

K-12 Education Administration provides subsidies to local governments to organize reading activities

(Courtesy of Wang, Ting-Yin, Division of Junior High and Elementary Education)



Reading literacy is an important ability that helps to solve students' problems in their daily lives. In addition to reading education in and out of class, the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, is actively integrating relevant resources to promote reading activities. During 2022, it has subsidized 21 city or county governments and 771 elementary and junior high schools to implement reading promotion projects in the amount of about NT\$15 million. It aims to promote the reading culture in schools through diverse reading activities and help students improve their learning ability through reading.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, the city, or county government launched reading programs to promote reading in national elementary and junior high schools in their jurisdiction. The aim is to strengthen elementary and junior high school students' reading skills through various forms of reading activities. For example, the Changhua County Government worked with various schools to invite experts in literature, art, nature, or music to share their practical experiences in schools and launch real-person libraries, at which people were treated as

books to share their life experience and specialties. The Wenchang Elementary School invited Mr. Lai, Chung-Yu, a modern farmer and a winner of Shennong Award (2003), to guide the students to understand the ecology of nature from the insect world at an orchard and share with the students the experience of growing citrus (in season during the Lunar New Year). He gave an unconventional reading lesson at the orchard by promoting food and agriculture education through the ecological system.

In addition, 23 schools in Keelung City jointly planned the Joyful Reading Flash Mob and Reading in Relays, an online reading relay event, on the 2022 World Book Day. During the information media, Tu, Kuo-Cheng, former head of the Department of Education Keelung City Government, kicked up this event from Keelung during the pandemic. This is followed by students, who were guided by their reading promotion teachers, read aloud texts of their own choice online and then by reading promotion teachers to read aloud “The Smell of Keelung”, a poem that properly brings alive the imagery of Keelung. Then, it went all the way to the south and then returned to Keelung from Pingtung along the eastern coast of Taiwan, achieving a feat of reading aloud around the island undertaken by reading promotion teachers. Teachers and students from more than 70 schools in various cities or counties in Taiwan as well as their counterparts from Malaysia, Japan, and the United States participated in this event to read aloud texts for cultural exchanges, thereby extending their reading horizons and making reading more interesting.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, reading is the most crucial foundation for children to learn. Reading culture can be further developed in local communities and promoted comprehensively and wholly through collaboration with the city and county governments, thus increasing the depth and diversity of reading promotion activities. In the future, we will continue to work with local governments to comprehensively improve elementary and junior high school students’ reading literacy by integrating relevant reading resources and expanding the reading varieties.