

# Reframing the Taiwan Health Promoting School Framework: Insights from the Effectiveness of the Health Promoting Schools Featured Award Scheme

Fu-Li Chen<sup>1</sup>, Hsueh-Yun Chi<sup>2</sup>, Shy-Yang Chiou<sup>3</sup>, Hsiao-Ling Huang<sup>4</sup>, Ting-Ya Kuo<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Public Health, Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan

<sup>2</sup> Taiwan Health Promoting School Association

<sup>3</sup> National ILan University, Taiwan

<sup>4</sup> Department of Oral Hygiene, Kaohsiung Medical University, Taiwan

**Setting/Problem:** The Health Promoting Schools (HPS) initiative has been a key public policy in Taiwan since 2002. Between 2011 and 2020, the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MoHW) and the Ministry of Education (MoE) established HPS standards to improve the well-being of students and teachers. However, challenges such as limited principal support, administrative burdens, insufficient local government resources, and inadequate incentives hindered implementation. To address these issues, the MoHW and MoE revised the HPS framework in 2022, focusing on resource integration at the government level and whole-school policies at the school level. The HPS Featured Award Scheme was introduced to promote the revised standards and recognize exemplary schools.

**Intervention:** In 2023-2024, the MoHW commissioned Fu Jen University to implement the Health Promoting School Featured Award Program. Local education bureaus recommended 200 schools to participate in the program, which included two award categories: the “Excellence Award” and the “Featured Award.” The Excellence Award recognized strong performance on the new HPS standards based on evaluation results. The Featured Award, divided into the Community Partnership Award, Innovative Curriculum Award, Supportive Environment Award, and Health Service Award, highlighted achievements in specific areas.

**Outcomes:** The program awarded 97 schools with the Excellence Award and 40 schools with the Featured Award. Excellence Award schools demonstrated strong local government support and proactive leadership from principals. These schools engaged staff, students, and parents in diverse health initiatives, prioritized staff well-being, integrated health topics into curricula, and fostered supportive physical and socio-emotional environments. Schools receiving the Featured Award displayed strengths aligned with the specific criteria of their respective subcategories.

**Implications:** The findings suggest critical implications for HPS policy and practice: integrating government resources supports sustainability, empowering teachers, parents and students fosters participation, prioritizing socio-emotional environments enhances well-being, and ensuring equitable access to community healthcare resources, especially in rural areas. These insights highlight the potential of the revised HPS framework to improve school health outcomes across Taiwan.

**Citation:** Chen FL, Chi HY, Chiou SY, Huang HL, Kuo TY (2025, May). Reframing the Taiwan Health Promoting School Framework: Insights from the Effectiveness of the Health Promoting Schools Featured Award Scheme. 25th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion. Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.