

The K-12 Education Administration expands its bilingual experimental programs, fostering a stable increase in number of programs

(Courtesy of Lin, Chia-Ying at the Division of Academic Senior High Education)



The K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, launched its Subsidies for Expansion of Bilingual Experimental Programs for Senior High Schools in 2021, to motivate senior high schools to implement their bilingual experimental programs and assist them in developing a bilingual learning environment through the subsidies. The administration subsidized a total of 50 schools in the school year of 2021 and 55 schools in the school year of 2022 and planned to subsidize 60 in the school year of 2023.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, this subsidy program covers the expenses needed by a school to recruit foreign English teachers, bilingual substitute teachers, English language substitute teachers, or full-time assistants to assist with bilingual teaching-related matters. A school can employ foreign English teachers to conduct collaborative teaching and prepare lessons with school teachers, and such foreign English teachers can also provide consulting services for bilingual teachers about English teaching to enhance their bilingual

teaching skills.

Moreover, the program covers relevant funds required by schools to run a bilingual experimental program, such as improving school video facilities, establishing a environment and installing facilities for a bilingual experimental program, or procurement of relevant equipment for recording courses taught in two languages, as well as the funds required for schools to plan and hold bilingual teaching-related workshops and activities or other matters related to the promotion of bilingual courses and teaching, to foster a better bilingual learning environment.

In addition, to improve teachers' bilingual teaching skills for the bilingual experimental program at subsidized schools, the K-12 Education Administration and the Department of Teacher and Art Education, Ministry of Education, collaborated to launch a Program for Bilingual Teaching Empowerment for In-service Teachers for the Bilingual Experimental Program and commissioned three teachers training schools: National Taiwan Normal University, National Kaohsiung Normal University, and National Cheng Kung University to offer four courses to train bilingual experimental program teachers. Such courses will continue in 2023, and the contents of the courses will be developed depending on the subsidized schools' practical needs. Meanwhile, the Department of English, Changhua University of Education, was commissioned to launch the Senior High School Bilingual Experimental Program Support System Program to provide a bilingual teaching support system for bilingual experimental program teachers and to organize activities, such as classroom observation, visits, and workshops, to learning about the teaching situation on the ground and offer on-site teaching improvement suggestions, thereby improving schools' bilingual teaching skills.