

Research title	Study on Improving Teacher Quality
Period	FY2007-FY2010 (April 2007 – March 2011)
Objectives	This study aims to contribute to knowledge useful for planning and design of measures to raise the quality of teachers. To this end, the research is undertaken in keeping with the trends in teacher policies, and it aims to produce a final report on items such as improving educators' teaching skills and teacher training systems.
Methodology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey on teacher training and support by boards of education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey on the school-wide lesson study at elementary, lower secondary, and high schools. (FY2010) - Survey on placement of supervisors of teachers and the current state of support for schools by boards of education. (FY2009-FY2010) - Survey on implementation of teacher training at education centers. (FY2009) 2. Survey on developing teaching competency of proficient teachers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey on the nationwide situation of the reward system for proficient teachers among prefectural and ordinance-designated cities' boards of education. (FY2009) - Survey on their life courses and competency development among proficient teachers recommended by prefectural and ordinance-designated cities' boards of education. (FY2010)
Major outcomes and findings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey on teacher training and support for boards of education <p><School survey> The study has found that more than 90 percent of elementary and lower secondary schools conduct lesson studies as parts of a school-wide lesson study, that these efforts have impacts on the quality of schools (communication between teachers, high-level instruction, and students' academic performance), and that the supervisory attitude of principals and supervisors of teachers correlates with these initiatives.</p> <p><Survey of boards of education> The study has found that the actual number of teachers engaging in the supervisory role is higher than suggested by a national survey on supervisors of teachers, that supervisors' visits to schools under their jurisdiction depend on the size of the local population, and that there are neglected areas due to a lack of coordination between prefectural and municipal supervisor visits.</p> <p><Survey of education centers> The study has identified the budgetary state of education centers, implementation of mandatory teacher training and non-mandatory training based on teaching experience, the relationship between training provided for newly appointed teachers and for second or third-year teachers, and growing expectations of the education centers play in school visits upon request.</p> 2. Survey on developing teaching competency of proficient teachers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An award system to recognize proficient teachers has been developed since the 2010 National Commission on Education Reform, making progress in selection, treatment, and deployment of proficient teachers. - The competency of teachers develops through the teachers' career, meeting other proficient teachers at school and elsewhere, as well as from learning opportunities among teachers, such as lesson studies and specific research projects.
Contributions to education policy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey on teacher training and support by boards of education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of basic materials for planning measures to promote lesson study or school-wide lesson study in schools. - Suggestion of new perspectives for surveys on supervisors of teachers, and provision of basic materials for planning measures regarding them. - Provision of basic materials for planning training programs for teachers based on teaching experience. - Provision of basic materials for the role of education centers in supervisory visits and long-term training systems. - Provision of basic materials for planning measures in relation to education centers. 2. Survey on developing teaching competency of proficient teachers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The survey has suggested that there is a need for developing an evaluation system based on

	<p>standardized criteria that recognize teachers' high-level professional skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- It also suggested the need to develop an encompassing support system to encourage learning opportunities among teachers throughout their career.
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