

## Live Online English Course Program Provides English Education for Schools in Remote Areas

(Image/Original Text: Chen Han-Chang, Division of Junior High and Elementary Education)



Since the 2019-2020 academic year, the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education has been promoting the Live Online English Course Program. The program aims to offer live online English courses for students in remote areas by selecting professional English teachers and combining online learning platforms and teaching materials, in an effort to narrow the gap between urban and rural English education. In the 2023-2024 academic year, 19 elementary and junior high schools, totaling 379 students and 14 teachers participated in the program.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, Mr. Tsai Hsin-Tsung, teaching online at the Taitung Haiduan Junior High School, utilized "auditory", "visual", and "gamification" elements to design teaching materials and classroom activities, such as combining sound effects with short texts and animated pictures to improve student concentration. In addition, he combined lessons with games to make learning more interesting and interactive for students. Mr. Tsai also used morning self-study time and lunch breaks to remotely instruct students to take the Elementary

General English Proficiency Test and the TOEIC Bridge test, as well as to train students to participate in the Taitung English Spelling Competition for Elementary and Junior High Schools, where they have won the First-Class Award.

Ms. Huang Hui-Li believed that the purpose of English learning is to "use" rather than "memorize" the language. Therefore, while she was remotely teaching at the San Hou Elementary School in Kaohsiung, she integrated life skills into English learning and designed more interactive and collaborative activities, reducing teaching time and encouraging students to speak English in the classroom. Moreover, Ms. Huang also came to school for face-to-face activities to bond with students, making them enjoy English classes even more.

Teaching remotely at the Xiding Elementary School in Chiayi, Ms. Chiang Ying-Hsueh transformed textbook content into slides with added pictures and videos, and designed interactive quizzes to evaluate student learning. It allowed students to not only learn from textbooks and e-books but also follow the teacher's classroom activities. When Ms. Chiang visited the school, she arranged extracurricular stories and festival-related content to raise students' interest in learning English, with the help of props, gestures, writing and drawing,

According to the K-12 Education Administration, the program has been carried out for four years and the results are clear: student participation in English classes has increased, and they have won various English competitions; remote teachers and school teachers have worked together, and teachers in remote areas have improved their teaching skills. In the future, the K-12 Education Administration will continue to gather outstanding English teachers and use the Internet and online courses to bring together teachers and students, with an aim to encourage students in remote areas to learn English and improve their learning effectiveness.