January 29, 2018, 16:30 – 18:00 CICE Seminar Room (IDEC 6F), Hiroshima University. CICE Open Seminar 203rd

## Progress and Challenges in Implementing Policies of School Management and Evaluation in Japan

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Senior Researcher National Institute for Educational Policy Research of Japan aki@nier.go.jp January 29, 2018, 16:30 – 18:00 CICE Seminar Room (IDEC 6F), Hiroshima University. CICE Open Seminar 203rd

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 Demography and School Age Population
 Outline of the School Management Policy
 Outline of the School Evaluation Policy
 Seven Factors Obstructing Successful Implementation of the School Evaluation
 Conclusion

#### Goals of today:

To understand the outline of the policy of school management and school evaluation, and to discuss about the reality of those policies, with emphasis on the school evaluation.

## 1. Demography and School Age Population

### The proportion of major three age groups



Source: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research

## 2. Outline of the School Management Policy

## Stereotypical trends in the post-war school management policy

**<u>1945-</u>** seeking era toward "democratic school management"

- **<u>1956-</u>** establishing era of "systematic school management" ... in the midst of the *Rapid Economic Growth*
- **<u>1971-</u>** diversification era of an "expanded school management" ... problems spurted in reaction to the economic growth
- **<u>1984-</u>** take-off era with an "autonomous school management" ... National Council on Educational Reform established
- <u>**1998-</u>** well developed era in a decentralized environment ... 2004; Act on the Organization and Operation of Local Educational Administration, Revised</u>

reference: Takeaki Nakadome. 1984. Sengo Gakko Keiei no Kiseki to Kadai. and some other books.

## Example of a recent reform: "Community School" policy (2004-)

#### <u>Community School</u>

= a school with a school management council

- running a school with participation of local community

#### <u>School Management Council</u>

= "an organization that discuss about school management"

Revised "Act on the Organization and Operation of Local Educational Administration" 2004

#### <u>Council's power</u>

- 1) comment on school management
- 2) comment on school personnel matters
- 3) approve important school plans

Source: MEXT website.

## The first school management council: "Gotanno Elementary School Council" in Adachi city, Tokyo (2004-)

<u>11 members:</u>

- three from the local community,
- three parents,
- four school staff and
- one person from the administration.



Source: MEXT website.



### The first school management council: "Gotanno Elementary School Council" in Adachi city, Tokyo (2004-)

#### accomplished:

1) implementation of "power learning" for arithmetic, Japanese character reading and writing for 15 minutes each morning, 2) development of a campaign to "greet people," extending out to the wider community; and 3) classes on Saturdays run by local volunteers on computers and Japanese checkers, etc.

Source: MEXT website.

Source: MEXT website.

(cont.)

#### Shift in the role of School Council - "creating schools with the local community" -

#### School councils will:

- Gather **assistance** for the school from the local community,
- Gather *support* for the school *activities* from the local community,



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## 3. Outline of the School Evaluation Policy

**Pre-history** Implemented from USA after WW2. (ca 1950)

Ier

1950 EDITION

MANUAL

OF REAL PROPERTY OF SECONDARY ADDRESS STATISTICS.

STREET, STREET,

INTERNATION DATE:

Tokyo Educators Tell How Girls Travel for 2 Hours, Study in Unheated Rooms, to Get Their Education Japanese Schoolrooms Are Occupied 14 Hours Daily, Students in 3 Shifts



ANDING of education is supressed by four delegates from pan, attending N. E. A. Left to right: Kanzo Ohta, Kikus Kurama, Ose and Ichiro Takeda.

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*←Evaluative Criteria* ↑ Japanese delegates

## Legislation process of the school evaluation system (1)

*Standard for Elementary School Establishment (ministerial ordinance, March 29,2002)* <u>(self evaluation)</u>

article 2

1 Elementary schools are expected to monitor and evaluate their educational activities and other school management activities to improve school management, raise their educational levels, and accomplish their purpose, and also expected to disclose the results of the monitoring and evaluation to the public.

2 To accomplish the said monitoring and evaluation, schools shall set such evaluation items that are compatible with the said conditions.

### Legislation process of the school evaluation system (2)

#### School Education Law (June 27,2007)

article 42

Based on the regulations stipulated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports and Scientific Technology, elementary schools shall endeavor to improve the level of their education by carrying out evaluations of the conditions of their educational activities and other school management activities; then in accordance with the results, **implement necessary measures to improve** school management.

## Purpose of school evaluation

(1) <u>school improvement</u> through evaluation of achievement of the school goal/plan

(2) <u>assuring accountability</u> partnership with parents, guardians and community residents

**Quality Assurance** of Education

## Distribution of *The School Evaluation Guidelines*



Versions of 2006 Mar., 2008 Jan

2006 Mar., 2008 Jan., 2010 Jul. and 2016 Mar.

## The Three-Tier Model in *The School Evaluation Guidelines*

#### (1) Self-evaluation

- Under the leadership of the principal, done by all school staffs.
- School Goals, School Plans and other plans are to be referred.

#### (2) Evaluation by persons related to the school

- Consists of guardians, PTA members, School Council members, community members, people concerned with articulated schools, etc.
- Evaluation done based on the results of self-evaluation

#### (3) Third-party evaluation

- Consists of experts not directly connected to the subject school, etc.
- Objective, specialized evaluation

Extracted from: *School Evaluation Guidelines , March 2016.* 

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## 4. Seven Factors Obstructing Successful Implementation of the School Evaluation

## 0) "School evaluation" *not* "successfully implemented" ???

 Q: "To what extent was the self-evaluation useful to both systematically and continuously improve educational activities or other school operations?"

answers	2006	2008	2011	2014
a. extremely effective	-	-	16.3%	20.3%
b. effective to some extent	-	-	79.3%	74.1%
c. not very effective	-	-	2.1%	2.4%
d. not effective at all	-	-	2.3%	3.0%
e. don't know	-	-	0.1%	0.1%

Author's translation of the MEXT's "Survey on School Evaluation etc. Implementation"

1) The correct meaning of the word "evaluation" is not well known

 The Japanese word for "evaluate" bares the meaning of "praise".
 Oftenly, "to evaluate" means "to praise".

"School evaluation" won't
 be meaning a formative tool for
 school improvement.

l evaluate you. (hyoka-suru) *Thank you* !



Thanks to IRASUTOYA http://www.irasutoya.com/

# 2) School evaluation not linked to the school's goal

- Goals are, in most schools, too abstractive as "be brave and strong and true."
- Too many sets of "good words" resembling to the "school's goal" such as "school slogan", "teacher's ideal", "student's ideal" and so on.



Thanks to Matsumoto City / Mito City

### (cont.) 2) School evaluation not linked to the school's goal

- When schools plan the selfevaluation, they cannot link it to the school goals, or whatever goals;
  ...unless goals are "S.M.A.R.T." (Specific, Measurable,
  - Achievable, Realistic, and Time-limited),

How STRONG? How BRAVE and How TRUE ?



Thanks to IRASUTOYA http://www.irasutoya.com/

## 3) Poor indicators for evaluation

- Principals struggle to set convincing indicators to measure performance of their activities
- At many schools, indicators will come from regional test scores, questionnaire surveys and counting cases by teacher.
   They are expected to be as numerical as possible.

### (cont.) 3) Poor indicators for evaluation

 Schools tend to set indicators measuring teachers' effort. Many indicators, except test scores, are input-based, do not show students' growth.



"effort indicators" and "performance indicators" often get confused

# 4) Evaluation results not utilized for school improvement

- Many principals are not sure of how they can utilize evaluation results to improve the school.
- Many would answer they will:
  - A) put the results on school's web site,
  - B) share results among teachers and w/ parents
  - C) discuss about the results.

[Survey of 2014 by MEXT]



UTILIZED?? Really???

## 5) Absence of good evaluators or coordinators

- Basically, no full-time staffs are assigned for school evaluation.
- As for the self-evaluation, it is left to principal and teachers' hands.
- They are, in most cases, not well trained or prepared to evaluate schools.



#### (cont.)

## 5) Absence of good evaluators or coordinators (then, who ?)

- a. PTA headquarters member (67.5%)
- b. School council member (61.2%)
- c. Residents' association member (40.0%)
- d. Social welfare facility or organization member (31.9%)
- e. Former school council member (31.3%)
- h. People of experience or academics (13.9%)......



## 6) Lack of courses for school evaluation

- In colleges for pre-service and in local authorities for in-service courses, it is rare to see properly furnished programs for school evaluation.
- At most, they will be one hour lecture on "school evaluation" or "school management".





## 7) Poor funding

- Problems raised above arise from, or result in, the lack of an appropriate budget for school evaluation.
- Schools and local authorities are not able to hire evaluators, coordinators, mentors or assistants to lead or assist in school evaluation.
- Costs for evaluation is scarcely cared in the school policy-making process.





Thanks to IRASUTOYA http://www.irasutoya.com/

## 5. Conclusion

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## **Open Discussion**

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