

Purpose and Objective

- To **break the “wall of first grade”** for two-income families, etc. and **develop next-generation human resources**, children's clubs and classrooms for after school activities will be developed systematically, primarily in an integrated way, so that all school children can pass afterschool time safely at ease with various experiences and activities.

National Target

- By the end of 2019
 - Children's clubs for after school activities will be newly developed for 300,000 more children.**
(about 900,000 ⇒ about 1,200,000)
 - About 80% of newly developed clubs will be opened within elementary schools.
 - About 20,000 clubs in all elementary school areas will be operated in an integrated or affiliated way, of which more than 10,000 will be operated in an integrated way.**
Aiming to increase from 600 to more than 10,000
 - Existing children's clubs for after school activities outside elementary school will use spare classrooms, if needed.
 - Children's clubs for after school activities will be increased from 10,000 to 20,000.

Municipal and Prefectural Commitment

- The government includes in the **Guideline for Action Plan Development** set forth in the Act on Advancement of Measures to Support Raising Next-Generation Children its commitments under the “General After-School Child Plan.”
- According to the Guideline for Action Plan Development, the municipalities and prefectures include in the **municipal action plan and the prefectural action plan and systematically develop:**
 - Target of integrated project amount to be achieved in FY2019
 - Specific measures to use spare classrooms of elementary schools
- The Action plan can be integrated with the childrearing support project.

Specific promotional measures to achieve the national target

Promotion by full utilization of school facilities

- Clarification of who is responsible for use of school facilities**
 - Will clarify that a municipal school board, which is a responsible organization, or a welfare unit, etc. is responsible for management and operation.
 - Agreement or other measures are necessary to decide how to respond to an accident.
- Consideration for full utilization of spare classrooms or other measures**
 - The operation and other committees will fully discuss the possibility of using spare classrooms, including those already being used.
- Promotion of temporary use of school facilities after school**
 - Will positively promote temporary use of, for example, a school's special classroom after school and at other times when it is not used for a school education purpose.

Integrated operation of children's club and classroom for after school activities

- Concept of the integrated children's club and classroom for after school activities**
 - To assure a safe and easy place for all children, **both projects will be operated within the same elementary school, etc. where all children, including those from two-income families, etc. can participate in the programs of children's classroom for after school activities.**
- Will enhance common programs where all children can study and be together.
- It is important for workers and participants of both projects to cooperate with each other from the planning stage of activity programs.
- For operation, we will pay great attention to children who need special support or special care.
- Children's club for after school activities needs to meet standards of municipal ordinances because it is important to fully assure its function of a living place.



By affiliation of children's clubs and classrooms for after school activities

- Affiliation of children's clubs and classrooms for after school activities if both projects are operated outside elementary schools**
 - If the use of school facilities does not cover the entire regional needs, using social resources, such as a favorite kindergarten will be considered.
 - Projects currently operated in a community hall, children's hall, etc. can be operated there continuously.



Municipal and Prefectural Schemes

- Municipalities and prefectures will establish an “operation committee” and a “promotion committee” respectively to enhance affiliation between the school boards and the welfare units.
- Administrative heads and the school boards will utilize the “general education meeting” to fully discuss what after-school measures will be taken generally, such as positive utilization of school facilities.



* During the annual budgeting process, the government will consider necessary financial support measures for municipal commitments under the “General After-School Child Plan.”

Summary of the “General After-School Child Plan”

(Drafted and announced on July 31, 2014)

1 Purpose and Objective

- To break the “wall of first grade” for two-income families, etc. and develop next-generation human resources, children’s clubs and classrooms for after school activities will be developed systematically, primarily in an integrated way, so that all school children can pass afterschool time safely at ease with various experiences and activities.

2 National Target

- By the end of 2019, we will aim to:
 - newly develop children’s clubs for after school activities for 300,000 more children; and
 - operate about 20,000 children’s clubs and classrooms for after school activities in all elementary school areas in an integrated or affiliated way, of which more than 10,000 will be operated in an integrated way.
- Will aim to operate about 80% of newly developed children’s clubs for after school activities within elementary schools.
 - * Existing children’s clubs for after school activities outside elementary school will use spare classrooms, if needed.

3 Business Plan

- The government includes in the Guideline for Action Plan Development set forth in the Act on Advancement of Measures to Support Raising Next-Generation Children its commitments under the “General After-School Child Plan.”
- The municipalities and prefectures include in the municipal action plan and the prefectural action plan the following matters, without limitation, according to the Guideline for Action Plan Development.

(Municipalities)

- Target project amount of children’s clubs for after school activities to be achieved in 2019
- Target project amount of integrated children’s clubs and classrooms for after school activities to be achieved in 2019
- Plan to develop children’s classrooms for after school activities by 2019
- Specific measures for the integrated and affiliated operation of children’s clubs and classrooms for after school activities
- Specific measures for use of spare classrooms, etc. of elementary schools
- Specific measures for affiliation of the school boards and the welfare units

(Prefectures)

- Method, number of times, etc. for the training according to regional circumstances (training plan)
- Specific measures for affiliation of the school boards and the welfare units

*Action plan can be drafted as an integral part of the childrearing support project plan.

4 Municipal Scheme, Role, etc.

- Will establish an “operation committee” to enhance the affiliation of the school boards and the welfare units for sufficient discussion about a plan and status of use of school facilities and for creation of a proper scheme where the responsibilities are allocated to both parties.

5 Prefectural Scheme, Role, etc.

- Will establish a “promotion committee” to discuss what after-school measures will be taken generally within each area and region.
- Will hold a joint training to improve the quality of workers and participants of both projects in addition to the training for being a children’s after school supporter.

6 Municipal operation of children's clubs and classrooms for after school activities

(1) Promotion of children's clubs and classrooms for after school activities by use of school facilities

- (i) Clarification of who is responsible for use of school facilities
 - School is not responsible but municipal school boards and welfare units are responsible for management and operation.
 - Prior agreement between school boards and welfare units, etc. or other measures are necessary to decide how to respond to an accident.

- (ii) Promotion of the utilization of spare classrooms
 - Consideration for full utilization of spare classrooms or other measures
 - Now when school facilities utilization is required in the first place, the operation committee, etc. will fully discuss whether or not there are usable spare rooms in each school.
 - It is important to check again whether or not the spare rooms already being utilized can be used for after-school measures.
 - Transparent consideration will be given by municipal school boards on the school facilities utilization by announcing the use plan and status of use.
 - Property disposition procedures for diversion of school facilities developed with national treasury aid
 - Will positively consider temporary after-school use for non-school education purpose, because such use is not a property disposition and needs no procedures.

- (iii) Promotion of temporary use of school facilities after school
 - Will positively promote temporary use of special classrooms, the library, gymnasium, schoolyard and other spaces as well as spare classrooms already utilized for school purposes as a place for children's clubs and classrooms for after school activities during after-school and other hours when such facilities are not used for school education purposes.

(2) Integrated operation of children's club and classroom for after school activities

- (i) Concept of the integrated children's club and classroom for after school activities
 - The integrated operation of children's clubs and classrooms for after school activities is an operation of both projects within the same elementary school, etc. to assure a safe and easy place for all children, including those from two-income families, etc. can participate in the programs of children's classroom for after school activities.
 - It is important for workers and participants of both projects to cooperate with each other from the planning stage of activity programs.
 - Even for integrated operation, the children's club for after school activities needs to meet standards of municipal ordinances because it is important to fully assure its function of a living place.

- (ii) Notes for the integrated children's club and classroom for after school activities
 - Assurance of a safe and easy after-school place for all children
 - By operating both projects within an elementary school, it is necessary to assure a living place for children from two-income families and assure a place for various after school activities for all children. For operation, we will pay great attention to children who need special supports or special care.
 - Enhancement of programs for various studies and experience for all children
 - Will enhance common programs where all children, including those from two-income families, etc. can study and be together.
 - Will pay great attention so that the workers and participants of both projects can cooperate and share information and the children of the children's club for after school activities who desire to participate in the programs can do so.

(3) Affiliated operation of children's club and classroom for after school activities

- If the use of school facilities does not cover the entire regional needs, we will consider using regional social resources, such as a favorite kindergarten and the development outside of elementary schools.
- Projects currently operated in a community hall, children's hall, etc. can be operated there continuously with the parents' and regional needs taken into account.
- For non-incorporated children's club and classrooms for after school activities, an affiliation is necessary so that children from both projects can get along with each other.

(4) Close affiliation between the schools/families and the children's clubs and classrooms for after school activities

- Full affiliation and cooperation are needed to facilitate the projects, such as prompt information exchange and information sharing between the school staff and the staff of children's clubs and classrooms for after school activities.
- By operating both projects within elementary school, the school teachers and staff and the project workers and participants are close and can affiliate easily whereby they can share information on a child's individual situation daily and regularly to pay careful attention to children.
- It is important to have a close relationship with families through a communication notebook and daily or regular conversation with parents in order to share the children's growth.
- For affiliation between the schools/families and the staff of children's clubs and classrooms for after school activities, it is desirable to build an information-sharing mechanism, as well, such as establishment of a conference in each elementary school area.

(5) Response to diversified needs by use of private services

- To meet the needs at diversified service levels and types for children's after school activities, it is appropriate to use regional private services and combine them with the publicly developed infrastructure.

7 Consideration of general after-school measures by use of a general education meeting

- A general education meeting consisting of the administrative head and the school board will be established in all local governments under the new school board system from April 2015 and it is assumed to that the general after-school measures by affiliation of the school boards and the welfare units will be deliberated as part of the agenda.
- It is important for the administrative head and the school board to utilize the general education meeting to fully discuss what after-school measures will be taken generally and to promote the positive utilization of school facilities and the integrated or affiliated operation of children's clubs and classrooms for after school activities.

8 Support to Municipal Commitments

- Necessary financial support measures will be considered in the annual budgeting process for municipal commitments under the "General After-School Child Plan."
- Revitalize the regional efforts through collection and provisions of effective cases.