

The demolition and reconstruction of old school buildings are accelerated to improve the environment of elementary and junior high schools

(Courtesy of Liu, Tzu-Yen at the Division of Junior High and Elementary Education)



To address the problems of old school buildings and inadequate earthquake resistance at elementary and junior high schools, the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, sought funding from the Executive Yuan to implement a project in 2017 to assist local governments for the demolishing the old school buildings that are simply too old to be effectively renovated or are with immediate, potential danger and would call for an urgent renovation. As a result, a total of 158 school buildings have been reconstructed. In 2020, the Ministry of Education approved another 117 school buildings in 22 cities or counties to be reconstructed with the Executive Yuan's general subsidies, and the reconstruction is scheduled to be completed during 2022, to allow elementary and junior high schools across the country to create a safe and comfortable learning environment.

In 2019, the Ministry of Education gave priority to school buildings with an I_s value of 80 or below to strengthen their earthquake resistance in accordance with the Ministry of the Interior's Seismic Design Regulations and Guidelines and has continued to renovate school buildings with

an Is value that ranges between 80 to 100 since 2020. In addition, design regulations have also been formulated for the demolition and reconstruction of old school buildings. When school buildings are rebuilt, the greening of the open space, energy conservation and carbon reduction, ventilation and lighting, and disaster prevention and shelter all should be taken into account, while the local characteristics should be incorporated to improve the school environment.

Take Haoxiu Elementary School in Changhua County as an example, its teaching building was built and completed in 1995 and used to be the landmark in western Puyan Township. However, after conducting the safety appraisal of the building in 2017, and taking into account the safety issue, the Changhua County Government decided to dismantle it and rebuild a three-story reinforced concrete building on the ground after reallocating all the teachers and students. The new building incorporates rural elements of “a blue sky, green rice fields, and yellow ears of rice” in colorful colors with a square-shaped wall and a circular exterior staircase to remind students to adhere to their own principles and be worldly-wise as a pillar of society.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that it will continue to work with the city or county governments in the future to assist schools in improving the quality of safe and comfortable school environment; as such, all children can grow up safely, healthily, and happily.