

Growing Together: K-12 Education Administration Partners with Visiting Teachers to Support Rural School Development

(Image/Original Text: Division of Junior High and Elementary Education)



To facilitate the exchanges of teaching experience between urban and rural schools and support educational innovations in remote areas, the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education has launched the Visiting Teacher Program since the 2016 academic year. The program recruits accomplished teachers from urban areas to serve as visiting teachers, working on-site at rural schools and assisting them in curriculum design and implementation, thereby unlocking new educational possibilities.

Since its launch in the 2016 academic year, the K-12 Education Administration has successfully paired 223 visiting teachers with 259 host schools. To qualify as a visiting teacher, candidates must have at least six years of teaching experience and currently hold a position at a public elementary or junior high school. Visiting teachers are stationed at their assigned schools for one academic year, during which they take an active role in curriculum design, teaching, and school administration. Visiting teachers work together with local faculty, offering teaching strategies and support for addressing challenges in the classroom. In addition, they help schools identify and connect with external resources to uncover new growth opportunities.

Beyond empowering rural schools, the Visiting Teacher Program provides a meaningful opportunity for visiting teachers to "reset" and broaden their horizons. One participating teacher shared: "Stepping out of my educational comfort zone felt like a journey as well as a lesson in life. It's the beginning of a whole new experience. It allowed me to start all over and write a brand-new story." Another teacher reflected: "It allowed me to let go of the past self that relied so much on experience and embrace a future self with a far-reaching vision."

According to the K-12 Education Administration, the program not only brings external resources to rural schools and revitalizes curriculum and teaching practices but also allows visiting teachers to experience diverse teaching environments and expand their horizons. It creates meaningful benefits for both the visiting teachers and the schools they serve. In the future, the K-12 Education Administration will continue to encourage local governments to recommend passionate and accomplished teachers to join the program, working together to promote educational equity across the country.