

Distance Education in New Immigrant Languages for Schools in Rural Area: Coping with Teacher Recruiting Problem and Taking into Account Epidemic Prevention

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Since the school year of 2019, the national languages of new immigrants from seven countries have been incorporated into the official curriculum guidelines of 12-Year Basic Education. In order to assist with the implementation by schools in rural areas, the Ministry of Education has simultaneously launched new immigrant language courses through remote teaching for 102 schools across the country. Through practical exercises, this provides schools with the experience in remote teaching so that they can apply it to other courses, thereby coping with the teacher recruiting problems in rural areas, while taking into account epidemic prevention.

The K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, pointed out that in order to assist schools in rural areas in offering new immigrants' language courses, the National Central University and the Institute for Information Industry have been commissioned to promote the pilot program of remote teaching through live streaming since 2018. Top priority is given to schools with more new immigrant students. The Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai, Burmese,

Cambodian, Malaysian, and Filipino language teachers are sent to the primary schools in rural areas via the Internet, breaking the geographical barriers and allowing students from different schools to learn together. This has addressed the difficulty of teacher recruiting in rural areas while ensuring students' rights to learn.

The newly launched 2019 new curriculum guidelines have formally incorporated the elective courses of the new immigrant languages for elementary and junior high schools. At present, 102 schools have conducted remote teaching through online synchronization, and set up 87 cloud classrooms, with a total of 307 students enrolling in these courses. According to the K-12 Education Administration, as the new curriculum guidelines are implemented year by year, the online courses of the new immigrant languages will provide more schools with the practical experience of distance education; when interactive online teaching skills are further shared, they will be able to apply the experience to more fields and courses. The Internet technology has facilitated digital learning in rural areas while promoting the balance of educational resources allocated.

In addition, in order to enhance the effectiveness of distance education, online teaching is also combined with digital interactive materials of new immigrant languages. Through multimedia elements, images, sounds, and videos, and with the dubbing of the Chinese language and the new immigrant languages, the teaching and learning process has become more diverse and livelier. The learning materials of the seven languages have been placed in the section on the digital platform of "New Immigrant Student Education and Information Network," all of which are available free of charge. Welcome to access them as much as possible. Furthermore, the online courses for the school year of 2020 will be open for enrollment from May 8, 2020, and schools can file an application as early as possible.