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Ministry of Education and Minsitry of Health and Welfare establish joint Task Force to enhance teachers' mental health well-being

- Operation of a joint task force for the healing and recovery of teachers' mental health
- All willing teachers can undergo mental health assessments and receive tailored emotional, psychological support and treatment

The Ministry of Education (Deputy Prime Minister of Education and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho) together with the Ministry of Health and Welfare (Minister Jo Gyu-hong) have agreed to establish a Task Force for supporting the mental health and well-being of teacher. This decision comes in response to recent incidents happened to teachers.

Over the past five years, about 20 public school teachers, including 12 at the elementary level, tragically took their own lives. This alarming statistics underscores the immense mental stress, including depression and anxiety, that teachers endure in the classroom environment.

Recognizing this urgency of the situation, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Welfare have decided to launch a Task Force with the primary objective of assisting teachers in recovering their mental health and well-being. This initiative is a direct response to the pressing need for counseling and support to prevent teachers from succumbing to depression while addressing the individual mental health concerns of educators.

The Task Force will facilitate access to mental health assessments for

teachers and implement specialized mental health programs from the second academic semester. In addition, preventive programs aligned with professional clinics will be available at teacher recovery centers located within the Metropolitan and Provincial Offices of Education

In addition, the teachers in a state of mental health crisis or at high risk will be provided with psychological support through local community mental health centers. They will be offered with in-depth counseling sessions through coordination with private mental health counseling experts.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho stated, “Teachers are the most crucial agents in the field of education, and their mental well-being is essential for the safe functioning of educational activities in schools. The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Welfare, will swiftly establish a systematic support plan with the goal of the mental health recovery of all teachers.”

Minister Jo Gyu-hong of the Ministry of Health and Welfare expressed, “I am deeply saddened by the unfortunate choices made by teachers in recent times. To prevent such heartbreaking incidents from happening, we will work with the Ministry of Education to develop a systematic psychological support plan to aid teachers in their mental health recovery. Furthermore, we will consider additional measures, taking into account foreign examples, in order to support the mental health of teachers in the government’s upcoming mental health innovation plan.”

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