

Strengthening Students' Bilingual Skills: National English Essay Writing and Speech Competition for Senior High School Students in the 2022-2023 Academic Year

(Photo/Original Text: Wan-Jung Hsieh, Division of Academic Senior High Education)



To promote bilingual education and strengthen students' speaking and writing skills, the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education (MOE) has held the "National English Essay Writing and Speech Competition for Senior High School Students" for over 20 years since 1998. In order to implement the Bilingual 2030 Policy, the competition was extended to the whole country. In the 2022-2023 Academic Year, the competition was first open to students from special municipalities such as Taipei City, New Taipei City, and Kaohsiung City, providing students with multiple opportunities to enter the competition. The competition was divided into four regions around Taiwan, with 823 participants. In each region, ten students received the Excellence Award, and 20 received the Honorable Mention Award for essay writing and speech categories. Please visit the official website for the list of winners and award information.

The topic of English essay writing is "Why Are Ethics Important for Society?". According to the competition judges, this year's topic was challenging because students had to transform their

personal feelings and express them in English. It gave us a closer look at the effectiveness of English education under the new 2019 Curriculum Guidelines. The winning essays are posted on the application website, including those from previous years, which serve as a reference for students from all schools. The judges believed students' English proficiency, mindset, and presentation skills improved yearly.

The topics of the English speech competition are a combination of domestic and international issues. For example, the speech topic in the first north region explores extreme weather, a topic of great concern in society and closely relates to everyone, making it a suitable topic for students. The judges said that the English language can help students understand new technology, cultural differences, and international affairs, which develops their thinking skills and diverse perspectives.

The K-12 Education Administration emphasized that to cultivate bilingual talents, it will continue to adopt a dual-track approach of essential cultivation and universal improvement that nurture talents in key areas and improve the English communication skills of the younger generation. In addition, it will provide a variety of channels, such as e-learning resources about English speaking, to bridge the gap between different regions. The K-12 Education Administration will continue to refine the competition and select more outstanding students to cultivate foreign language talents and connect with the international community.