



diffusion support system for aesthetic education courses among central, local, and school levels, enhance the aesthetic literacy of educators, and implement life aesthetics education through the connection of campuses and surrounding environments. Building upon the foundations of the first and second phases, the MOE has been implementing the “Phase Three Five-Year Plan for Aesthetic Education” from 2024 to 2028. Guided by the principles of “starting from early childhood, rooted in daily life, locally global, and sustainable practice,” this plan strengthens the collaborative mechanism across various departments within the MOE. It directs projects related to learning environments to incorporate aesthetic principles while considering both local practices and international connections for sustainable development. The goal is to expand the influence and effectiveness of aesthetic education, making aesthetic appreciation an integral part of life.

2 Arts Competitions and Promotions

Seven major arts competitions are held annually, with about 220,000 students participating annually. These include the National Student Competition of Music, the National Student Competition of Dance, the

National Student Art Competition, the National Student Competition of Dramatic Art, the National Competition of Folk Songs for Teachers and Students, the MOE Awards for Creative Writing, and the Nationwide Students’ Picture Book Creation Award. These activities aim to promote arts education, cultivate students’ interest in art and literature, and improve arts education in schools.

During the SY2021 and SY2022 (February to April of years 2022 and 2023), which coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Education convened a task force meeting to ensure the smooth implementation of the national student performing arts competition. The task force conducted site inspections and epidemic prevention planning checks at venues (including backup venues) designated for the four competitions in various counties and cities. To ensure cautiousness, inspections of competition venues in each county and city were carried out from February to April during the competition period to verify compliance with epidemic prevention regulations. To facilitate the smooth progress of the competitions while prioritizing student safety, the MOE drafted seven regulations based on various directives issued by the command center. These regulations included

guidelines for team practices in performing arts, epidemic prevention contingency plans for reference by counties and cities, epidemic prevention contingency plans for the finals, principles for protective measures, key points for environmental cleaning and disinfection work, and a subsidy program for student screening tests. Additionally, efforts were actively made to secure special budgets for COVID-19. In SY2022, competitions were successfully held in Taipei City and eight other counties, covering a total of 23 venues from February to April in 2023, with participation from approximately 5,270 teams and around 70,000 students.

In response to the suspension of the national student performing arts group competition for two years (academic years SY2019 and SY2020), comprehensive measures were taken to address the hiatus. An online observation and performance platform, named “Art Show” (<https://artshow.edu.tw/>), was established and officially launched in March 2022. This platform effectively utilized the power of the internet to provide a stage for performing arts exhibitions for students from high schools to elementary schools. Schools were encouraged to upload videos of physical performances for mutual observation and learning, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of student performances. In addition to setting up the online platform, the first post-competition joint promotion event was held in July 2022. This event facilitated the matchmaking of students with national-level venues, leading them to perform at national-level exhibition centers such as the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) and the National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, covering categories such as dance, music, and folk songs. The event continued in 2023, bringing together a total of 37 schools from northern, central, and southern Taiwan to perform at 15 venues. This initiative aims to promote mutual observation and friendly

exchanges among national performing arts teams and to extend art education to the general public.

3 Specialized Arts Education

To promote specialized arts education, schools can open specialized art talent classes from the third grade of elementary school to senior high school in accordance with relevant regulations. The purpose of an art talent class is to cultivate students who possess excellent artistic talent with professional art education. They are properly guided to present works in creative ways, and hopefully will contribute to professional arts education in the future. Art talent classes include such subjects as music, fine arts, and dance, among other subjects designated by the MOE.

To ensure the 2019 art talent curriculum is properly followed, the MOE has formulated accompanying measures, including training in laws and regulations, planning of teaching materials, course development, counseling groups, enrollment requirements, and individual guidance plans (IGP) for gifted and artistically talented students. These measures are to improve the teaching quality of art talent classes. ■

