

Review of Second CRC National Report of the Republic of China

Parallel Responses of List of Issues from Child and Youth

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Summary

In this Report, three interesting cases which were personally experienced by us are presented to provide the reviewing members a more diversified aspect on the achievements of CRC by teachers and schools in Taiwan. As for the conclusions, we have great concerns about in both Taiwanese teachers' awareness of children's rights and their actual implementation. So, we hope that the reviewing members could attach more importance on such aspect.

Involved Points of List of Issues: Points 1.7, 1.8, 1.10 and 8.4

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We hereby specifically note that any coincidence herein is purely coincidental and not intentional in terms of any specific persons, entities, or groups. To avoid any disputes as much as possible, all the actual names of involved persons, entities, and groups have been altered, which does not affect the nature of the cases themselves.



1. Where Did the Students and Teachers Learn After the Training?

According to the responses by the government, “In 2021, the rate of training of teachers of primary, junior high, and senior schools of each and all counties and cities reached 89.37%¹”, which is a good nominal result. However, despite the training, we may hardly see the actual effect from this training. In the following sections, we will adopt a more subjective point of view to describe what we personally experienced, which is expected to be more able to reflect the actual situations.

1.1 The Case: Complaints by Students

1.1.1 Introduction

Indeed, the organization and operation guidelines of the newly launched senior high school student complaints and re-appeal review committee is able to more facilitate the protection of students’ rights and interests.²

¹ Government Response Draft of List of Issues of the Second National Report of CRC 1110902.pdf (<https://crc.sfaa.gov.tw/Uploadfile/Document/34_20220902160039_278768.pdf>), page 20

² For details, please refer to page 51 of the K-12 Education Administration’s manual for submission of student complaints (<http://104.199.250.200/attachment/-111.pdf>). Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 4 of the Guidelines for the Organization and Operation of the Student Complaints and Re-appeal Review Committee of Senior High Schools (hereinafter refers to as Regulations) state that matters of complaints shall be those adopted by schools, which would affect the rights and interests of the students or student clubs concerned. If the rights and interests of students have not been damaged, they shall be resolved via communication channels at the schools (such as: asking the school offices, letters to the principals, meeting with the principals, or reporting to the class meetings or student unions, etc.). Therefore, if it is not a specific action, regulation, or guideline, any simple non-binding activities or teachers’ behaviors that do not affect the rights and interests of students will not be regarded as matters of complaints. If it is only formulated and promulgated as class rules, because it does not affect the rights and interests of students, it is not applicable for submission of complaints. However, if the student is subject to "punishment, other measures, or resolutions" according to the class rules, the complainant may be submitted against the legitimacy and appropriateness of the class rules. In addition, if a student submits an application to the school in accordance with laws, regulations, orders, and local autonomy regulations but the school fails to reach a decision within the period stipulated by laws, the student may also submit a complaint. For example, if a student applies for exemption of tuition according to Article 4 of the Guidelines of Senior High Schools’ Collection of Fees From Students, and the school fails to inform the student whether his/her application is approved within a specified time limit, such student may submit a complaint with the school.

1.1.2 Brief Introduction of the Case

As for the argument of whether private schools are the “grey areas” for laws and regulations, we would like to provide the following actual cases to allow the members to judge the actual implementation of relevant regulations in Taiwan. We used to help one of our students who was demerited³ to submit complaints to the student complaint review committee of the school. Despite the existence of comprehensive guidelines for submission and handling of student complaints which had already been uploaded to the intra-net of our school, such regulations had never been actually implemented⁴. The Academic Affairs Office, which organizes and handles various matters related to schools and students, has neither established any relevant contact windows, nor prepared any corresponding document forms for submission of complaints of students. It's easy to see that the school administration intentionally added procedural barriers that obviously contradicted the nature of submitting complaints, which will discourage students from making any further complaints. Based on this, we, along with our classmate, submitted the corresponding and comprehensive complaint document. But right at the next session of class, we were taken to the school office for “inquiry⁵”. The intention of the school administration had already been obvious- forcing the students to withdraw the complaint under the disguise of a friendly mode (but in fact, it's not friendly at all) of communication. It's hard to imagine that the school in a self-proclaimed democratic country is acting like an authoritarian state that despises human rights, which is just ridiculous. However, we were too careless at that time and had no choice but to compromise. Every time when looking back, no matter how flawed the case of our classmate was, under such attitude, it would be impossible to obtain a prudent review, let alone a careful deliberation.

1.2 Information We Received

The acts of obstructing the submission of complaints from students are no different from “censorship⁶” by authoritarian regimes. It's hard to imagine that such obstruction exists in a country with “89.37% rate of training of CRC completed by teachers in 2021”. It would be ridiculous to in prior send mail attached with relevant materials to the competent authority of education affairs to request it to order the school to convene the student complaints review meeting every time a student submits his/her complaint. Is this the normal operation for Taiwan's⁷ system of handling of students' complaints?

³This is a type of “written punishment”, see Subparagraph 16 of Paragraph 1 of Article 22 of “Notes on School's Formulation of Guidelines for Teachers' Guidance and Students Discipline Measures”, which states that, “Written punishment shall be imposed in accordance with the school's regulations on rewards and punishments for students and legal procedures.”

⁴The accessibility is unfriendly to general students. Form this point of view, the whole mindset of the school administration is even more questionable.

⁵Despite our relatively impolite wording, we do think that this is what foreign press perceives of Taiwan's public security bureau (<<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-21027416>>).

⁶ See Wikipedia contributors. (2022, July 17). Euphemisms for Internet censorship in China. In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved September 13, 2022, from <https://w.wiki/5hQJ>

⁷ Indeed there would be flaws if it is scrutinized, and it is true that we do not understand the operation of the complaint system and whether there are any similar cases in other schools.

2. Over-collection of Tuition for Vacation Schoolwork Guidance

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Definition of Summer Vacation Schoolwork Guidance

Vacation schoolwork guidance is common among senior high schools in Taiwan, which occupies over half of the periods of summer and winter vacations⁸ and charges additional fees. Although various national policies stipulate that the schoolwork guidance shall not be adopted for teaching new courses in the syllabus except for reviewing what have been taught or courses that are basically irrelevant to the courses planned in the syllabus, our school (and all the other violating schools) despite being reported several times, still maintains the violation, and even worse we've heard that other schools adopted vacation schoolwork guidance to teach new courses planned in the syllabus. For such summer vacation schoolwork guidance, we can't think of any points except a clear violation. But this is not the most serious thing here.

2.1.2 MOE's Regulations on Fees Collected

The MOE clearly states in the "Guidelines for Schoolwork Guidance of Senior High Schools"⁹ that a school at maximum may only collect a fee of NT\$3000 (25x120) from each student.

2.1.3 Regulations of the Place Where We Are From

Each city and county also formulate its respective guidelines of collection of fees for vacation schoolwork guidance based on the principles of the regulations. Based on the standards of where we are from, which is New Taipei City¹⁰, the amount of the school collects is not much different from the one stipulated in the regulations of the Ministry of Education.

But it was a whole different story in our school. For the summer vacation schoolwork of our school, the maximum fees collected (for senior students) was NT\$10,000, and we in this year paid NT\$8000, which was obviously against the laws. By comparing with the publicly available information from another school ¹¹ (attached herein). We are concerned about such acts of collecting money unlawfully.

⁸ Take our school for example, the students at maximum spend 30 days at school during the 60-day summer vacation, or 14 days during the 28-day winter vacation.

⁹ July 14, 2021. Paragraph 3 of Article 4 of the Act states that, "The total number of schoolwork guidance sessions during winter and summer vacations shall not exceed 40 and 120, respectively." Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 5 of the Guidelines state that, "Schools shall collect and refund the tuition fees from students who participate in schoolwork guidance based on the Guidelines for MOE Senior High School's Collection of Fees From Students and the Supplementary Regulations for Fees. The amount collected based on the preceding Paragraph, and the average unit price per session shall be between NT\$15 and NT\$25, which shall be determined by the school according to the situation of schoolwork guidance and the principle of balance of payments."

¹⁰ Based on "Guidelines for Implementation of Schoolwork Guidance of Public and Private Senior High Schools of New Taipei City" of January 12, 2015, Paragraph 1 of Article 3 of such Guidelines state that "The amount fees collected shall be based on the principle of balance of payments, and shall be multiplied by NT\$550 by the number of guidance sessions and divided by 0.75, and then divided by 35 (the results shall be rounded up unconditionally). After deducting the hourly and administrative costs, the remaining amount (if any) shall be refunded to the students."

¹¹ Tsz-Shiou Senior High School, <https://www.tsshs.ntpc.edu.tw/data.php?id=6394&tpl=8>

2.2 Results of Discussion With the School Administration

Putting aside how unreasonable the fees are, we also felt the unfriendliness during the discussion with the school administrations.

In fact, the teacher we were talking to was one of our personal favorites in teaching and interaction with the students. We didn't expect that the teacher could be so bureaucratic and just kept conveying the statements such as "you can go away if you don't want to be here¹²" and "the school has already told parents at the enrollment briefing¹³" during the discussion. We strongly disagree with such statement. Moreover, we felt quite sad that a grownup did something that was totally against his or her true heart.

The responses we received were vague, or, in other words, the perception that "the laws do not exist" was relatively clear and significant. After reading such responses, we believe that nobody would ever again claim that "Taiwan reached a "satisfactory" achievement in terms of CRC training for teachers"- and we even believe that Taiwan has failed in terms of the CRC achievement. Moreover, it would be hard to expect that a teacher with such kind of mindset could provide good-quality education.

2.3 Notes

We had also requested the competent authority (Education Department of New Taipei City Government) to do something with its power by sending an email to the Mayor's Mailbox. The following is the response from the official unit:

Subject: The Over-collection of Fees For Summer Vacation Schoolwork Guidance

Details of the Case:

NanShan Senior High School failed to comply with the Guidelines for Collection of Fees for Summer Vacation Schoolwork Guidance promulgated by the Education Department of the City, in which the school over-collected the fees for summer vacation schoolwork guidance for senior high and junior high students. For example, the fees are NT\$8000 and NT\$10,000 for second and third year students of Senior High, respectively, which is an obvious violation of the regulations.

The following is the response from the competent authority:

Dear Citizen, for <redacted>your letter concerning the "over-collection of fees for summer vacation schoolwork guidance", we hereby provide the following response:

¹² If so unsatisfied, why not just drop out? - This is indeed the perception of many people. Many parents and the general public always perceive that since they pay more to private schools, they will not have to comply with regulations of the competent authority of education affairs. Of course, this is a fallacy, but unfortunately, we're afraid that this is probably the "majority" among the general public. We hereby provide the excerpt of comments from social media on the news of students' rights for members' reference.

<https://www.facebook.com/241284961029/posts/10162417571121030/?sfnsn=mo>
<https://www.facebook.com/241284961029/posts/10162417571121030/?sfnsn=mo>

¹³ Are they trying to quote the legitimate expectation? We just don't understand.

1. Based on the “Guidelines for Implementation of Schoolwork Guidance of Public and Private Senior High Schools of New Taipei City” (the Guidelines), Subparagraphs 1 and 2 of Point 3 of the Guidelines state that “The amount fees collected shall be based on the principle of balance of payments, and shall be multiplied by NT\$550 by the number of guidance sessions and divided by 0.75, and then divided by 35 (the results shall be rounded up unconditionally). After deducting the hourly and administrative costs, the remaining amount (if any) shall be refunded to the students.” The Department has officially requested the school concerned to collect fees for vacation schoolwork guidance based on related regulations.
2. The Department has issued an official letter to request the school concerned to implement the schoolwork guidance by strictly complying with the provision of the “Guidelines for Implementation of Schoolwork Guidance of Public and Private Senior High Schools of New Taipei City” and will inspect the school's implementation more frequently.
3. Thank you for your email. Please do not hesitate to contact us at <redacted> when you have any doubts. We will do our best to assist you. Sincerely

Handling Unit: Secondary Education Division of Department of Education

Handling Staff: <redacted>

Contact Number: <redacted>

When we contacted the handling staff, the school replied that it will “explain to the parents during the parent-teacher conference¹⁴. It is obvious that there is no intention to make any improvement, and this is the least thing a competent authority of education matters should do- being bureaucratic. What kind of supervision mechanism is available for such situation in which the rights and interests of students are totally overlooked?

3 Another Case With the Concerns of Accumulating Wealth by Unfair Means: Student Clubs

For explanation of Article 15 of the CRC and taking reference of General Comments No. 17, which states that Taiwan has “fully respected and supported the rights for children to establish, join, and leave associations¹⁵”. However, for the implementation of such rights at campus, it's another whole different story.

3.1 Overview

In our school, students who intend to serve as club leaders are required to pay NT\$2500 to participate in the “training programs for club leaders” which have a duration of two days and one night. Although being called as

¹⁴ See Section 2.2 “Results of Discussion With the School Administration” for the statement of the school administration.

¹⁵ Please refer to Point 21 of General Comments No. 17.

“training programs”, they offer almost nothing meaningful or useful. In short, we learn nothing from such two-day and one-night group activities.

We discussed with the school administration several times, but all we got was the response saying that “nobody can serve as club leaders if they refuse to participate in the training programs”. This is no difference to closing the club permanently¹⁶!

3.2 What Do We Need?

As mentioned in the previous case, do we really need such an expensive “group activity” to be qualified as and to obtain the skills and knowledge of club leaders? However, the above-mentioned things are not available at school, so why does the school require us to participate in such activities and even threaten us that “the club would be closed if the students refuse to participate”? This has substantively interfered with and severely affected the right to association of children.

4 What Improvement Do We Expect?

4.1 Observation to the Current Situations

In short, it’s clear that Taiwanese teachers lack relevant knowledge in terms of CRC training, or even if they have the relevant knowledge, they do not have the capacity to implement specific behaviors and actions. This indicates that despite near-perfect training achievements, they are near-meaningless to the students. In our school, we still can vividly feel that the teachers and even the administration staff are still damaging the rights and interests of students.

We are not making a straw man. However, we have no choice but to reach such conclusion based on the actual situations.

4.2 Proposed Improvements

4.2.1 For the Mechanism of Submitting Complaints

It takes a certain knowledge of laws for students to submit complaints, which is time and effort-consuming. Taking the case of our student club as an example (see Section 3 below), we once chose to submit complaints, but at last refrained from doing so after considering factors such as time. We think this is not a happy result for anyone.

Perhaps the part that can make a change is the situation of “schools are unwilling to establish the complaints review committees” in the most legalized manner. For example, the Administrative Litigation Act clearly stipulates that...no decision has been made in response to the administrative appeal after a three-month period has elapsed, or after the period for rendering an administrative appeal decision has been extended for two months and such period has elapsed”. It is suggested that we may refer to such regulations and include provisions of “direct submission of re-appeal to the re-appeal and

¹⁶The organizations of student clubs are stringent. If there is any gap or omission, it would be a severe impact which would result in the unrecoverable loss of club members, knowledge, and skills.

review committee of the superior competent authority if the school fails to reach a resolution”. We hope that the school administration can take our proposals seriously and stop censoring the complaints from students.

4.2.2 Expressly Require the Competent Authority of Education Affairs to Take the Initiative to Inspect the Actual Implementation of the Schools

As mentioned above, the competent authority of education affairs mostly takes a passive attitude in face of the damage to the rights and interests of students despite the fact that the school is clearly violating the laws. It is just like the labor inspection¹⁷, which is only activated upon the occurrence of problems. This is just a great shame, in which the competent authority is so incapable to actively doing something but those that were so passive. It is just bureaucratic since the school administration would just “pretend” they are complying with laws when the educational inspector visits the school. Only a passive response is made when the report is submitted despite the violation of the school has lasted for years, and there are not relatively mandatory and powerful measures to regulate the school. Therefore, it is imperative to enhance the power and duties of the competent authorities.

¹⁷ Please refer to LIN, LIANG-JUNG (2013). Theory of Labor Inspection System - A Review of Legal Basis and Current System in Taiwan. National University of Kaohsiung Law Journal (Feb. 2013). Page 191



Tsz-Shiou Senior High School
Guidelines for Summer Vacation Schoolwork Guidance of 2021
and Schoolwork Guidance for Freshmen of 2022

I. Freshmen of First Grade of Junior High:

1. Purpose: To allow the freshman students to adapt to the campus environment and facilitate the bridging between primary and junior high courses.
2. Period for Schoolwork Guidance: 4 weeks, from July 25 to August 19 (in which July 25-26 is for orientation course and ESL Curriculum).
3. Who will Attend: All first-grade students of junior high (in principle).
4. Guidance Plans:
 - (1) Focus on bridging between primary and junior high education, supplemented by bridge of new courses.
 - (2) The teachers prepare the teaching schedule according to the unit, and conduct teaching in sequence.
 - (3) The foreign teachers provide and teach the ESL curriculum to improve the English conversation of students.
 - (4) The evening self-study is supervised by teachers and staff of the school.

5. Weekly Hours of Schoolwork Guidance and Subjects for Each Grade

Mandarin	English	Mathematics	Geography	History	Citizenship Education	Biology	ESL	Physical Education	Counseling	Music	Arts	Health Education	Performing Arts	Experiments	Classroom Teacher Time
3	2	3	1	1	1	1	15	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	5

II. Students of Second and Third Grades of Junior High:

1. Purpose: The purpose of schoolwork guidance for summer vacations is organized to prevent students from abandoning their schoolwork during the vacations, reduce the workloads of parents, and improve the academic attainments of students.
2. Period for Schoolwork Guidance: 4 weeks, from July 25 to August 19
3. Who Will Attend: All students of the same grade (in principle).
4. Guidance Plans:
 - (1) Focus on review of schoolwork, supplemented by bridge of new courses.
 - (2) The teachers prepare the teaching schedule according to the unit, and conduct teaching in sequence.
 - (3) Except for open enrollment classes, the foreign teachers provide and teach the English for Daily Life curriculum to improve the English conversation of students of other classes.
 - (4) The evening self-study is supervised by teachers and staff of the school.

5. Hours of Schoolwork Guidance and Subjects for Each Grade:

(1) Second Grade of Junior High Students:

Junior-Senior High School Program	Mandarin	English	Mathematics	Geography	History	Citizenship Education	Physics and Chemistry	English	Physical Education	English Reading	Scouting	Arts	Music	Information	Health Education	Classroom Teacher Time
	6	5	6	2	1	2	5	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
Honors Class	Mandarin	English	Mathematics	Geography	History	Citizenship Education	Physics and Chemistry	English	Physical Education	English Reading	Scouting	Arts	Music	Information	Health Education	Classroom Teacher Time
	6	6	6	2	1	2	5	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2



Tsz-Shiou Senior High School
Guidelines for Summer Vacation Schoolwork Guidance of 2021
and Schoolwork Guidance for Freshmen of 2022

(2) Third Grade of Junior High Students

Junior-Senior High School Program 40 hours	Mandarin	English	Mathematics	Geography	History	Citizenship Education	Health Education	Physics and Chemistry	Earth Science	Physical Education	Arts	Music	English			Classroom Teacher Time
	6	6	6	2	2	2	1	5	2	2	1	1	2			2
Open Admission Class 40 hours	Mandarin	English	Mathematics	Geography	History	Citizenship Education	Biology	Physics and Chemistry	Earth Science	Physical Education	Arts	Music	Common Time			Classroom Teacher Time
	6	6	6	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	1	1	2			1

III. Senior High Schools:

1. Purpose: The purpose of schoolwork guidance for summer vacations is organized to prevent students from abandoning their schoolwork during the vacations, reduce the workloads of parents, and improve the academic attainments of students.
2. Period for Schoolwork Guidance: 4 weeks, from July 25 to August 19
3. Who Will Attend: First, second and third year senior high students.
4. Guidance Plans:
 - (1) Focus on review of schoolwork, supplemented by bridge of new courses.
 - (2) The teachers prepare the teaching schedule according to the unit, and conduct teaching in sequence.
 - (3) The evening self-study is supervised by teachers and staff of the school.

5. Hours of Schoolwork Guidance and Subjects for Each Grade:

Subjects		Mandarin	English	Mathematics	Geography	History	Citizenship Education	Physics	Chemistry	Biology	Music	Arts	Career	Information	Physical Education	Classroom Teacher
First Year Senior High Students	40	7	7	6	2	2	2		3	3	1	1	1	1	2	2
Subjects		Mandarin	English	Mathematics	Geography	History	Physics	Chemistry	Biology	Music	Arts	Biotechnology	Information	Physical Education	Career	Classroom Teacher
Second Year Senior High Students	Science Track (40)	7	7	7		2	3	3	2	1	1		2	2	1	2
	Social Sciences Track (40)	7	7	7	5	5			1	1	2		2	1	2	
Subjects		Mandarin	English	Mathematics	Geography	History	Citizenship Education	Physics	Chemistry	Biology	Earth Science	Music	Career		Physical Education	Classroom Teacher
First Year Senior High Students	Science Track (40)	6	7	6				5	5	2	3	1	1		2	2
	Social Sciences Track (40)	6	7	6	5	5	5					1	1		2	2

IV. Fees Collected:

Summary Table

Breakdown of the Fees Collected for Summer Vacation Schoolwork Guidance for the Academic Year 2021 (2022 Summer Vacation Schoolwork Guidance)

		Fees For Schoolwork Guidance					Fees Collected							[Boarding Students]	
Grade	Item	Fees for Schoolwork Guidance	ESL Curriculum	English for Daily Life	Fees for Computer Usage	Subtotal	Fees for Air Conditioning	Fees For Learning Activities of Diversified Curriculum	Fees For Nighttime Schoolwork Guidance	Fees For Dormitory	Fees For Meals	Fees for Transportation	Fees For Laundry	Subtotal	Subtotal
		First Year Senior High Students		4,480			196	4,676	350	432	672	2,300	3,880	720	720
Second Year Senior High Students	Science Track	4,480			392	4,872	350	432	672	2,300	3,880	720	720	9,074	\$13,946
	Social Sciences Track	4,480				4,480	350	432	672	2,300	3,880	720	720	9,074	\$13,554
Third Year Senior High Students	Science Track	4,480				4,480	350	432	672	2,300	3,880	720	720	9,074	\$13,554
	Social Sciences Track	4,480				4,480	350	432	672	2,300	3,880	720	720	9,074	\$13,554
First Grade of Junior High Students		2,700	15,000			17,700	350	432	672	2,139	3,880	720	720	8,913	\$26,613
Second Grade of Junior High Students	Junior-Senior High School Program	4,320		1,216		5,536	350	432	672	2,139	3,880	720	720	8,913	\$14,449
	Honors Class	4,320		608		4,928	350	432	672	2,139	3,880	720	720	8,913	\$13,841
Third Grade of Junior High Students	Junior-Senior High School Program	4,320		1,216		5,536	350	432	672	2,139	3,880	720	720	8,913	\$14,449
	Honors Class	4,320				4,320	350	432	672	2,139	3,880	720	720	8,913	\$13,233

		Fees for Schoolwork Guidance					Fees Collected							Total (lunch and dinner included)			
Grade	Item	Fees For Schoolwork Guidance	ESL Curriculum	English For Daily Life	Fees For Computer Usage	Subtotal	Fees For Air Conditioning	Fees For Learning Activities of Diversified Curriculum	Fees For Nighttime Schoolwork Guidance	Fees For Lunch	Fees For Dinner	Fees For Transportation			Sanxia District	Tucheng-Yingge District	Other Districts
												Sanxia District	Tucheng-Yingge District	Other Districts			
First Year Senior High Students		4,480			196	4,676	350	432	672	1,600	1,280	2,200	2,600	3,000	11,210	11,610	12,010
Second Year Senior High Students	Science Track	4,480			392	4,872	350	432	672	1,600	1,280	2,200	2,600	3,000	11,406	11,806	12,206
	Social Sciences Track	4,480				4,480	350	432	672	1,600	1,280	2,200	2,600	3,000	11,014	11,414	11,814
Third Year Senior High Students	Science Track	4,480				4,480	350	432	672	1,600	1,280	2,200	2,600	3,000	11,014	11,414	11,814
	Social Sciences Track	4,480				4,480	350	432	672	1,600	1,280	2,200	2,600	3,000	11,014	11,414	11,814
First Grade of Junior High Students		2,700	15,000			17,700	350	432	672	1,600	1,280	2,200	2,600	3,000	24,234	24,634	25,034
Second Grade of Junior High Students	Junior-Senior High School Program	4,320		1,216		5,536	350	432	672	1,600	1,280	2,200	2,600	3,000	12,070	12,470	12,870
	Honors Class	4,320		608		4,928	350	432	672	1,600	1,280	2,200	2,600	3,000	11,462	11,862	12,262
Third Grade of Junior High Students	Junior-Senior High School Program	4,320		1,216		5,536	350	432	672	1,600	1,280	2,200	2,600	3,000	12,070	12,470	12,870
	Honors Class	4,320				4,320	350	432	672	1,600	1,280	2,200	2,600	3,000	10,854	11,254	11,654

Content of the News

Concerns From the Parents! Public Official Letter From St. Dominic Catholic High School Confirmed the School Rule Requiring Students to Come to School at 07:30

2022-08-29 12:11 [CHAO, YU-NING/UDN/Taipei](#)

Tomorrow the primary and secondary schools all over Taiwan open, and there will be a big change for students of senior high, in which no mandatory attendance and exams will be implemented during the morning self-study sessions and students will not be regarded as being late as long as they can reach the school before the first session begins. However, the Taiwan Youth Association for Democracy (TYAD) recently received complaints from students, stating that St. Dominic Catholic High School in Kaohsiung City issued a school-wide public official letter specifying that all students shall come to school by 07:30 in the morning on the grounds of “concerns of parents” and all parents support the original rule.

TYAD states that based on the new regulations regarding morning self-study sessions, it is specifically stated that the morning exercise may only be convened once a week, and no demerit shall be imposed on those that fail to attend. Students will not be regarded as being late as long as they can reach the school before the first session begins. No mandatory attendance and exams will be implemented during the morning self-study sessions. These regulations shall apply to the senior high schools nationwide.

TYAD stated that each school had successively revised their school regulations during the school administration meetings, and allowed students to use freely the time of morning self-study sessions. The Ministry of Education also recently responded that after compiling the schedules of senior high schools throughout the country, most of them have been adopted or applied mutatis mutandis the new regulations. In the future, schools and local governments will also be supervised to ensure compliance with such regulations.

Despite the Ministry of Education's repeated orders, TYAD still receives several reports from students complaining that their schools fail to comply with the regulations. Recently, St. Dominic Catholic High School in Kaohsiung City issued a school-wide official letter to its students, stating that “the School has reached a resolution to maintain the rule requesting students to come to school by 07:30. The school has teachers and administration staff who can look after students, so that parents can go to work without unnecessary worries”.

For the reasons for not following the new regulations, TYAD stated that St. Dominic Catholic High School mentioned in the official letter that, “(the school) received many concerns from the parents on such policy (come to school by 08:00)... There were parents expressing their concerns on the conflicts between time for going to work and taking children to the school. In addition, the parents send their children to St. Dominic Catholic High School because they expect the school to train the self-discipline of the students, and provide better and more diversified and active education to them”.

Such resolution raised dissatisfaction among many students at St. Dominic Catholic High School, thinking that the school was trying to confuse the general public. Chang, one of the sophomore students at St. Dominic Catholic High School, mentioned that even though the arrival time is extended, if parents need to send the younger siblings who are junior high students or arrange the time to go to work, they would still take us to the school earlier than 8:00. The policy does not stipulate that the arrival time shall be 08:00, and since parents of other schools in Taiwan accept such regulations, why can't the parents of students of St. Dominic? The school should not take such reason as an excuse for violating the regulations.

TYAD urges the Ministry of Education and the Department of Education of Kaohsiung City Government to regulate schools who are clearly violating the regulations. If there remains any schools that still requires students to come to school by 7:30, others may start to do the same, which would void the regulations on coming to school by 8:00. Hence, the competent authority shall take an inventory of which schools are still violating the regulations, and should request improvements to be made in a timely manner before the schools open.

TYAD also planned to release the results of a survey on senior high schools all over Taiwan to examine whether the schools have fully implemented the new regulations on morning self-study sessions, in which the students may be allowed to use their time freely during such sessions.

Comments From Social Media

“If not, what's the point for studying at private schools?”¹

“I haven't read the news article yet. But I know a student from the school who lives across my home just got accepted by a distinguished university, which is School of Medicine, College of Medicine, NYCU.”

“I respect the decision of schools on the basis of good faith!”

“Private school should stick to its tradition and do the right things. That's education!”

“Stupid policies make stupid people! How frustrated these parents are, how ignorant these students are...”

“I am with the school.
It has always been that way and it should remain that way.”

“The MOE has deformed the school system. What are those politicians thinking? Pathetic.”

“I graduated from that school and I support the school's policy. Maintain the good tradition!”

“A good school requires good traditions and good self-discipline! Politicians should stop “bribing” the young students...”

“It's the strategy of the government to produce a bunch of educated idiots so that people in the future won't doubt the policies of the gov...”

¹ I guess it means that “the MOE should leave private schools alone (in terms of such events), or what's the point for those parents who pay more money to the schools?”?

“The purpose is initially giving students the opportunities to manage daily life by themselves, only resulting in a lazy attitude. This is the current education in Taiwan, just pathetic...”

“Well, the school has its own concerns too, I don't see anything wrong about the 0730 rule since the parents agree!

“Finally, a truly good school.”

“What the heck is TYAD? Who's behind it? The parents send their kids to private schools to learn self-discipline. What does it have to do with that troll? Parents agree the school policies, I don't see anything wrong here.”

“Rules are rules, respect the professionals of education and schools, if you don't, just go to another school. ²”

“TYAD was founded four years ago,
It is a supporter of a specific political party,
The government and these goonies are covering for each other.
Bribing the students as always.
If they refuse to comply with the regulations, they can go away,
Students can freely choose their way for studying.
They might as well try homeschooling.
Why make things difficult for the school and other parents?

“Private schools have their own rules
Students refusing to comply with these rules
should go home to discuss with their parents.
Just don't bother the other students.

² The statement confuses me, and sadly I don't understand what it is trying to say. I guess the parents requesting the school to comply with laws can just get their kids to the schools that comply with the laws.

“³Shame on those monster parents that interfere in the school administration.
Who do they think they are?”

³I guess they are just “asking to school to comply with laws”.