

Renovated Dormitories Ensure Quality Education

(Courtesy of Tsai, Yun Zhen, Division of Junior High, Elementary School and Preschool Education)



To improve the environment and living quality of school dormitories of national primary and middle schools in remote areas (hereinafter referred to as remote schools) so as to improve teachers' willingness to teach in remote schools and maintain the quality and effectiveness of students' learning in order to ensure sufficient teaching staff and improve overall school performance in remote areas, the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, has initiated a subsidy program for improving the dormitories of these remote primary and middle schools since the academic year of 2015, and developed "Directions on the K-12 Education Administration Subsidy Program for the Improvement of Dormitories of National Primary and Middle Schools in Remote Areas." The directions will be used as a basis for reimbursements, and it covers dormitory construction (renovation), repairmen, and purchase of equipment.

In the academic year of 2015, the K-12 Education Administration subsidized 289 dormitories of 168 schools. In the academic year of 2016, it continued to subsidize 514 dormitories of 323 schools, and went on to help furnishing 411 dormitories of 258 schools this year (academic year of 2017). Over the past three years, this program has benefited up to 1,213 dormitories of 749 remote schools, with the ultimate hope that remote school teachers can live comfortably and teach with heart and soul. As such, students will learn without any underlying worries.

Furthermore, to enable local governments, subsidized schools, and planning and design teams to understand the schedule and progress, planning and design principles, as well as important issues regarding planning and design projects as well as the evaluation process of this program, the K-12 Education Administration has held workshops to illustrate how this program works in the northern, central, southern, and eastern parts of Taiwan annually, and managed to create more opportunities for inter-school exchanges.

The high teacher turnover rate of remote schools are often due to inadequate accommodation facilities. Through the subsidy program, the dormitories have been improved, which could help to mitigate the high turnover rate. The K-12 administration will continue to implement this subsidy program in the future to reduce the teacher turnover rate, stabilize the source of teaching staff, help students learn without further concerns, and improve the quality of teaching and the effectiveness of students' learning.