

## **The effectiveness of the Expanded Bilingual Experimental Program launched by the K-12 Education Administration to enhance Taiwanese students' English skills**

(Courtesy of Lin, Chia-Ying at the Division of Academic Senior High Education)



In 2021, the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, launched the Program for Subsidizing the Expansion of the Bilingual Experimental Program at Senior High Schools, with the aim of assisting senior high schools that offer a bilingual experimental program in creating a bilingual learning environment through the subsidy program. A total of 50 schools were subsidized in the school year of 2021, and 55 schools will be eligible for subsidies in the school year of 2022 to enhance students' bilingual learning effectiveness.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that the subsidy program covers the expenses required by each school to recruit foreign English teachers, bilingual substitute teachers, or full-time assistants to assist with matters related to the implementation of the bilingual experimental program. A school can recruit foreign English teachers to work with its teachers to conduct collaborative teaching and prepare lessons together, while foreign English teachers can also

provide consulting services to bilingual teachers to reinforce the school's bilingual teaching quality.

This subsidy program also covers relevant funds required by subsidized schools to run the bilingual experimental program, including the improvement to schools' video facilities, establishment of facilities for bilingual experimental program, other equipment costs, the funds for organizing bilingual teaching seminars and events, and other matters related to the promotion of bilingual courses and teaching, all help to create a better bilingual learning environment.

Furthermore, to improve the bilingual teachers' teaching quality in the bilingual experimental program at these schools, the K-12 Education Administration and the Department of Teacher and Art Education, Ministry of Education collaborated to launch the Bilingual Experimental Program Teacher Empowerment Program and commissioned the four teacher training universities (National Taiwan Normal University, National Changhua University of Education, National Kaohsiung Normal University, and Ming Chuan University) to implement this program. The program will continue to be implemented in 2022, and the courses will be planned and developed in alignment with the subsidized schools' practical needs.

The K-12 Education Administration has also commissioned the Department of English, National Changhua University of Education, to launch the Senior High School Bilingual Experimental Program Support System Project, to provide a bilingual teaching support system to bilingual experimental program teachers and organize relevant events, such as classroom observation, visits, and seminars, to keep abreast of the teaching situation on the ground.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that in the face of the wave of globalization, it aims to expand the bilingual experimental program in senior high schools by assisting each school in launching the bilingual experimental program through the subsidy program, in order to lay a solid foundation for students' English communication skills, comprehensively strengthen

Taiwan's soft power with Taiwanese citizens' enhanced English skills, and develop Taiwan into a bilingual country by 2030.