

Education in Japan beyond the crisis of COVID-19

-Leave No One Behind-

September. 2020

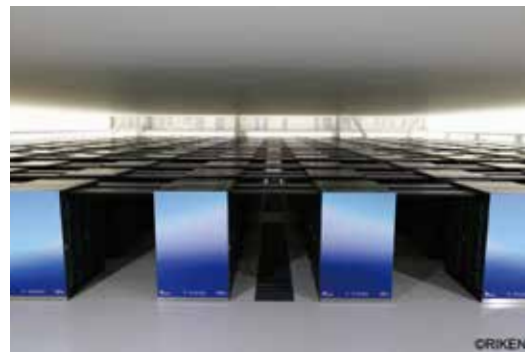


MEXT

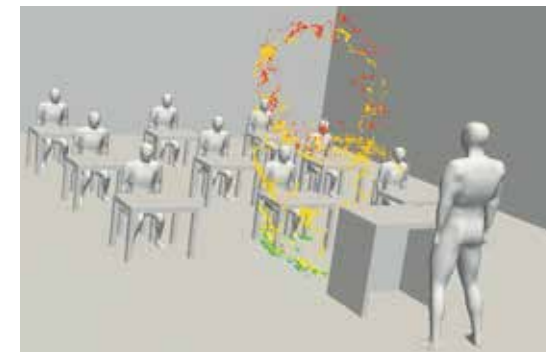
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
CULTURE, SPORTS,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN

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World's fastest supercomputer "Fugaku"



An example of virus droplet simulation in a classroom
(By prof. Yamakawa of Kyoto Institute of Technology)

The number of cases of child infections and transmission routes in Japan

During the period from June 1, when schools began to fully reopen, to July 31, **242 out of 12 million students in 35,874 schools** were reported to have been infected.

Over half of the infection routes, **57%** (137 out of 242 students), **were “household transmission”, and in particular, for elementary school students, 70%** (63 out of 90 students) were infected through this route.

On the other hand, **a total of 11 students overall (5%) were reported as “in-school transmission”,** of which there were 4 cases.

Students	Infected	with symptoms (*2)		Transmission route determined								Transmission route unclear	
				Household transmission		In-school transmission		Activities, exchanges outside family, school		Students returned from overseas			
Elementary schools	90	30	33%	63	70%	0	0%	9	10%	3	3%	15	17%
Junior high schools	53	32	60%	31	58%	6	11%	5	9%	2	4%	9	17%
High schools	97	57	59%	42	43%	5	5%	17	18%	1	1%	32	33%
Schools for SNE(*)	2	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%
Total	242	120	50%	137	57%	11	5%	31	13%	6	2%	57	24%

(*) Schools for Special Needs Education (*2) Number of “with severe symptoms” : 0

Note: Regarding compulsory education schools and secondary education schools, the school stages are divided corresponding to elementary schools and junior high schools and senior high schools.

Elementary and secondary education

Approximately 98% of Japanese schools have reopened as of June 1, 2020. With the fight against COVID-19 turning into a protracted battle, it will be important to ensure that students are both as safe as possible from the infection and able to learn in a sound, healthy way. That means taking whatever measures necessary to ensure children's learning as much as possible, without anyone being left behind.

MEXT is working to establish a consistent curricular approach and provide financial support so that every school has the personnel and material support to ensure effective learning.



The basic concept behind the Comprehensive Package for Ensuring Children's Learning

Society as a whole needs to live with COVID-19 for a long time

Continuous learning during temporary school closures

Step-by-step approach to reopening schools where possible

Recovery of learning by all possible means

Ensuring learning that can only be done at schools as much as possible through flexible countermeasures

Ensuring children's learning as much as possible regardless of the state of COVID-19 infections

Centered on these basic concepts, MEXT will:



I. Clarify policies for organizing and implementing curricula to ensure effective learning



II. Provide the personnel and material support necessary for ensuring children's learning nationwide

Elementary and secondary education

Since reopening, Japanese schools have taken measures such as staggering attendance, redesigning timetables, and shortening long vacations to provide students with access to education while giving their full attention to preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Schools are also supporting students' learning by offering supplementary instruction to children who have not yet fully retained the target content.





1. Clarify policies for organizing and implementing curricula to ensure effective learning

Basic policy, when required, for revising the curricula formulated at the beginning of academic year 2020* due to the impact of COVID-19

*An academic year runs from April to March in Japan

◆ **Recover learning at school** by setting special attendance days and/or staggered attendance schedules, redesigning timetables, reviewing the length of long vacations, having school on Saturdays, as well as prioritizing school events and shortening their preparation time, etc.

◆ **Special measures can be taken** when it is still difficult to complete the curricula as scheduled, even if the measures above are taken:

(1) Moving some learning content from this year to 1 or 2 years into the future

(2) Prioritizing learning activities during school lessons

◆ Every management body should **support educational activities at every school**.
Prefectural boards of educations should support municipal and town boards within their region.

Elementary and secondary education

In addition, MEXT is taking the initiative to ensure that examinees are not disadvantaged for high school and university entrance exams due to COVID-19-related class delays.





1. Clarify policies for organizing and implementing curricula to ensure effective learning

High school and university entrance exams: Measures to ensure that examinees are not disadvantaged for high school and university entrance exams

* Entrance exams are mainly held between January and March in Japan

High school entrance exams

- ◆ MEXT has requested prefectural boards of education, the test implementers of entrance exams, to give **special consideration** for FY 2021 high school entrance exams.
- ◆ For example, for admissions to high schools, in cases where **a student's performance record in club activities and other special events is used for evaluation but the events were cancelled or postponed**, evaluations can be based on the student's performance in other activities. Care should also be taken to ensure that students are not disadvantaged **because their school records show fewer attendance days or there are fewer descriptions of learning assessments**. Moreover, based on the learning situation in that region, necessary measures can be taken regarding the scope, content, and type of entrance exam questions.

University entrance exams

- ◆ So that applicants who were not able to take qualification / proficiency tests or participate in special events will not be disadvantaged in the selection process, MEXT has requested that **all universities develop special measures, such as an evaluation of the process of the applicants' efforts to achieve results, individual online interviews, and so on**.
- ◆ MEXT has also requested the National Association of Upper Secondary School Principals to conduct **a questionnaire survey on the entrance examination schedule including the general entrance examination, the scope of the examination questions, as well as ensuring adequate opportunities for students to take examinations by holding additional exams**. MEXT held discussions with related high school and university representatives based on the results of the survey, and then drew up and announced **Guidelines for the Selection of University Applicants** in mid-June.

Elementary and secondary education

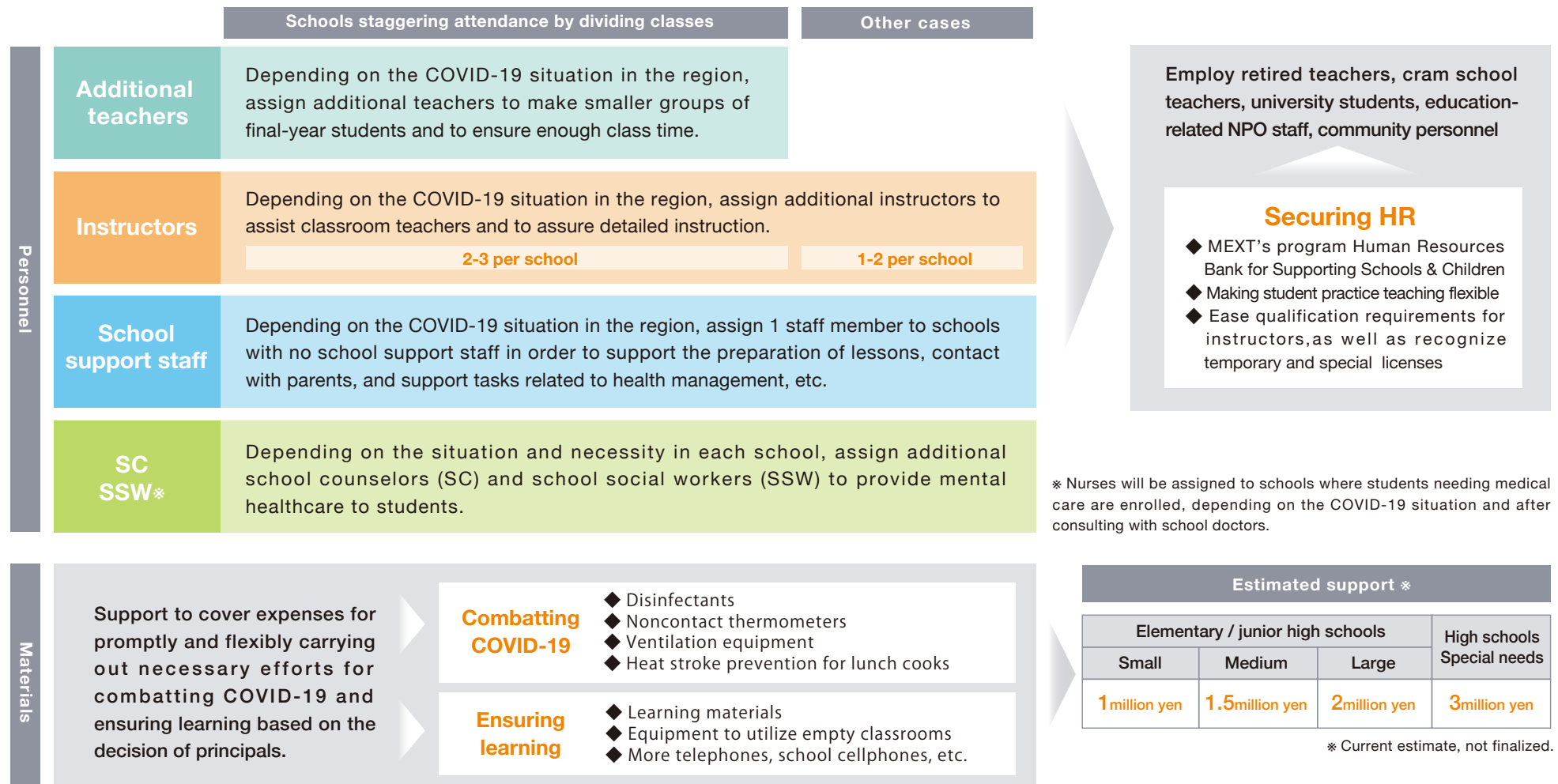
To provide schools across the country with the necessary human and material resources for ensuring effective learning, MEXT has assigned large numbers of additional teachers, school support staff, and more. MEXT is also providing all elementary, junior high, and high schools nationwide with funding to support reopening in order to take quick, flexible countermeasures against COVID-19 and ensure quality learning.





II. Provide the personnel and material support necessary for ensuring children's learning nationwide

MEXT is taking the initiative for the large-scale **assignment of additional teachers and instructors** and for **providing funds** to all elementary, junior high, and high schools **to support the reopening of schools**. In this way, ensuring both learning and taking quick, flexible countermeasures against COVID-19.



Elementary and secondary education

Under the GIGA School Program, MEXT is also accelerating the preparation of hardware, software, and personnel in an integrated way to realize “one computer per student” at the earliest possible time, as well as to establish communication environments that connect to students’ homes.

Through these measures, MEXT will ensure that all children can learn via ICT even in emergency situations such as temporary school closures due to natural disasters or infectious diseases.





II. Provide the personnel and material support necessary for ensuring children's learning nationwide

Preparing environment for home study using ICT (computers)

To ensure learning by accelerating the GIGA* School Program

MEXT has started the GIGA School Program to make certain of equitable and individually optimized learning by providing **one computer per student** and **high-speed Internet for schools**.

*GIGA: Global and Innovative Gateway for All

In the face of the COVID-19 crisis, integrated preparation of hardware, software, and personnel under the GIGA School Program will be accelerated and strengthened. The aim is **the early realization of one computer per student** as well as to prepare an **ICT environment even at the students' homes**.

Through these initiatives, it is ensured that all children can learn by using ICT even in emergency situations, such as temporary school closures due to natural disasters or infectious diseases.

FY 2019 supplementary budget: 231.8 billion yen

FY 2020 supplementary budget: 229.2 billion yen

Computers, LTE mobile routers, distance learning equipment, etc.

◆ MEXT is aiming to provide **an environment that allows every child to study online at home** without any delay through measures such as contacting suppliers after grasping demand nationwide and having specialists give advice directly to local governments, etc.

◆ In addition, specific focus will be given to make sure, at the earliest possible time, that an ICT environment is provided for **final-grade students*** and for **families unable to prepare an ICT environment due to financial difficulties**.

*sixth graders in elementary school and third year students in junior high school

Communication costs for families

◆ To support home learning for low-income households, special additional payments will be made to help cover communication costs using existing subsidy programs.

Elementary and secondary education

In addition, MEXT is extending the validity period for teacher's licenses, thereby allowing a grace period for attending license-renewal training, and suspending certain school surveys and commissioned projects to focus environmental improvements on ensuring effective learning.

MEXT is also offering learning-support videos on the one-stop Children Learning Support Website and creating learning materials to help students retain what they learn.





II. Provide the personnel and material support necessary for ensuring children's learning nationwide

Enabling teachers to focus on "ensuring learning"

- ◆ Notification that the valid period for teacher's licenses will be extended, allowing a grace period for taking license renewal training.
- ◆ Partial cancellation of this year's surveys for schools and commissioned projects by MEXT.

Creating learning materials for better retention of learning content

- ◆ Creation of materials to enable sixth grade elementary school students and third year junior high school students to review what they learned from the first semester.

Providing convenient listing of educational videos on MEXT's Children Learning Support Website

- ◆ Information on educational videos produced by boards of education, educational programs produced by NHK and the Open University of Japan, etc. have been organized and are provided on the **Children Learning Support Website**.

Building ICT systems for education for the full exploitation of ICT

- ◆ Building an ICT system for education to enable the complete use of ICT by developing and verifying prototypes for online learning systems that will ensure learning as well as standardizing educational data including the codification of the National Curriculum Standards.

Higher education

As of July 1, all universities have started their spring classes, and around 90 percent of universities are now conducting distance learning classes in some form or other.

MEXT has allocated 95 million US\$ in the government's supplementary budget for support in preparing an IT environment that will enable universities to set up a system and equipment for conducting distance learning classes and to provide advanced education using digital technology.

Moreover, currently no more than 60 credits out of all credits for graduation can be acquired through online classes. Therefore, MEXT widely publicized to universities that this cap on credits was not applied, as an exception.



I. Start of classes and promoting the use of distance learning

1. Start of classes (spring semester)

- **Around 90%** of universities have **postponed** the start of regular classes.
- Almost all universities that have not postponed classes will use or are considering distance learning classes.

	Postponed start of classes	Start classes as usual	
		Will use or considering distance learning classes	Considering other COVID-19 prevention measures
National univ.	90.7%	9.3%	—
Public univ.	82.9%	13.3%	—
Private univ.	87.0%	10.5%	0.1%
Colleges of technology	87.0%	12.3%	—
(Overall)	86.9% (930 schools)	10.7% (115 schools)	0.1% (1school)

* The response rate was around 97.8%, so the totals in the table do not add up to 100%. Universities that postponed the start of classes include those that will conduct distance learning classes.

2. Distance learning classes (as of July 1)

- As of July 1, **all** universities have **started** their spring semester classes.
- **83.8%** of universities offering classes are conducting **distance learning classes** in some way.

	In-person classes	Combination of in-person and distance learning classes	Distance learning classes
National univ.	1.2%	64.0%	34.9%
Public univ.	7.8%	70.6%	21.6%
Private univ.	17.6%	59.7%	22.7%
Colleges of technology	33.3%	40.4%	26.3%
(Overall)	16.2% (173 schools)	60.1% (642 schools)	23.8% (254 schools)

* The population is the number of universities (1,069) responding that they are conducting classes as of July 1.

Main MEXT initiatives

- Following allocations in supplementary budget
Ensuring learning opportunities by accelerating setting up environment for distance learning classes at universities (95 million US\$)
* Includes university equipment (cameras, audio equipment, etc.), internet-enabled devices for students, etc.
- The rule on the limit of the number of credits for distance education **was exempted**.

Higher education

International student exchanges have also been significantly impacted.

MEXT is dealing flexibly with the situation for the international students that were originally scheduled to come to Japan in the spring under the Japanese government's scholarship program. In a case where a student's arrival in Japan is delayed from the original schedule or the scholarship period has been changed to the autumn, students will still be able to receive their scholarship payments.

For Japanese government scholarships for overseas study, MEXT has made the payment of scholarships flexible so that students who have difficulty temporarily returning to Japan or students who are continuing to study after the temporary return to Japan can continue to receive scholarship payments.



II. International student exchanges and scholarships

1. Acceptance of international students

- **Almost none of the new** international students scheduled to come to Japan in the spring have **arrived in Japan**.
- **Some students** who have completed their academic courses are **unable to return** to their countries.

Main MEXT initiatives

1 For international students scheduled to come to Japan

Flexible responses under the government's scholarship programs so that they **can receive scholarship payment** in cases where:

- arrival in Japan is delayed from the original date
- scholarship period is changed to the autumn, etc.

2 International students currently enrolled in Japan

Special measures for receiving monthly scholarship payments

2. Overseas study for Japanese students

- Sending new students with government scholarships has been **temporarily suspended**.
- Government has requested that students cancel or postpone privately financed overseas study.

Main MEXT initiatives

Flexible payment of overseas study government scholarships depending on the situation of the overseas student

*Scholarship payments continued for students who have difficulty returning temporarily to Japan and to students who have temporarily returned to Japan and are continuing their studies.

Consideration for study, course registration, etc.

- MEXT requested universities to
 - consider necessary measures, such as supplementary lectures, extending registration period,
 - avoid disadvantaging students by consulting with partner universities regarding various conditions, including acquiring credits.

Higher education

Due to the spread of COVID-19, some students are facing difficulties continuing their studies at universities and other institutions due to heavily reduced household incomes as well as less income from part-time jobs. In response, MEXT established the emergency student financial support program to provide cash handouts to these students so that they will not have to abandon their studies. About 430,000 students, including international students, will be targeted for this program.

In addition, MEXT is allocating 150 million US\$ in the supplementary budget for support to students whose household finances have drastically changed, making them eligible for the tuition exemptions that some individual universities are providing.



III. Financial support for students adversely affected

Emergency student financial support for continuing their studies (Budget: about 500 million US\$)

With students experiencing a significant economic impact on their lifestyles due to heavy reductions in household income and income from part-time jobs, the program will provide those who face difficulties continuing their studies with a cash handout so that they do not abandon their studies.

- ◇ **Eligibility:** Students attending **universities (including graduate schools), junior colleges**, colleges of technology, vocational schools, etc. in Japan, **including international students**
- ◇ **Cash handout amount:** Students exempt from residence tax: **1,900 US\$**, other students: **950 US\$**
- ◇ **Estimated number of eligible students:** **About 430,000**

New learning support system and scholarship loans

Measures for households experiencing sudden changes in finances

- accepting applications at any time
- flexible assessment of family income

Learning support system for higher education

Expansion of system operation.

Scholarship benefits can be provided from the month the application is made.

Scholarship loans

As in the past, support targets students in urgent financial need due to a sudden change in household finances.

(Applications accepted at any time.)

Special emergency scholarship loans

With students experiencing a significant economic impact due to reduced income from part-time job, the program will provide interest-free scholarships.

Learning support at individual universities

Postponement of tuition payments

MEXT is requesting all universities to flexibly handle the payment period for tuitions and other fees for students in financial difficulty.

Support for the exemption from tuition and other payments by individual universities

As an emergency financial measure, MEXT allocates necessary funds to universities to support the financial burden of tuition exemptions.

In the supplementary budget, **national universities** will receive **46 million US\$** and **private universities 92 million US\$**.

Other education-related policies

In the post-COVID-19 world, it will be more important than ever for countries to cooperate in enhancing public health education and online learning. MEXT has been working on the EDU-Port Japan Project to share Japanese-style education techniques with people overseas since 2016.



EDU-Port Japan Project

FY 2020 budget: 72 million yen

Background/overview

- ◆ In the field of education, Japan has a lot of potential to contribute to the world.
- ◆ Japanese-style education draws international interest due to its unique approaches
 - ◇ Elementary and junior high school education centers on cultivating a well-balanced solid academic ability, rich humanity, and healthy body.
 - ◇ Colleges of technology, KOSEN, develop engineers so they will have practical and sophisticated skills.
- ◆ Collaborating with relevant organizations, MEXT builds a public-private collaboration platform as well as supports pilot projects that promote Japanese-style education across borders.

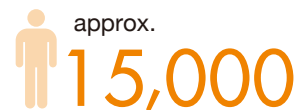


Past efforts

Conducting the five years from 2016 to 2020



Total number of participants from Japan



Total number of participants from partner countries



- ◆ Worked on collaborative projects in a variety of areas, including public health, ICT education, early childhood education, music, physical education, teacher training, and human resource development in science and technology
- ◆ Held symposia and other events to share findings and insights from the project with Japanese audiences



MEXT will promote initiatives to share expertise and findings on educational issues affecting the world both during and after the COVID-19 crisis with educators across the globe.

Other education-related policies

MEXT has been promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), a global, UNESCO-led initiative, since before the COVID-19 outbreak.

For a more sustainable society, ESD aims to develop students' values and behavior, helping them to solve various issues.

In a world that will need to keep dealing with COVID-19 for the foreseeable future, the importance of initiatives such as ESD is growing more and more apparent.



Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) contributing to achievement of SDGs

What is ESD?

◆ ESD is education that develops **students' autonomous ability to see global issues impacting modern society as their own issues and to think of solutions by themselves** with the aim of fostering builders of a sustainable society. ESD develops students' capability to act and **brings about a transformation in their values and behavior.**

◆ ESD engages students in **an interdisciplinary, holistic way in individual areas**, such as international understanding, the environment, cultural diversity, human rights, and peace **from the perspective of sustainable development.**

ESD contributes to achieving **all the 17 SDGs** by **fostering builders of a sustainable society.**

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



(approved by the Diet on April 30, 2020)

Support for reopening schools

Coronavirus countermeasures at schools	13.7 billion yen	Support for purchasing of masks and disinfectants needed for thorough conducting of basic coronavirus countermeasures at schools.
Improvement of hygienic environment at schools, etc. (restrooms, school lunch facilities, etc.)	10.6 billion yen	Improvement of hygienic environment of school facilities, including maintaining restrooms, school lunch facilities, etc. as well as preparing and maintaining ventilation fans in gymnasiums and sports facilities, with the aim of preventing the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19.
Placement of lecturers and tutors	800 million yen	Additional placement of lecturers and tutors to support students' supplementary learning in order to complete unfinished parts of the curriculum at the end of the school year.
Support for experiential activities for children (nature, sports, culture)	2.1 billion yen	Creation of opportunities for nature-experience and sports activities as well as enhancement of opportunities to experience cultural arts activities that had been lost due to the spread of COVID-19.
Support for cancellation fees, etc. arising from cancellation or postponement of school excursions	600 million yen	Provision of financial support to lessen the financial burden on parents for cancellation fees, etc. due to canceled or postponed school excursions.
Support for students whose household finances dramatically changed	700 million yen	Support for waiving tuitions and other fees for students whose household finances changed significantly due to the impact of COVID-19.
Smooth conducting of Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students	100 million yen	Support to cover necessary expenses for anti-coronavirus measures so that the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (taken by most persons who want to enter a Japanese university as an international student) can be held without delay.

Ensuring Learning for students during school closures

Ensuring learning through the acceleration of the GIGA School Program	229.2 billion yen	Through the acceleration of the integrated preparation of hardware, software, and human resources under the GIGA School Program, which calls for the prompt provision of "one computer per student" and the preparation of communications environments that connect even to students' homes, MEXT will support the prompt realization of an environment that ensures learning for all children through using ICT.
Ensuring learning opportunities at universities through the accelerated building of environments for distance learning classes	2.7 billion yen	MEXT will promote the preparation of environments enabling all universities, technical colleges, and specialized training colleges to prepare the facilities and systems for distance learning classes and provide advanced education using digital technology.

Support for coronavirus research, and university hospitals

Acceleration of R&D for finding countermeasures to the novel coronavirus	6.4 billion yen	MEXT will support strengthening the research foundation at universities and other institutions that are contributing to the development of treatment drugs and vaccines and the establishment of new testing methods and for the development of rapid COVID-19 testing systems.
Preparation of systems at university hospitals for accepting COVID-19 patients	2.5 billion yen	To overcome COVID-19, which is still not completely understood, MEXT will support providing and maintaining medical equipment at university hospitals as well as the training of needed advanced medical personnel.
Using national youth education facilities to combat COVID-19	1.2 billion yen	To receive Japanese students returning from overseas, MEXT will support the preparation of hygienic environments at existing accommodations at convenient and large facilities owned by the National Institution for Youth Education.

Support for sports and cultural arts activities

Coronavirus countermeasures at the Japan High Performance Sport Center	200 million yen	MEXT will support the installation of ventilating equipment to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at the Japan Institute of Sports Sciences in the run-up to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics.
Support for holding events to recover interest in and enthusiasm for sports and cultural arts	2.2 billion yen	MEXT will promote the smooth and full-fledged resumption of sports events through its support for COVID-19 countermeasures and publicity activities to attract spectators. MEXT will also support cultural organizations and freelance artists in holding lectures, exhibits and exhibitions, etc. in order to heighten interest in culture and the arts.
Improvement to viewing environments by using cutting-edge technology and strengthening the earning capacity of cultural facilities	1.4 billion yen	MEXT will promote the independent operation of cultural facilities by supporting the creation of new appreciation and viewing models—taking advantage of the special characteristics of each genre in the performing arts—and the development of model projects such as exhibitions that use high-definition visual contents.
Support for COVID-19 countermeasures for the reopening cultural facilities	2.1 billion yen	MEXT will fund coronavirus countermeasures at cultural facilities, the preparation of the correct environment for the restarting performances, etc., and the introduction of a time-reserved visitor system to minimize the risk of infection.

Support for students, artists, athletes, etc., in difficult circumstances

Support for financially distressed students	15.3 billion yen	MEXT will subsidize the costs incurred by universities in implementing measures for reducing tuition and other costs to ensure that students in financial need will not have to abandon their studies due to financial reasons as a result of the spread of COVID-19.
Emergency comprehensive support for cultural arts and sports activities 58 billion yen		
◇ Support for continuing cultural arts and sports activities	50.9 billion yen	MEXT will fund necessary expenses for cultural arts and sports organizations and others, including freelancers that were forced to cancel their activities, so that they can actively undertake efforts to continue their activities, including stepped-up anti-coronavirus measures.
◇ Project to strengthen the earning capacity of cultural arts	5 billion yen	This project promotes the drastic reform of the earning structure of cultural arts organizations through initiatives for securing and strengthening the earning capacity of these organizations by establishing new ways to attract viewers and so on that leverage the special characteristics of each genre in the performing arts.
◇ Support for the resumption of sports events	2 billion yen	To promote the smooth and full-fledged resumption of sports events, MEXT will support measures that prevent the spread of COVID-19 at national sports events, as well as publicizing events to attract spectators, securing sports venues, etc., and support the holding of regional alternative events for national school sports club events.

Support for universities and researchers, strengthening the research foundation

Interest grants for short-term borrowing by national universities	300 million yen	MEXT will support national universities with attached hospitals that are accepting seriously ill COVID-19 patients in their financing efforts by subsidizing their interest payments on short-term borrowing from private-sector financial institutions.
Support for the resumption and continuation of research by improving research environments	3 billion yen	MEXT will support the improvement of research facilities to enable automation or remote use so that doctoral students and other researchers can promptly resume and continue their research activities.
Use of PCR equipment at research facilities	500 million yen	MEXT will provide support to universities and other institutions that are cooperating on testing to expand the testing system for COVID-19 by helping to cover new expenses arising from changes in research plans due to their cooperation or expenses for initial investments in setting up a testing system within the university.

Ensuring learning for primary/secondary and post-secondary students

Ensuring learning for primary/secondary students during temporary school closures 77.4 billion yen		
◇ Securing necessary personnel to ensure learning	31.8 billion yen	In anticipation of prolonged school closures or phased school re-openings, MEXT will support the employment of a wide range of personnel, including retired teachers and university students, beginning with students in teaching courses, as well as their urgent placement to support regular faculty in order to ensure to the greatest extent possible that no child is left behind in his/her learning.
◇ Support for resuming school education activities	40.5 billion yen	To support schools to implement new ways necessary for combatting COVID-19 at schools and ensuring students' learning, MEXT will provide schools with financial support to carry out these measures quickly and flexibly.
◇ Support for buying masks and other coronavirus countermeasures at kindergartens	3 billion yen	MEXT will provide funds for buying masks, disinfectants, etc. as well as cover increasing expenses arising from work required for thoroughly carrying out coronavirus countermeasures in order to strengthen the measures at kindergartens for stopping the spread of COVID-19.
◇ Increasing support for coronavirus countermeasures on school buses for special needs education schools	1.6 billion yen	To ensure a safe and secure school commuting environment for children with disabilities, MEXT will fund efforts for minimizing infection risks on school buses for special needs education schools.
◇ Project for upgrading educational environment of overseas Japanese schools	500 million yen	To ensure the learning of students at Japanese schools overseas, MEXT will support providing one computer for each student and each teacher as well as projects for testing and validating the educational systems using ICT.
Accelerating the setting up of distance learning classes at universities, colleges of technology, specialized training colleges 7.3 billion yen		
MEXT will promote the preparation of environments enabling all universities, colleges of technology, and specialized training colleges with new needs brought on by the prolongation of the COVID-19 pandemic to prepare the facilities and systems for distance learning classes and to provide advanced education using digital technology.	10 billion yen, including 2.7 billion yen allocated in the MEXT FY 2020 First Supplementary Budget	

Transformation of learning brought about by “one computer per student” and high-speed networks

GIGA School Program

◆ Realize an educational ICT environment **optimized for each child**, including those with special needs, and **ensure further development of their abilities**.

◆ **Maximize the power of teachers and students** through the best mix of past educational practices and cutting-edge ICT technology.

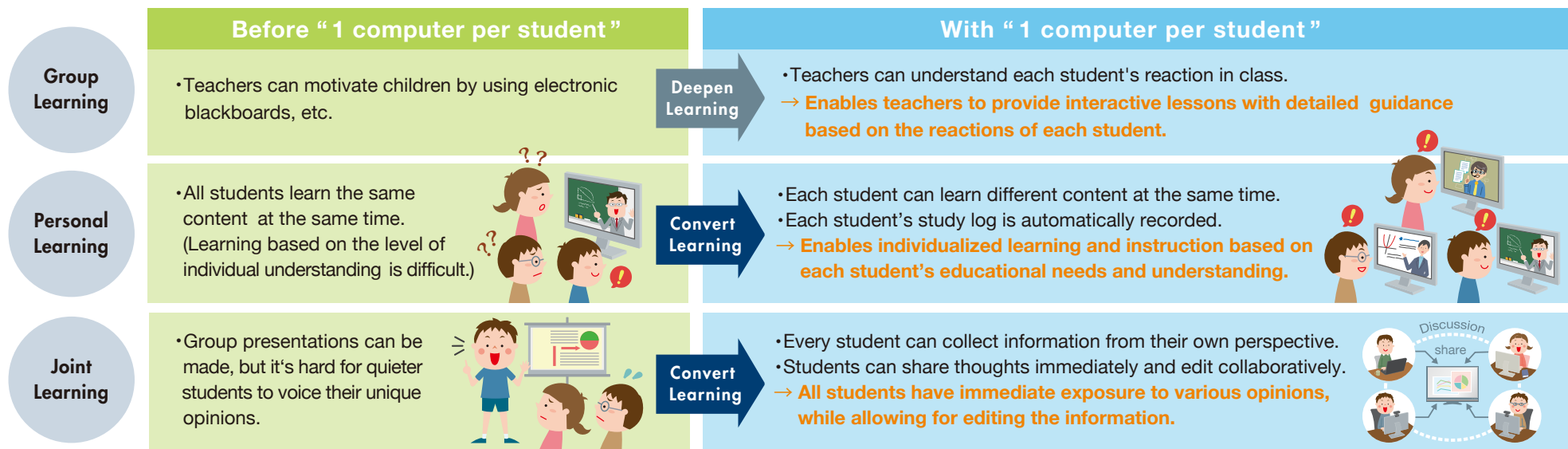
Past Practices

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ICT

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Further enrichment of learning activities/improved lessons from the perspective of proactive, interactive and authentic learning



Examples of learning that can be enriched through “one computer per student”

- ☑ **Investigative Learning** Collecting and analyzing various information proactively, depending on the purpose.
- ☑ **Expression and Production** Writing long texts while polishing / Producing various works using several materials.
- ☑ **Learning at a Distance** Collaboration with universities, overseas countries, experts / Opportunities for children in underpopulated areas or in hospitals.
- ☑ **Information Morality Learning** Using various information that contains several cases illustrating truths and falsehoods.

Realization of GIGA School Program

461 billion Japanese yen (Administered by MEXT)

FY 2019 Supplementary Budget **231.8 billion**

FY 2020 First Supplementary Budget **229.2 billion**

GIGA School Program ensures “one computer per student with a high-speed networks in schools,” bringing optimized and creative learning to all students, who will later live in Society 5.0

Education and new era schools

- ✓ Removing constraints such as time and distance
- ✓ Optimized and effective learning and support
- ✓ Cultivating creativity through project-based learning

- ✓ Improving efficiency in school operations
- ✓ Sharing and creation of teachers’ empirical knowledge with scientific perspective

Supporting for maintaining computers for students

◇ **Realizing “1 computer per student”** **297.3 billion yen**
Supporting computer maintenance for students at the compulsory education level.
FY 2019 Supplementary Budget **102.2 billion**
FY 2020 First Supplementary Budget **195.1 billion**

◇ **Assistive computers for disabled students** **1.1 billion yen**
Supporting provision of input/output assistive computers for children with visual, auditory, and physical disabilities.

Developing a school-wide network environment

Support for maintaining the school LAN environment and power supply cabinets (including high schools). **136.7 billion yen**
FY 2019 Supplementary Budget **129.6 billion**
FY 2020 First Supplementary Budget **7.1 billion**

Placing GIGA school supporters

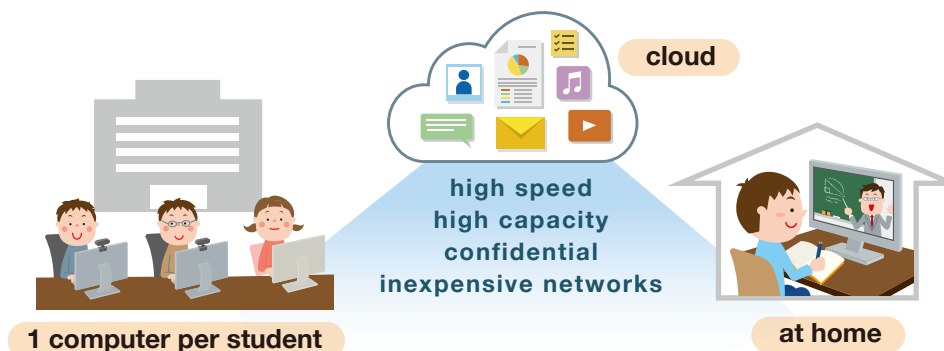
Supporting the placement of local governments’ ICT engineers to promote ICT in schools (including high schools). **10.5 billion yen**
FY 2020 First Supplementary Budget **10.5 billion**

Learning environment at home for emergency

◇ **Devices for learning at home** **14.7 billion yen**
Supporting the lending of LTE communications equipment (mobile routers) by local governments to households that do not have Wi-Fi.

◇ **Distance learning capabilities of schools** **0.6 billion yen**
Supporting the installation of communication devices such as cameras and microphones to schools (including high schools).

◇ **Online system for ensuring learning** **0.1 billion yen**
Research to introduce a platform for learning and assessment at school and at home using ICT.





MEXT

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MEXT website (English)

<https://www.mext.go.jp/en/index.htm>



MEXT Twitter (Japanese)

<https://twitter.com/mextjapan>



MEXT Facebook (Japanese)

<https://www.facebook.com/mextjapan/>



Special MEXT website covering the COVID-19 crisis (Japanese)

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/coronavirus/index.html



Infection Control Manuals and Guidelines For Schools (Japanese)

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/coronavirus/mext_00029.html



Children Learning Support Website (Japanese)

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/ikusei/gakusyushien/index_00001.htm



COVID-19 cases at elementary and junior and senior high schools and the countermeasures based on the data (English)

https://www.mext.go.jp/en/content/20200821-mxt_kouhou01-000005414_1.pdf



What is Japanese-style Education? (available in 8 languages) YouTube

<https://www.eduport.mext.go.jp/en/html/introduction.html>



Measures against COVID-19 in schools in Japan (Portuguese) YouTube

https://youtu.be/5OuTl7u_rGA



More about the Fugaku supercomputer (English)

<https://www.r-ccs.riken.jp/en/>