Abstract

This paper aims to consider the role of school boards and the challenges they face in school evaluation in Japan.

A survey of municipal school boards in 2010 shows that the municipal school boards’ approach to have schools carry out school evaluation is ineffective. Yet some municipal school boards determine their school budget allocations on the basis of the results of the school evaluations. It would appear that schools carry out both self-evaluations and external evaluations more actively if their municipal school boards base their school budget allocations on the results of the school evaluation.

I have tried to analyze the determining factors when municipal school boards base their school budget allocations on the results of school evaluation. As a result of this analysis, it became apparent that the size of the city influences the degree to which the school evaluation is taken into consideration. The fewer the number of schools under the control of municipal school boards is, the more likely a municipal school board is to base its school budget allocations on the results of the school evaluation. It also appears that municipal school boards which have guidelines for carrying out school evaluations take the results of the school evaluation into account more than those which have no guidelines.

In order to make use of the school evaluation system for improving educational administration, it seems important that municipal school boards understand about dynamic school performance through school evaluations.