT has also requested that the National Association of Upper Secondary School Principals conduct a **questionnaire regarding the admission schedule, including the general entrance examination, the scope of examination questions, ensuring adequate opportunities for taking the entrance exam by holding additional exams, etc**. MEXT will hold discussions with relevant high school and university representatives based on the results of the survey, and then draw up and announce **"Guidelines for the Selection of University Applicants"** in mid-June.



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II. Necessary human resources and material support for ensuring learning nationwide





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MEXT will take measures for the large-scale **assignment of additional teachers and instructors** and the **provision of funds** to all elementary and junior and senior high schools to support the re-opening of schools in order to ensure learning and take quick and flexible countermeasures against COVID-19.

		Schools staggering attendance by dividing classes	Other cases
Personnel	Additional teachers	Depending on the COVID-19 situation in the region, make smaller groups of final-year students and ensure enough class time is allotted to them.	
	Instructors	Depending on the COVID-19 situation in the region, assign additional instructors to assist classroom teachers and ensure detailed instruction. 2-3 per school	1-2 per school
	School support staff	Depending on the COVID-19 situation in the region, assign 1 staff to schools with no school support staff in order to support the preparation of lessons, contact with parents, admin tasks related to health management, etc.	
	SC SSW*	Depending on the situation and necessity in each school, additional assignment of school counselors (SC) and school social workers (SSW) to provide mental care to students.	

Securing HR

- Employ retired teachers, cram school teachers, university students, education-related NPO staff, community persons
- MEXT's "Human Resources Bank for Supporting Schools & Children"
- Making student practice teaching flexible
- Easing of qualification requirements for instructors, recognizing temporary, special licenses

※ Nurses will be appropriately assigned at schools where students needing medical care are enrolled, depending on COVID-19 situation, consultations with school physicians.

Materials	Support to cover expenses for promptly and flexibly carrying out necessary efforts for combatting COVID-19 and ensuring learning based on decision of principal.	Combatting COVID-19	Ensuring learning	Estimated support* [※]			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disinfectants Non-contact thermometers Ventilation equipment Heat stroke prevention for lunch cooks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning materials Equipment to utilize empty classrooms More telephones, school cellphones, etc. 	Elementary/Junior high schools	High schools Special needs	Small	Medium
				1 million yen	1.5 million yen	2 million yen	3 million yen

※ Current estimate, not finalized.





II. Necessary human resources and material support for ensuring learning nationwide

Preparing environment for home study using ICT terminals

Ensuring learning by accelerating “GIGA* School Program”

GIGAスクール構想の実現
～学校における1人1台ICT端末～ ▶ 詳細を見る

- MEXT has started “GIGA School Program” to realize equitable and individually optimized learning by providing **one computer device for each student** and **hi-speed internet for schools**. *GIGA: Global and Innovative Gateway for All
- In the face of the COVID-19 crisis, integrated preparation of hardware, software, and personnel under the “GIGA School Program” will be accelerated and strengthened. It aims the **early realization of one computer device for each student** as well as to prepare an **ICT environment even at the students’ homes**.
- Through these measures, ensure that all children can learn through the utilization of ICT even in emergency situations like temporary school closures due to natural disasters, infectious diseases.

FY 2019 supplementary budget: 231.8 billion yen

FY 2020 supplementary budget: 229.2 billion yen

Devices, LTE mobile routers, distance learning equipment, etc.

◆ MEXT is aiming to provide **an environment that enables all children to study at home online** without delay through measures such as ; contacting suppliers after grasping demand nationwide, and giving direct advice by specialists to local governments, etc.

◆ In addition, specific focus will be given to ensure that an ICT environment is provided for **final-grade students*** and for **families that are unable to prepare an ICT environment due to financial difficulties** at the earliest possible time.

*6th graders in elementary school and 3rd-year students in junior high school

Communication costs for families

◆ In order to support home learning for low-income households, special additional payments will be made to help cover communication costs using existing subsidies.



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II. Necessary human resources and material support for ensuring learning nationwide

Enabling teachers to focus on “ensuring learning”

- ◆ Notification that the valid period for teacher’s licenses will be extended, allowing a grace period for attending license renewal training.
- ◆ Partial cancelation of this year’s surveys for schools, commissioned projects by MEXT.

Provision of convenient listing of educational videos on MEXT’s “Children Learning Support Website”

- ◆ Information on educational videos produced by boards of education, educational programs produced by NHK and the Open University of Japan, etc. has been organized and provided on the “**Children Learning Support Website.**”



https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/ikusei/gakusyushien/index_00001.htm

Creation of learning materials for retention of learning content

- ◆ Creation of materials to enable 6th-grade elementary school students and 3rd-year junior high school students to review what they learned from the first semester.

Building of ICT system for education for the full utilization of ICT

- ◆ Building of an ICT system for education to enable the comprehensive utilization of ICT through the development and verification of prototypes for “online learning systems to ensure learning,” the standardization of educational data, including the coding of the National Curriculum Standards.



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