

## **Toilet Renovation Projects on Campus Create a Comfortable Learning Environment**

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



Every teacher and student uses the toilet many times a day. For junior high and elementary school teachers and students, they spend at least eight hours a day in school. If the toilet has old plumbing and poor ventilation problems, it keeps everyone from going to the toilet, therefore affecting their health. Therefore, for the health of teachers and students in schools, the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education has been promoting the Old Toilet Renovation Project since 2015 to improve the toilet facilities in schools, creating clean

toilets with proper ventilation, good natural lighting, and devices that save water and energy.

During the planning process, teachers and students discussed how to incorporate school features or local culture into the overall design, cultivating students' aesthetic sensitivity and stimulating creativity. In the end, the renovated toilets often became the campus highlights.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, considering children's health, and the fact that many schools across the country still have old toilets that face problems such as old plumbing, poor ventilation, and foul smell, the overall situation is in dire need of improvement. To speed up local governments' toilet renovation projects in schools, the Ministry of Education sought funds from the special centrally-funded tax revenues under the Executive Yuan. On March 10, 2012, 1.4 billion dollars were approved to assist in the improvement of 391 old toilets for which the design had already been completed; On May 5, another 547 schools with urgent needs,

totaling 660 buildings and 2,566 old toilets, were approved for improvement works.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that a team of professional counselors will assist the schools in incorporating aesthetics into the toilet renovation projects to build a functional and aesthetic space, expected to be completed by the end of 2024. In addition, under the Guidelines for Gender-Neutral Toilets and Dormitory Facilities on Campus set by the Ministry of Education, the K-12 Education Administration will continue to assist local governments in renovating toilets and lead schools across the nation to create cleaner, more comfortable, and gender-inclusive environments.