

Distribution Feb. 27, 2024 (Tue), 15:30 Publication (Online) Feb. 28, 2024 (Wed), 06:00
(Paper) Feb. 28, 2024 (Wed), Evening

New Task Force Launches to Enhance Data Collection for School-Age Children and Adolescents of 6-17 Years Old

- Ministries join forces to launch a Task Force on Basic Statistics for School-Age Children and Adolescents.

The Ministry of Education (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho), in collaboration with Statistics Korea, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, and other ministries, will launch the Task Force on Basic Statistics on School-Age Children and Adolescents on February 28, at the Sejong Government Complex. Deputy Minister of Education Na Ju-Beom will chair the first meeting.

At the On-site Ministerial Meeting on Social Affairs held on November 27, the need for comprehensive data on school-age children and youth was highlighted. Currently, data on this population is scattered across various ministries, hindering a complete understanding of the situation, including the exact size and whereabouts of children and adolescents both in and out of school.

Therefore, the Ministry of Education and related ministries will develop comprehensive statistics on children and youth aged 6 to 17 (covering primary, middle, and high school ages) by combining data from ministries like the Statistics Register for Households with Children* (Statistics Korea) and school enrollment information (Ministry of Education). This initiative will provide a clear picture of the current situation of out-of-school youth, including their exact numbers and locations, and help identify areas where

additional support is needed.

*Population data on children under 18, based on the *Statistics Act*, containing basic information.

Ministry	Target Audience	Database
Education	Students, GED test-takers	Educational administration information system (NEIS)
Gender Equality and Family	Out-of-School youth center	Youth crisis support system
Justice	Youth abroad	Immigration information system
Labor and Employment	Working youth	Employment information system
Health and Welfare	Long-term hospitalized youth	National health insurance system

The ministries will accelerate the establishment of basic statistics on school-age children and adolescents through the launch of the Task Force on Basic Statistics on School-Age Children and Adolescents. The first meeting, chaired by Deputy Minister of Education, will convene relevant ministries to discuss data linkages, ministry roles in establishing these statistics, and implementation timelines.

Overview of the 1st TF Meeting

- ◆ **[Date-Venue]** Feb. 28, 2024 (Wed), 14:00-15:00 / Sejong Government Complex
- ◆ **[Participants]** Deputy Minister of Education (Chair), Director General of Social Policy Coordination Bureau of the Ministry of Education, Director General of Social Statistics Bureau of the Statistics Korea, and officials from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labor and Employment, and Ministry of Health and Welfare
- ◆ **[Agenda]** Direction of the TF and future plans

The ministries plan to prepare a detailed action plan based on the discussions at the working group meetings and present it to the Ministerial Meeting on Social Affairs in the first half of this year. The goal is to finalize and approve the basic statistics on school-age children and adolescents next year through procedures such as building a database.

"The Ministry of Education aims to link data scattered across related ministries to identify and provide comprehensive support to school-age children and adolescents who are socially isolated or at risk of crime," said Na Joo-Beom, Deputy Minister of Education. "This initiative will allow us to establish science-based child and youth policies based on accurate data."

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