

Love and Protection

Educational Personnel's Child and Youth Protection Work is Strengthened to Safeguard Children

(Courtesy of Jia-Xiu Ke at the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Security)



The K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education is committed to promoting child and youth protection, to help children obtain better social safety and care. On June 11, 2019, the "Child and Youth Protection Knowledge and Skills Workshop and Policy Briefing Session for K-12 Schools and Local Governments" was held, to illustrate the important policies and projects that have been implemented recently. There were nearly 200 people from the cities and counties across the country, including the personnel in this field and K-12 school representatives, participating in this event.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, given that the domestic violence and child abuse cases in the beginning of this year (2019) have caused great concern in the society, and that as children are the future masters of our country, once the threats to child safety,

domestic violence, and child abuse cases occur, they will immediately be documented and become the focus of the Taiwanese people's attention. Therefore, the K-12 Education Administration has taken into account the views of various sectors and proposed relevant plans to strengthen child and youth protection, hoping that the front-line educational personnel's work of protecting children and youths can be fostered.

First, to enhance educational, preschool personnel, and caregivers' ability to detect students, including young children, suspected of being abused, the Risk Guidelines Governing Detection of Students Suspected of Abused for K-12 Schools (Including Preschool Institutions) have been established as a reference for front-line educational personnel, so that when they detect a student suspected of being abused, they can immediately initiate the subsequent reporting and up start the counseling procedures.

Secondly, to increase educational, preschool personnel, and caregivers' passion for their work and implement the relevant reporting procedures as required, to allow them to take preventive actions, measures, or initiate a three-level counseling procedure immediately when they detect a student's abnormal situation in the first place, and to ensure the student's personal safety, the "Principles Governing Rewards to Department or Personnel with Credit for Child and Youth Protection Given by the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education" have thus been formulated. Local governments can proceed to handle the rewards to the department or personnel with merit for their child and youth protection work. It is hoped that every educator will act like a "busybody" to intervene as early as possible, so as to reduce the occurrence of child abuse-related incidents.

The relevant policies that were promoted at this workshop, including "how to enhance the reporting of child and youth cases and application of assessment and reference guides" and "schools' actions after the amendments to the Protection of Children and Youths Welfare and Rights Act and the introduction of social safety network reporting," were targeted to enhance the ability of the personnel on the ground to detect students (including young children) suspected of being abused. As such, the school faculty can intervene to assess whether it is a suspected child abuse incident in time and initiate subsequent child and youth protection-related reporting and counseling procedures. In addition, a case-study session could be arranged to enhance front-line personnel's learning of practical experience, with the aim of

increasing educators' enthusiasm for their work. As such, in addition to the execution of relevant reporting procedures as required, they should be able to take preventive actions, measures, or initiate the three-level counseling procedure immediately when they detect a student's abnormal situation in the first place, so as to ensure the student's personal safety.

The K-12 Education Administration said that each and every child is the treasure of the public. It hopes that people from all walks of life will act like a "busybody" to intervene in child and youth abuse cases in a swift and proper manner, so as to safeguard children's healthy growth and robust development. The participants and representatives of local governments also agreed unanimously on the importance of the child and youth protection work, and believed that this workshop and briefing session would be effective in improving front-line educational personnel's understanding and recognition of the policies related to the child and youth protection work. As a result, a consensus on child and youth protection has been reached.