

## Roles and legal systems of schools for disasters

Eiichi Yamasaki<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Oita University

Schools had to face a large-scale disaster of the Great East Japan Earthquake. This earthquake occurred in the daytime of a weekday, and so the problems of the evacuation guidance for students and the securing of the safety of teaching staff attracted public attention. In addition, since school facilities were damaged and destroyed and some teachers became victims, how to secure school education for students, etc. is now a significant issue. As many schools were used as the shelters for local residents, schools are more strongly expected to function as anti-disaster centers.

Some measures for securing the safety of schools at the time of disaster have been implemented definitely since before the great earthquake. Considering the lessons from the great earthquake, school facilities are being fortified and anti-disaster education and management, etc. are being revised. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology produced various reports and suggestions, indicating the problems and future visions regarding anti-disaster school systems and education.

The response of school to disaster is characterized by the fact that educational and anti-disaster legal systems overlap and interact with each other. This makes it difficult to align them.

This paper discusses the roles of schools, especially public elementary and middle schools, which are closely related to local communities, for coping with large-scale disasters and protecting civilian life, and the functions of laws for supporting them.

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