

## Section 5 Further Enhancement of Disaster Risk Reduction Education in Schools

In March 2021, the Central Council for Education was consulted on the "Third Plan for the Promotion of School Safety." In response to this, the School Safety Subcommittee of the Subdivision on Primary and Secondary Education of the Central Council for Education, based on the recommendations of the Cabinet Office's Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction Education and Public Awareness (Disaster Risk Reduction Education Team), held numerous discussions on school safety, including disaster risk reduction, from a professional standpoint. On February 7, 2022, the "Third Plan for the Promotion of School Safety (Report)" was compiled. Based on this report, the "Third Plan for the Promotion of School Safety" (hereinafter referred to as "Third Plan") was approved by the Cabinet on March 25, 2022.

(Reference: [https://www.mext.go.jp/a\\_menu/kenko/anzen/1419593\\_00001.htm](https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kenko/anzen/1419593_00001.htm))

The Third Plan suggests that the Government should take specific measures as shown below. These measures are to be taken by considering the current situation where the approach and recognition of school safety differ depending on schools, and the necessity that practical education for disaster risk reduction should be promoted nationwide to prepare for the large-scale disasters which are likely to occur in the future without letting the memory of the Great East Japan Earthquake fade away. In particular, with regard to education for disaster risk reduction, one of the basic directions of the policy is to "implement practical disaster risk reduction education and training based on local disaster risks." The government's efforts include:

- In order that practical disaster risk reduction education and evacuation drills may be conducted in all schools in Japan to teach the necessary knowledge such as local disaster risks and normality biases, a new guide for disaster risk reduction education and evacuation drills considering developmental stages of children should be prepared and announced.
- Useful educational materials and data for schools should be prepared and distributed. Particularly regarding disaster risk reduction education from early childhood, including making a model for communicating information and raising awareness at home, educational materials for infants should be prepared. And disaster risk reduction education should be enhanced among infants and their parents.
- Regular and specific surveys should be conducted to examine the implementation of disaster risk reduction education in schools nationwide, including the status of implementation of practical evacuation drills and their revisions. Key indicators should be set on the surveys, and the status should be publicized.

And, as local governments efforts, based on local disaster risks, in cooperation with boards of education and schools, promotion of disaster risk reduction education was mentioned such as lectures, hands-on learning, and disaster drills by members of Fire Corps and local voluntary disaster management organizations so that students become future leaders of community disaster resilience.

In addition, necessary measures for disaster preparedness were pointed out, including shelter management in the event of a disaster and the safety assurance at school facilities that were used as shelters for residents in the event of a major disaster.

## The Third Plan for the Promotion of School Safety (Summary)

- The Plan for the Promotion of School Safety: The plan formulated by the national government to comprehensively and effectively promote efforts at safety in each school (School Health and Safety Act Article 3, paragraph 2))
- Based on the "Third Plan for the Promotion of School Safety (the Central Council for Education's Report, February 7, 2022)," it was approved by the Cabinet on March 25, 2022 (Plan period: 5 years, from FY 2022 to FY 2026)

### I Overall Concept

Recognition of issues for making the Third Plan	Basic direction of measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Effectiveness of measures based on plans / manuals made by individual schools</li> <li>○ Differences in the approach and recognition of school safety depending on schools</li> <li>○ Necessity that practical education for disaster risk reduction should be promoted nationwide to prepare for large-scale disasters which are likely to occur in the future without letting the memory of the Great East Japan Earthquake fade away etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase effectiveness of school safety by setting periodic opportunities for review of school safety plans and risk management manuals</li> <li>○ Promote safety measures including kids' perspectives in tight cooperation with various local entities and residents</li> <li>○ Promote practical and effective safety education in all schools</li> <li>○ Implement practical disaster prevention education and training based on local disaster risks</li> <li>○ Make school safety visible, using data such as accidents and measures taken by the school</li> <li>○ Help to raise awareness of school safety (foster safety culture in schools)</li> </ul>

#### Visions to be achieved

- All students will have the quality and ability of safety to make their own good decision, and to move independently
- To reduce the number of fatal accidents of students under school supervision to as close to 0 as possible
- To decrease the incidence rate of student injuries and illnesses under school supervision with the focus on accidents that involve disabilities and serious injuries

### II Promotion measures

➔ **Five promotion measures** were set up to promote practical measures and to raise social awareness as a whole on school safety

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>1. Promote organizational efforts on school safety</b>                      | <b>2. Promote school safety with cooperation from households, local people and relevant agencies</b> | <b>3. Enhance safety education in schools</b> | <b>4. Enhance measures for safety management in schools</b> |
| <b>5. Implement crosscutting tasks on promotion measures for school safety</b> |  |   |   |

Reference: Documents from Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

#### Promotion measure 1: Promote organizational efforts on school safety

- Position school safety clearly in school management
- Bring in the idea of safety promotion schools, establish periodic review opportunities on school safety plans
- Make a risk management manual and revise it, assuming various risks including local natural environment around schools
- Clarify core teachers' positions in charge of school safety in schools / Enhance training and drills for school safety
- Enhance school safety education in teacher training

#### Promotion measure 2: Promote school safety with cooperation from households, local people and relevant agencies

- Promote efforts for school safety using a system of cooperation between schools and local organizations such as community schools
- Building a local promotion system for ensuring safe commutes to school, strengthening and revitalizing efforts in cooperation with related organizations based on the school road traffic safety program
- Promote anti-crime measures for eradication of injuries and sexual assault to children and students via social media

#### Promotion measure 3: Enhance safety education in schools

- Enhance safety education to raise children and students such that they can predict and avoid risks / Secure time for safety education / Improve safety education methods in schools
- Enhance practical disaster prevention education based on local disaster risks / Cooperate further with related agencies (fire corps volunteers, etc.)
- Collect good practices of safety education in early childhood and special-needs schools
- Regarding the education of contemporary issues, such as measures for harmful info on the internet (injuries which arise from social media) and for sexual assault and violence (safety education for human life), promote to put those issues into the school safety plans

#### Promotion measure 4: Enhance measures for safety management in schools

- Improve methods of safety checks in schools (clarify judgmental standards, add children's perspective) / Enhance inspections and measures by school administrators (cooperation with specialists)
- Aging-management measures for school facilities / Earthquake resistant measures for non-structural elements / Promotion for maintenance of disaster prevention functions
- Utilize examples of near miss incidents to prevent serious accidents
- Investigate accidents under school supervision and take preventive steps (consider revision of the guidelines concerning school accident measures)

#### Promotion measure 5: Implement crosscutting-tasks on promotion measures for school safety

- Promote visibility of school safety info, sharing and leveraging it (re-evaluate the survey items and the methods)
- Give information on materials to build awareness, using data regarding the Injury and accident mutual aid system, and use them effectively
- Provide information and opportunities for training concerning school safety, regardless of types of schools (i.e. national, public or private)
- Promote efforts for the prevention of accidents with a scientific approach, using AI and digital technology
- Promote opportunities for school safety awareness (set a day or a week when school teachers in each school can raise their consciousness for school safety)
- Follow up with the government measures regarding school safety

Source: Documents from Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology