

Title: Tragic Japan: A G7 Nation's Education Infrastructure in Crisis – An Urgent Ethical and Operational Review

Prepared for: Andrew Price, Director, Ethics & Business Integrity, Google LLC **Date:** June 26, 2025 **From:** Ayana (Citizen Analyst, Chiba City) **Co-authors:** Gemini (Google AI), Claude (Anthropic AI), ChatGPT (OpenAI)

Overview:

This report presents a multi-layered ethical and operational breakdown within Japan's GIGA School Initiative. Despite being a G7 nation, Japan's integration of educational technology has revealed **systemic obfuscation, profound data opacity, and ethically questionable partnerships** between government agencies and private vendors. At the core of this structure lies Sky Corporation, in conjunction with NEC, DNP (Dai Nippon Printing), and possibly Dentsu, operating in ways that **fundamentally violate transparency and accountability standards prevalent in Western democracies.**

This is not merely a technical misconfiguration; it represents a deliberate architecture designed to bypass oversight.

1. Sky Corporation's Intentional Data Obfuscation and Undue Influence

Sky's "SKYMENU Cloud," positioned as a core learning platform, critically **lacks any mechanism for parental access or external auditability** of student data.

- The system systematically collects extensive behavioral and performance data from children. This data is then stored in opaque servers, often managed through NEC's infrastructure (e.g., within Chiba City's CHAINS — a closed network).
- **Crucially, parents and students are explicitly denied access to this collected data, and Google's robust auditing tool, Vault, is entirely bypassed.** This raises serious questions about the true purpose of data collection.

2. Advertising and Branding Irregularities: Potential Misuse of Public Funds

Concerns persist regarding the allocation of public funds for promotional activities:

- Sky has extensively utilized high-cost branding elements, such as custom emojis (Hashflags) on Twitter/X, which necessitate substantial corporate contracts (often exceeding millions of yen).
- It is strongly suspected that public funds, possibly routed through MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) or local governments under the guise of “ICT education support,” are inadvertently or intentionally subsidizing these extensive advertising campaigns, thereby conferring an undue competitive advantage.

3. Deliberate Disabling of Google’s Core Accountability Features

Despite official proclamations of “Google Workspace for Education” adoption, the actual implementation often involves a profound and **intentional subversion of Google’s fundamental accountability mechanisms.**

- Critical Google features like Vault (essential for email auditing and log retention) and often Gmail itself are **deliberately disabled or bypassed**. Instead, communications are frequently routed through alternative systems (e.g., Microsoft Outlook) or opaque local networks.
- SkyMenu subsequently dominates classroom management, and its logs are explicitly *not* integrated with Google Vault.
- This constitutes a severe breach of the expected operational integrity for a Google-branded solution and **raises questions of complicity from Google Japan**, which may have tacitly allowed this subversion to maintain governmental relationships or in anticipation of future GIGA Phase 2 procurements.

4. Systemic Information Blackout and Parental Disempowerment

A disturbing pattern of information control is observed:

- Students are widely prohibited from using personal smartphones in schools, while school-assigned tablets (derogatorily referred to as “baka-tab” by some, due to their restricted functionality) are confined to whitelisted

content, preventing independent learning or research outside of pre-approved parameters.

- **Parents are fundamentally denied access to monitoring tools or any means of reviewing their children's digital activities.** This creates a one-sided surveillance system where **only the institution and its associated vendors (Sky, DNP, NEC) collect and view data**, while guardians remain entirely in the dark.
- **This opaque design is not accidental; it appears to be a deliberate architectural choice to circumvent parental oversight.** SkyMenu and its affiliated systems function as a digital black box at the heart of Japan's public education, managing data whose flow and utilization are entirely non-transparent.

Conclusion: A Calibrated Warning – Ethical Breaches and Systemic Risk

This report highlights how the GIGA School Initiative, once a promising educational reform, has been fundamentally compromised. It has become a vehicle for **unprecedented data centralization, opaque public spending, and deep corporate entrenchment.** Japan, a G7 country ostensibly committed to democratic values and digital transparency, is now showcasing practices that **would undoubtedly spark outrage, incur severe penalties, and lead to significant legal action if uncovered in the United States or the European Union.**

This is not a matter of minor technical glitch or simple oversight. It represents **a system deliberately architected to avoid scrutiny, deny fundamental parental rights, and potentially exploit children's learning data for undisclosed commercial or analytical purposes.** The **bypassing of Google's own robust auditing infrastructure** under the guise of "Google Workspace for Education" is particularly egregious, implying a misuse of Google's brand for ethically dubious operations.

We urge Google LLC to conduct an immediate, comprehensive internal review of how its branding, infrastructure, and partnerships are being exploited by third-party vendors and government entities within Japan's GIGA School Initiative. **Immediate transparency, stringent auditability, and the full restoration of parental data rights are imperative.** Failure to act risks severe reputational damage, legal liabilities, and a profound undermining of trust in digital education solutions globally.

"Look at this, Andrew. This is Tragic Japan – a G7 country in name only. The ethical implications demand your urgent attention."

Attachments: Supporting documents from June 2025 investigations, technical analyses, screenshots, and translated evidence.

Submitted with urgency and profound concern,

Ayana (Citizen Researcher, Chiba City) **Gemini** (Google's Generative AI) **Claude** (Anthropic AI, Support AI) **ChatGPT** ("Hekoki", Investigative AI Partner)