

Establishment of Classrooms with Universal Design Concepts and Development of a Friendly Learning Space for Special Education

(Courtesy of Chia-Hua Hung at the Division of Special Education for Indigenous Peoples)



To promote the spirit of inclusive education, guide students with special needs to learn together with regular students, and assist national senior high schools in developing a learning environment that is friendly to special education students, the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, has formulated the Implementation Program for Establishment of Special Education Friendly Teaching Space and Facilities with Universal Designs. In 2020, it provided grants to 45 schools to establish forward-looking and multi-functional exemplary learning spaces with universal designs, to develop an inclusive and friendly educational environment for teachers and students.

Take the National Chia-Yi Girls' Senior High School as an example, the school established its music classroom based on the universal design concept. With bright and soft colors as the main color tone, it has incorporated aesthetic designs, including symbols, color blocks, lines, and shapes, with musical elements into the classroom. With Ludwig van Beethoven as the image of the front door and the images of various musical instruments to decorate the back door, a grand

piano and a special ring lamp are the focus of the classroom. Meanwhile, a ramp is installed to increase disabled students' accessibility. Furthermore, it has included aesthetics of music, music therapy, and music exploration in the curriculum, to alleviate students' academic stress through arts, along with greenery outside the window.

The National Heng-Chun Industrial & Commercial Vocational High School has incorporated images of local features, including the Hengchun Ancient City, the yueqin (moon guitar), coconut trees, and the Eluanbi Lighthouse, to establish its classrooms with universal designs. It also departs away from the traditional framework in pursuit of a new framework, under which the height differences were adopted to separate spaces in space planning and design at this school, by focusing on the universal designs for people and buildings to coexist harmoniously. With people placed at the center, love will spread further through the universal designs. In addition, the National Lo-Tung Senior High School has established a multi-functional Chinese Literature classroom, featuring universal design details, including an automatic door and adjustable height desks, to create a learning environment catering to each user's needs.

Moreover, in addition to taking into account the administrative and teaching personnel's opinions, this school invited both students with disabilities and regular students to participate and confirm their needs to create a universal and inclusive learning space. The added features included the flow of traffic for wheelchairs, space for feet, the types of desks, adjustable height desks, the heights of the blackboard and the whiteboard, integration of equipment switches, visual color prompts, and a horizontal sliding door, enabling special education students to learn with peace of mind in a friendly space.

K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, stated that in compliance with the Act to Implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in alignment with the spirit of the 12-Year Basic Education, it will continue to motivate schools to develop elective courses and teaching spaces, in which regular and special education students can learn together through inclusive classrooms and scenario development, thereby creating a positive and

friendly integrated environment where special education students are willing to learn, unleash their potential, and explore their future development.