

The Ministry of Education's Subsidy Policy for Replacement of Kindergarten Vehicles Being Expanded to Cover the Purchase of New Ones This Year

(Courtesy of Wang, Hsien-Fen at the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Security)



The Ministry of Education began to promote the "Public and Private Kindergarten Subsidy Policy for Replacement of Kindergarten Vehicles" last August. In 2019, a total of 145 kindergartens were subsidized to replace 170 kindergarten buses in the total amount of around NT\$53 million. In order to continue to strengthen young children's safety, in addition to providing the subsidy for the replacement this year, the Ministry of Education has introduced another subsidy for purchase of new buses to motivate kindergarteners to purchase qualified vehicles to pick up and drop off young children, of which parents will feel more assured. In order to expand the subsidy for kindergarten buses, the Ministry of Education promulgated on February 17, 2020 the Guidelines for Subsidizing Public and Private Kindergartens for

Replacement and Purchase of Kindergarten Vehicles, which stipulated that: whether it is replacement of the buses that have been in service for nearly 10 years or purchase of new buses, 40% of the cost of each bus will be subsidized (around NT\$360,000). The K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, has set aside a budget of NT\$187.9 million this year, which is expected to subsidize more than 500 buses. At present, it has received applications from various county and city governments and will proceed to review and grant the subsidies as soon as possible.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that kindergartens should use the kindergarten vehicles approved by special municipality and city (county) governments to pick up and drop off young children. The age of the vehicles should not exceed 10 years after they leave the factory. Through the subsidy measures, kindergartens will be prompted to take the initiative to inspect the age and safety of their kindergarten vehicles, which will speed up the replacement of old vehicles or purchase of new qualified ones, while improving on the safety regulations regarding kindergarten vehicles thoroughly throughout the country and ensuring a safe ride for children.