

School Occupational Safety Consultation Group of K-12 Education

Administration Builds Up a Friendly and Safe School Protection Net

(Courtesy of Lin, Liang-Ching at the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Security)

In order to strengthen the occupational safety and health management system at school, the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, has established a consultation group to assist schools in implementing relevant occupational safety and health regulations so as to maintain teachers' and students' safety. The current four-year program has entered its third year, and it has trained personnel to obtain the Level-A or -B Occupational Safety and Health Affair Manager License, provided consultation on school safety rules and regulations, including the occupational safety and health management program, and subsidized hazard identification and risk assessment and improvement projects. The results have been effective. This year, the guidance on the remaining 10 general hazard management rules will continue to be provided so as to build up a more friendly and safe school protection network.

The K-12 Education Administration pointed out that the occupational safety and health management consultation group has trained 168 people from schools governed by the administration to secure the Level-A Occupational Safety and Health Affair Manager License, and 44 people to secure the Level-B Occupational Safety and Health Affair Manager Licence since 2018. In 2019, the group assisted the schools under the administration in completing 10 school safety management rules set out in the occupational safety and health management programs while investing more than NT\$5.21 million to subsidize seven schools for hazard identification and risk assessment and improvement. In 2020, the group will continue to provide guidance on the remaining 10 general hazard management rules.

The consultation group is organized by the National Tainan Commercial Vocational Senior High School, and Tsai, Peng-Jr, professor at National Cheng Kung University, has been selected to lead experts and scholars who serve as counselors and are equipped with extensive practical

experience in school occupational safety and health from the center for the environment, safety, and health at various colleges and universities. The group provides services mainly to 247 senior high schools and nine affiliated experimental elementary schools of national universities. These schools have been guided to establish a school occupational safety and health education and training system to improve the school occupational safety and health management personnel's abilities to build up a friendly and safe school protection network.

According to the 2018-2021 School Occupational Safety and Health Management Consultation Group Program of the K-12 Education Administration, the following steps are to be implemented: holding of the occupational safety and health management seminars, promotion of relevant laws and regulations as well as labor inspection cases, and illustration of management plans and relevant regulatory documents. In addition, it aims to train relevant division officers from the senior high schools governed to secure the Level-A or -B Occupational Safety and Health Affair Manager License so as to comply with relevant laws and regulations while providing school occupational safety and health management consultation service in northern, central, southern, and eastern Taiwan to assist each school in completing the management plans and relevant regulatory documents required in the school occupational safety and health business.

The consultation focuses on 20 school safety management rules, including 1. an occupational safety and health management plan; 2. occupational safety and health management regulations; 3. safety and health work rules; 4. occupational safety and health operating standards; 5. education and training; 6. procurement safety and health management; 7. contractor safety and health management; 8. hazard identification and risk assessment implementation; 9. prevention of man-made hazards; 10. a special maternal hazard protection and prevention and occupational safety and health management plan; 11. general hazards; 12. automatic inspection; 13. testing and inspection of the operating environment; 14. management of personal safety and health protective equipment; 15. health management of teaching staff; 16. emergency response; 17. a

safety and health management plan on occupational injury and accident investigation and response; 18. management change; 19. prevention of diseases caused by abnormal workloads; 20. prevention of unlawful assault during the performance of duties.

In addition, this program provides on-site consultation and counseling on school occupational safety management; the group will put forward improvement suggestions after learning about the measures implemented by the schools; as such, the schools can continue to strengthen its measures to reduce the risk of occupational safety hazards. This program also subsidizes the schools' identification and assessment of risks and hazards as well as implementation of improvement plans. Furthermore, it assists the schools in training their personnel to obtain the occupational safety and health affair manager license and in proceeding with the reporting. Moreover, it has developed a self-inspection mechanism for school occupational safety and health, assists with the promotion of school occupational safety and health management, implements matters related to occupational safety and health laws and regulations, and provides consultation services regarding the school occupational safety and health management issues.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that the establishment of a school occupational safety management mechanism can reduce the occurrence of accidental injuries effectively and enhance the protection of the teaching staff's and students' safety. In the future, the administration will continue to cooperate with colleges and universities to promote various school occupational safety measures so as to create a safer and more friendly school environment.