

# Korea's experience of Distance Education in the COVID-19 Era

Public Infra Systems for Distance Education



Sanghyun Jang Ph.D.  
Director of KERIS

# Dr. Sang-Hyun, Jang(張相鉉)

## Current

- Director, Higher education and Academic research  
International cooperation department of  
KERIS
- Director general, Asean Cyber University Project's  
Secretariat
- Advisor, Distance education Advisory Committee of  
MOE
- Adjunct Professor, Kyungbook National University IT department

## Former

- Expert Committee, President's Council of Informatization Strategies





## RESPONDING TO COVID-19 : ONLINE CLASSES IN KOREA

### CONTENTS

- 1 Introduction : Korea's Response to COVID-19**
- 2 School Closure and Preparing for Online Classes**
- 3 Two Main Online Learning Platforms for K-12 in Korea**
- 4 Systematic Preparation for Online Classes**
- 5 Online Classes in Practice**
- 6 Platforms for Higher Education**
- 7 Challenges and Conclusions**

# Introduction : Korea's Response to COVID-19

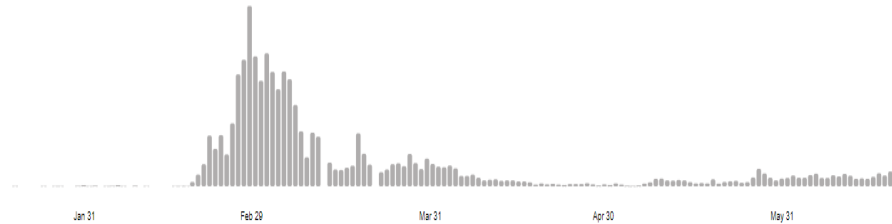
**12,421 confirmed cases** with **280 deaths** in **Republic of Korea** (Jan-June)

## Confirmed Cases

### Over Time

**12,421**

confirmed cases

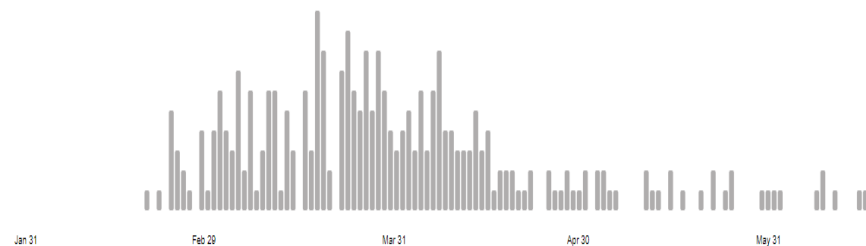


## Deaths Over

### Time

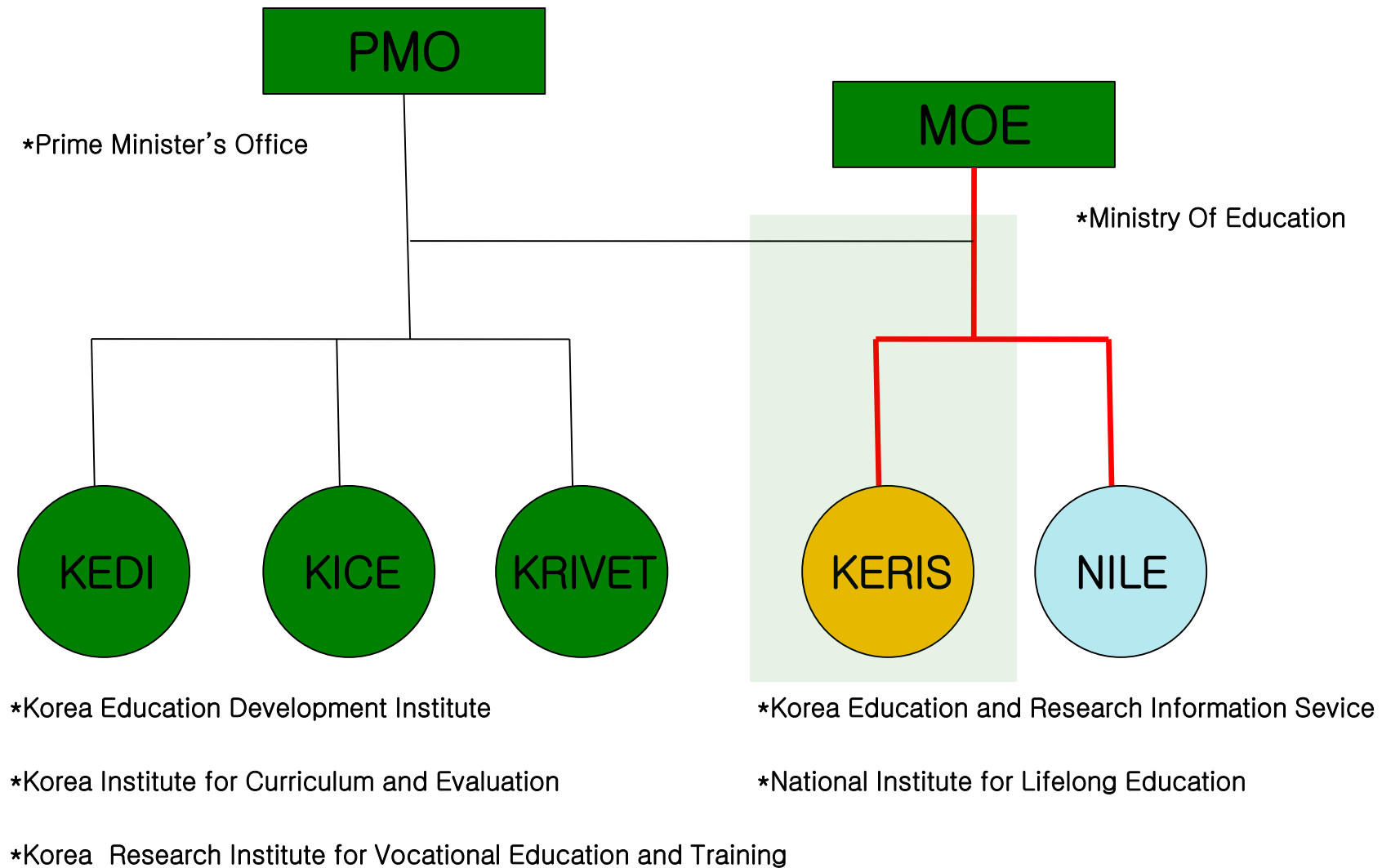
**280**

deaths



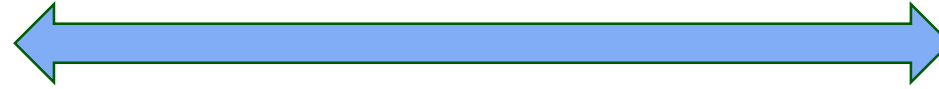
※ Source: COVID-19 Worldwide Dashboard, WHO

# 1. Introduction : Korea's Response to COVID-19

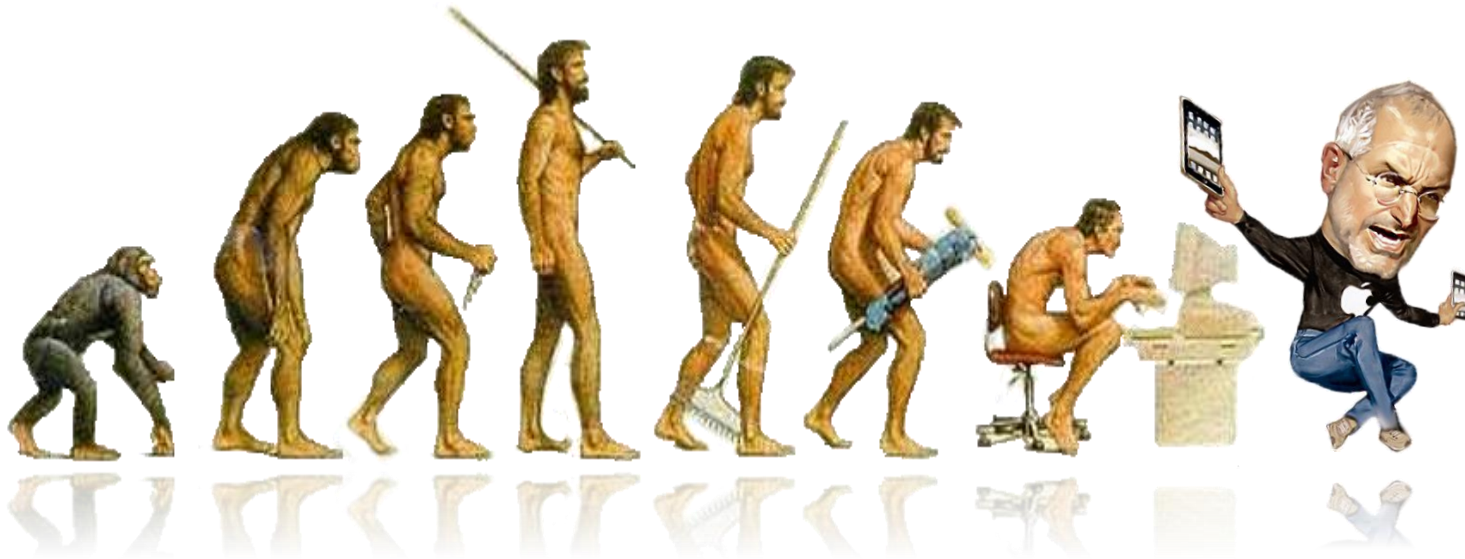


# Introduction : Korea's Response to COVID-19

BC(Before Covid-19)



AC(After Covid-19)



**AI  
Bigdata  
Cloud**

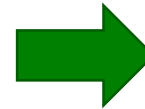


# Introduction : Korea's Response to COVID-19

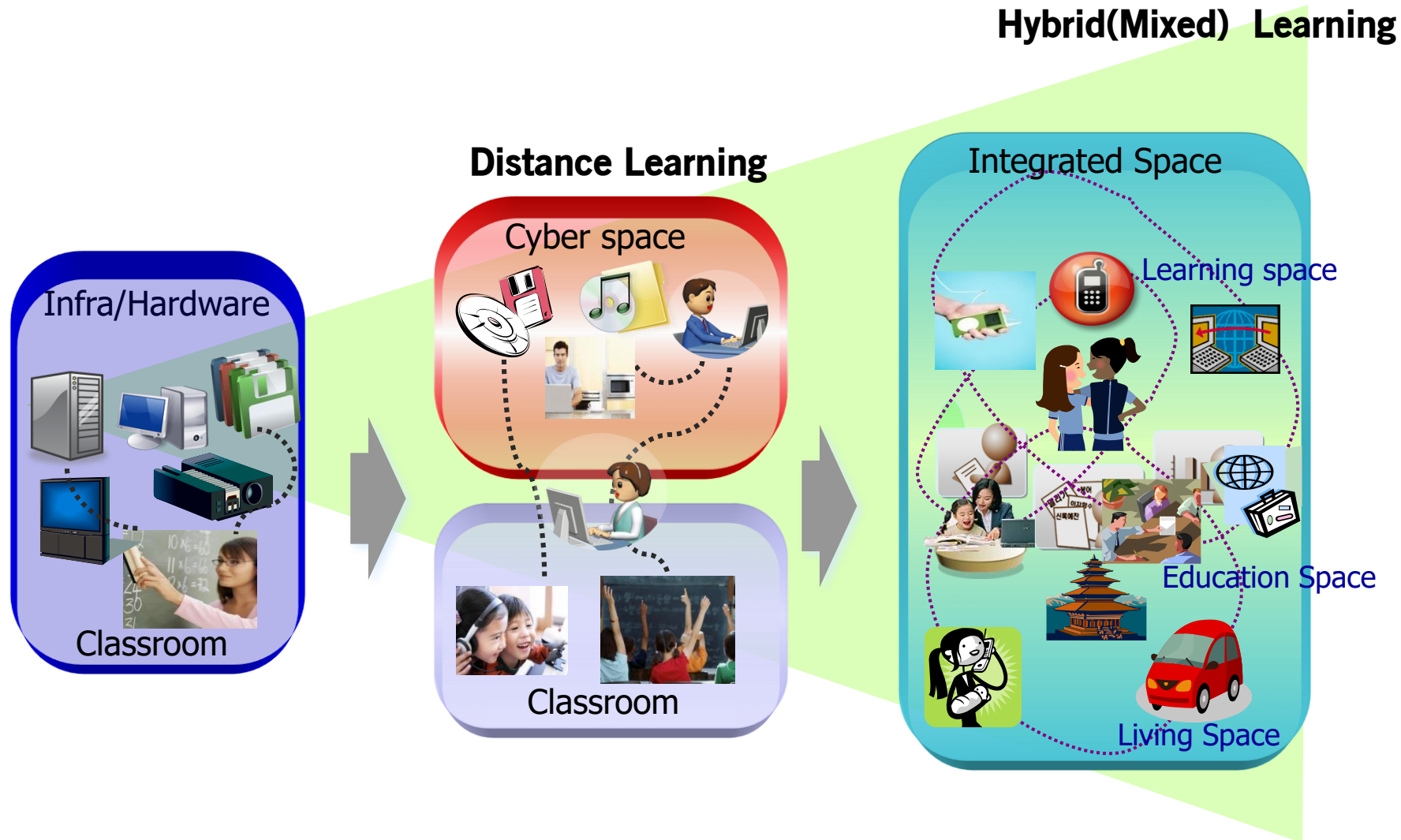
**Empty lecture room**



**Distance learning Using Edutech**



# Introduction : Digital Transformation of Education





## 2. School Closure and Preparing for Online Classes

### 01 Decision-making for School Closure and Online Classes

| A close coordination by the Ministry of Education with the government, CDC and the public since the outbreak



| School classes began on April 9 with online class

\* Academic Year in Korea : March–February of next year (Two–semester system)

	Elementary school	Middle school	High school
Year Level (Grades)	1 <sup>st</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> (1 - 6)	1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> (7 - 9)	1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> (10 - 12)

## 2. School Closure and Preparing for Online Classes

### 02 Phased Opening of Online Classes

Year Level(Grades)		April 6-8	9-10	13-15	16-17	20~
High School	3(12)	Break	✱	Online Classes		
	1,2(10-11)	Break			✱	Online Classes
Middle School	3(9)	Break	✱	Online Classes		
	1,2(7-8)	Break			✱	Online Classes
Elementary School	4-6(4-6)	Break			✱	Online Classes
	1-3(1-3)	Break				Online Classes

✱ : Adjustment period

▶ A special school on the day of its online class opening ceremony



▶ The online class monitoring room

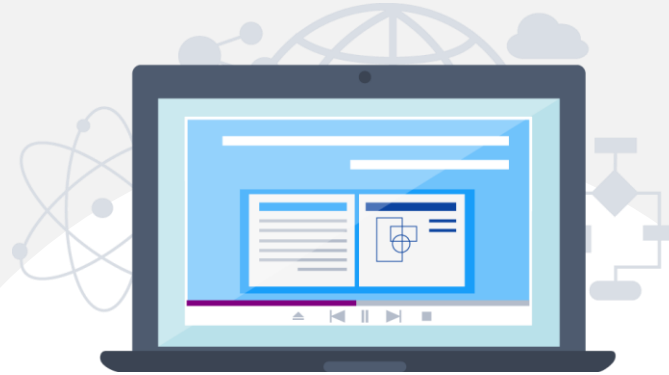
### 3. Two Main Online Learning Platforms for K-12 in Korea



**KERIS**

**Korea Education and Research Information Service**

- | A public institution, with key focus on ICT in education
- | Manages the public online learning platform, digital textbook, EMIS(NEIS, K-edufine), etc



**EBS**

**Education Broadcast System**

- | A TV/Internet and radio broadcasting company with a large volume of multi-media education content
- | A key repository for distance learning content

## 4. Systematic Preparation for Online Classes

- 01 Expanding Public Infrastructure
- 02 Supporting Teachers' Capacity Building
- 03 Revising Online Education Systems



## 4. Systematic Preparation for Online Classes

### 01 Expanding Public Infrastructure

#### | The Korean government's preparation for full-scale online classes

\* 99.7% of Korean households already have access to the Internet (Ministry of Science and ICT, 2019)

#### 1) Expansion of public infrastructure

- to simultaneously host 6 millions users

**KERIS e-Learning Site**

Seven-fold expansion of infrastructure in two weeks

**March 23 | 470,000**

**April 8 | 3 million**

**EBS Online Class**

300-fold expansion of infrastructure in a month

**March 2 | 10,000**

**April 8 | 3 million**

#### 2) New EBS TV channels

- to meet specific needs of different school years

\* e.g. 1st, 2nd grade students with low familiarity with digital devices



## 4. Systematic Preparation for Online Classes

### 01 Expanding Public Infrastructure

#### 3) Linking and expanding online learning resources



##### Public Content

5,500 content on KERIS e-Learning Site; 43,000 content on EBS; government approved and authorized textbooks in e-book(497 books); and digital textbooks(134 books)



##### Private Content

Audio textbooks on Naver; KERIS e-Learning Site uploads(3,000 content in Korean language, English, mathematics, social studies, science and history); video lectures, etc.

#### 4) Relaxed regulation of copyrights

- to provide broad access to copyrighted materials to teachers



## 4. Systematic Preparation for Online Classes

### 02 Supporting Teachers' Capacity Building

#### 1) 495 pilot schools for online learning

- to share the best practices of online learning with other teachers

#### 2) Teachers' voluntary movement

**School-On** : website to provide teachers with information regarding online platform and tools, and to share ideas of teaching and classroom management

**Teacher-On** : service to support teachers experiencing technical difficulties by remotely connecting to their devices

\* **Remote Call + Mobile Solution** : A support solution service that remotely connects to the PCs and/or mobile devices of the users to resolve any technical difficulties

Access to  
'Teacher-On'  
Website



Request for Remote  
Support



1:1 Consulting  
(Via Chat Room)



- ① Remote Access to Devices  
(PC, Mobile Device)
- ② Support Via Voice Call

## 4. Systematic Preparation for Online Classes

### 02 Supporting Teachers' Capacity Building

#### 3) The Community of 10,000 Representative Teachers

- 1 teacher from each of the roughly 10,000 schools
- shares ideas and information with the MoE, the 17 Metropolitan and Provincial Offices of Education, KERIS and the EBS to share ideas / information

### Accumulated No. of Content Developed by Teachers as of April 21



#### e-Learning Site



#### EBS Online Class



## 4. Systematic Preparation for Online Classes

### 02 Revising Online Education Systems

#### 1) Online class standards in practice & guideline

- prescribing the concept of online learning, principles and basic rules of online class and school management (attendance, evaluation, record-keeping of school transcripts)



▲ Disinfecting school facilities



▲ Online class opening ceremony and monitoring

## 4. Systematic Preparation for Online Classes

### 03 Revising Online Education Systems

#### 10 Rules for Successful Online Classes



##### Service Stability

- Use wired or wireless(WiFi) Internet for online classes
- Access and log-on to the KERIS e-Learning Site and EBS Online Class in advance
- Be flexible with class hours based on individual school conditions
- Produce educational content in the standard-definition level(480p, 720×480) or lower
- Recommended to up and down-load educational contents a day earlier(preferably after 5pm)

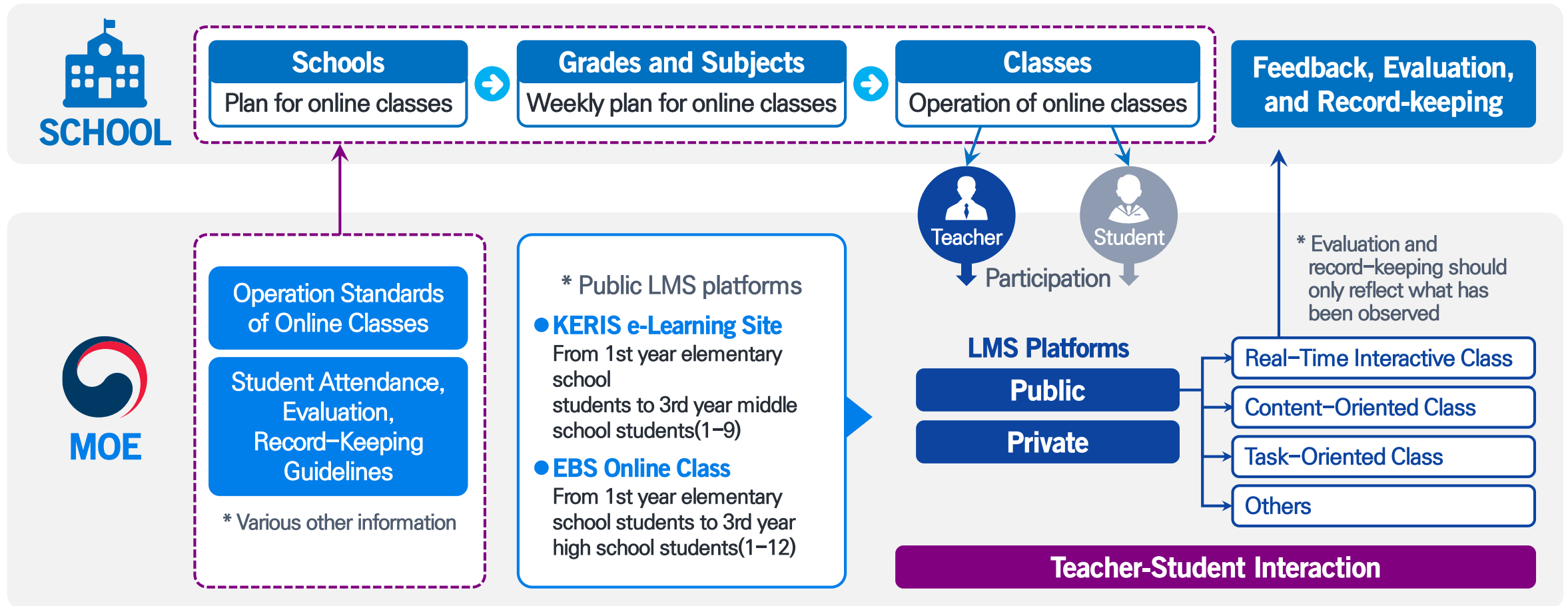


##### Safe Use

- Set password for video-conferencing room and do not disclose the link to the public
- Do not use insecure video-conferencing apps(or webs), unable to protect personal information, and install security patch before the use
- Install security vaccine programs on the PC and digital devices
- Do not open e-mails or text messages sent by unidentified individual
- Do not distribute photos of teachers and students that have been screen-captured during online classes without permission

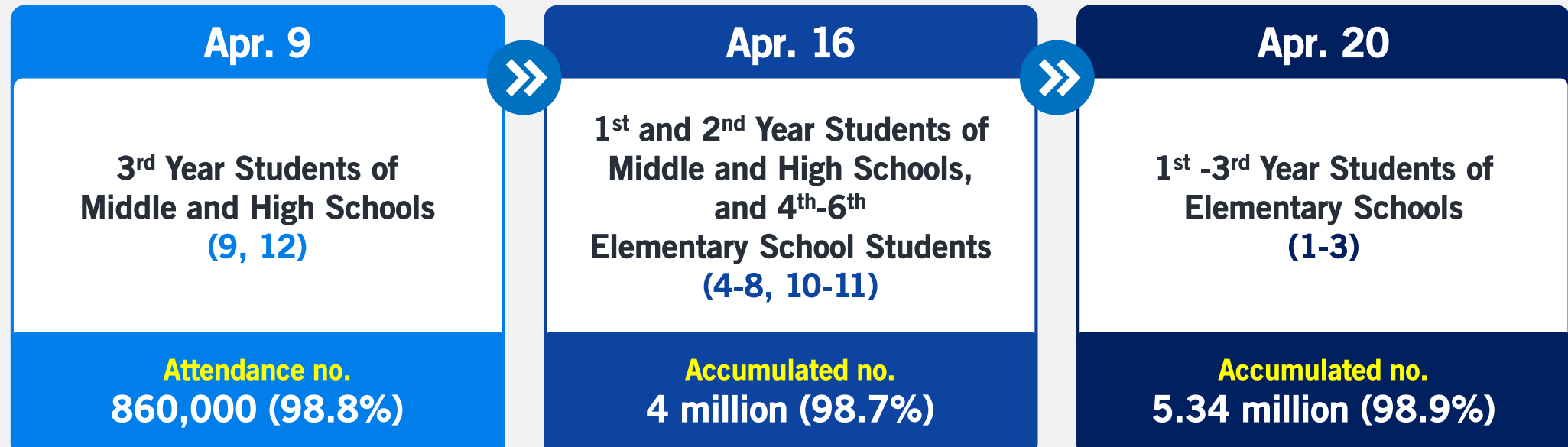
## 5. Online Classes in Practice

### Online Classes Operation System



## 5. Online Classes in Practice

### 01 Online Class Participation



About 470,000 online classrooms were created on the KERIS e-Learning Site and EBS Online Class (more than one by each teacher)



## 5. Online Classes in Practice

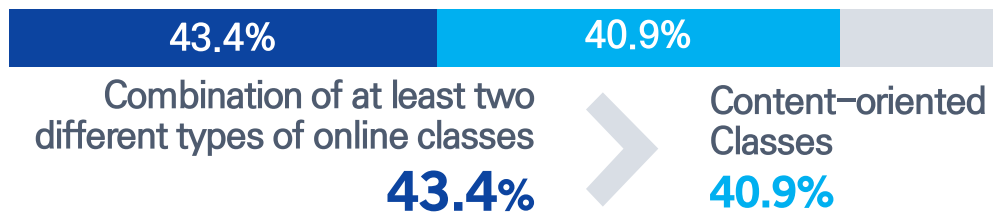
### 02 Types of Online Classes

Types		Operation
1. Real-Time interactive Classes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Real-time interactive online classes allow immediate exchange of feedback, including real-time communications and discussions by using video-conferencing</li> <li>※ Examples of videoconferencing Platforms : Naver LINE WORKS, Gooromee, Google Hangouts, Microsoft Teams, ZOOM, Cisco Webex, etc.</li> </ul>
One-Way Classes	2. Content-Oriented Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Lecture type</b> Content-oriented classes allow students to watch video-recorded lecture and /or learning content, while the teachers monitor how much students have learned and provide feedback.</li> <li><b>Lecture + activity type</b> After watching the video-recorded learning content, students engage in discussions by leaving comments or asking and answering questions about what they have learned with their peers. * e.g. EBS classes, teacher-developed learning materials</li> </ul>
	3. Task-Oriented Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers give tasks for self directed learning and monitor students' progress based on achievement standards of each subject</li> <li>* e.g. A task is presented to students → Students engage in learning activities (e.g. writing an essay, completing an assignment or a task or a learning packet) → Teacher gives feedback</li> </ul>
	4. Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other types of online classes can be implemented depending on different conditions of Provincial Offices of Education and schools</li> </ul>

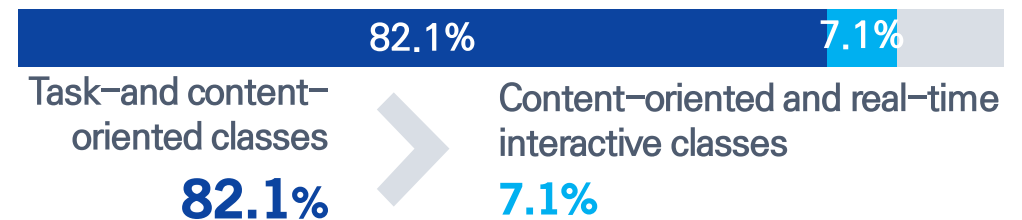
## 5. Online Classes in Practice

### 02 Types of Online Classes

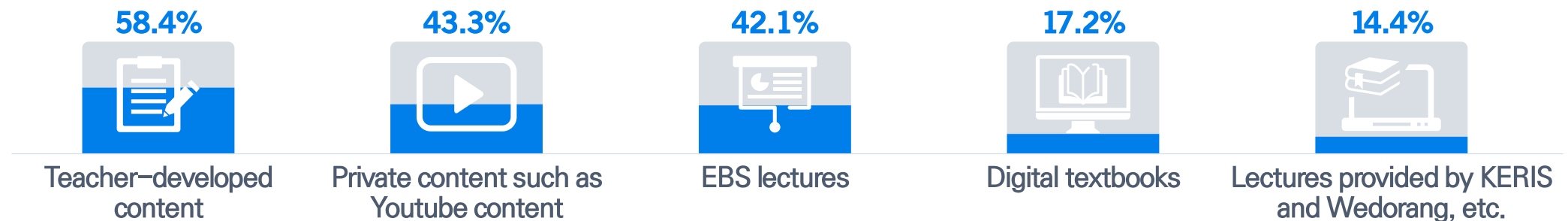
#### The Most Frequently Used Online Class Type



#### Combination of Two or More Class Types



#### The Most Frequently Used Online Learning Content



Online Teacher Survey Conducted by the Ministry of Education (April 27–29)

※ 224,894 Out of 443,132 Teachers of All Elementary, Middle, and High Schools Nationwide Responded

## 5. Online Classes in Practice

### 02 Types of Online Classes

#### Attendance Check in Different Types of Online Classes

Types of Classes	Attendance Check								
	Real-time Checking by Teacher	Learning Management System (LMS)					Others (Alternative Checking)		
		Starting Date	Progress	Online Access Record	Learning Time	Uploaded Assignment	SNS	Text Messaging	Document Submitted
Real-time Interactive Class	●			●			●	●	●
Content-Oriented Class		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Task-Oriented Class				●		●	●	●	●
Validity Period	On the Day	On the Day or Within a Week (7 days)							



#### Evaluation

Written test

taken at schools offline

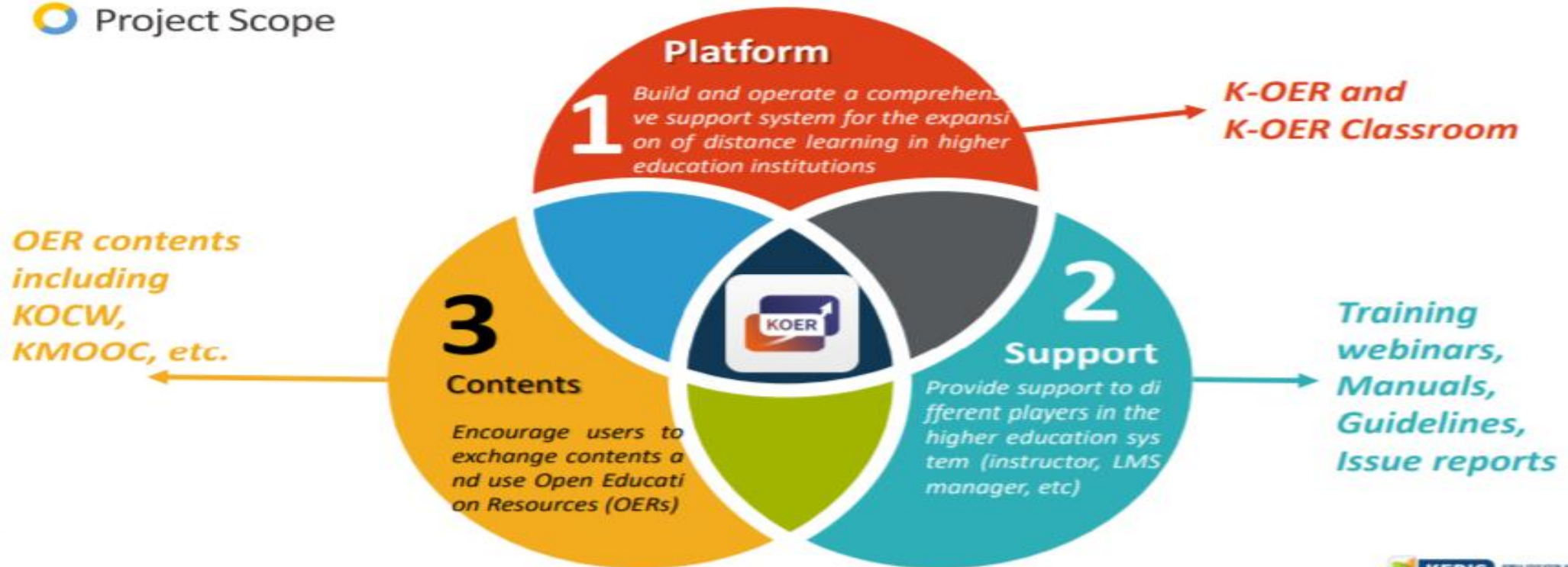
Performance assessment

based on teacher's observation, both online and offline

## 6. Platforms for Higher Education

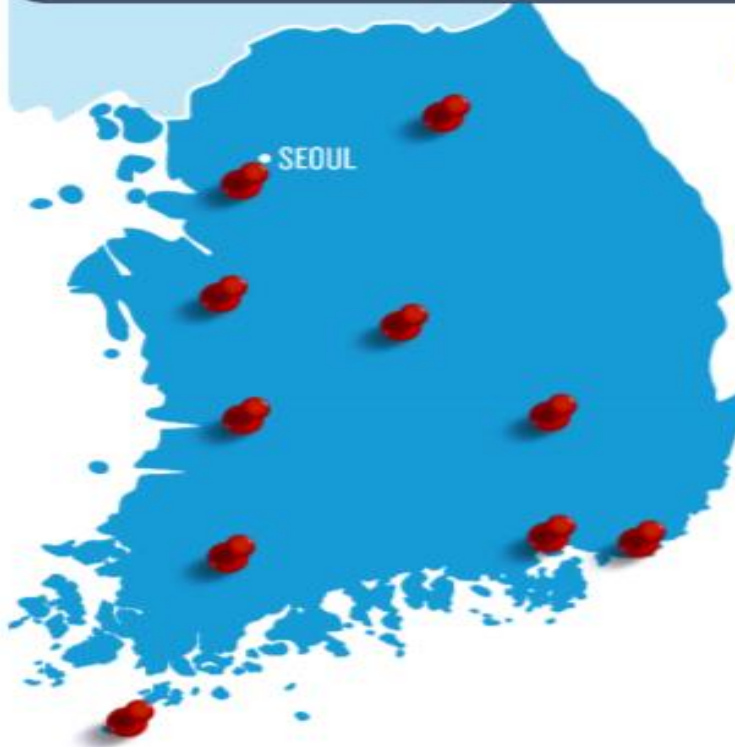
### Project Overview

- Project Name : Support for Distance Learning in Higher Education (K-OER Project)
- Project Timeframe : (April – August 2020, part of the 1<sup>st</sup> extra budget approved)
- Project Budget : About 379,396 USD (4.53 hundred million Korean Won)
- Project Scope



## 6. Platforms for Higher Education

### Main Project Areas



- **Operate a nationwide network of Regional Distance Learning Support Centers (DLSCs)**
  - Serves as a regional hub to support the online-based teaching-learning activities of higher education institutions within the network
  - Main responsibilities of a regional DLSC
    - Build and operate self-creating/general media studios that would serve as a “community media studio” to regional institutions
    - Build and operate a common LMS to support institutions within network that are not equipped with a LMS
    - Develop learning contents (OERs) to be shared within/ between networks



© KOCIS



© KERIS



© KERIS



## 7. Overcoming Challenges

- 01 Resolving Digital Divide
- 02 Support for Disadvantaged Students
- 03 Technical Assistance with Communication





# 7. Overcoming Challenges

## 01 Resolving Digital Divide, Increasing the Gap of Achievement

| **Free digital device rental** : 280,000 students (5.3% of total) applied to rent digital devices as of April 16(2020)

\* students from low-income families are given priority

| **Zero-rating policy** : Free temporary access to educational websites

### • Exemplary Case of Resolving Digital Divide Via Public-Private Partnership •

- **Seoul Metropolitan City and Provincial Cities** \_Funds to provide online learning devices(laptops) to disadvantaged students
- **Statistics Korea** \_10,000 digital devices
- **Samsung-LG** \_36,000 digital devices
- **KB Bank** \_265 smartphones to Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education
- **Korea Southern Power Co., Ltd.** \_100 digital devices to Busan Metropolitan Office of Education
- **Ministry of Science and ICT· Three Major Telecommunications Companies**  
\_Zero-rating system for data use on educational websites
- **LG CNS** \_Technical assistance related to EBS Online Class network overload




| **Build the special policy for learning gap** : 79% from teacher's awareness survey(2020.8)

# 7. Overcoming Challenges

## 02 Support for Disadvantaged Students

- | **1st & 2nd year of elementary schools:** Educational content through EBS TV Channels
- | **Students from multicultural families:** Information materials in various languages
- | **Students with disabilities:** Special learning packets and materials with home visits

### Providing Customized Support for Different Types of Disabilities



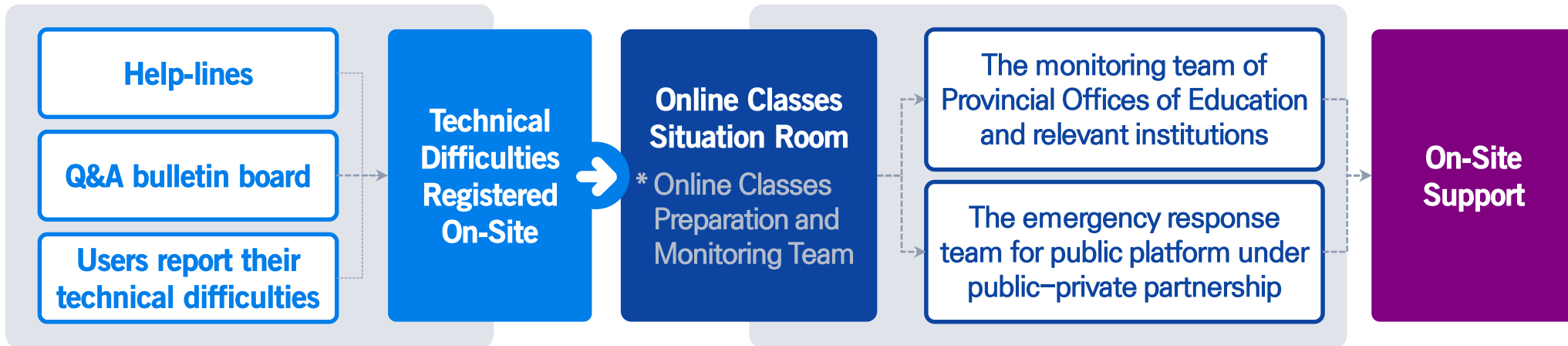
<b>Visual Impairment</b>	EBS online content is provided in braille, with learning materials customized and developed in larger fonts and in braille.
<b>Hearing Impairment</b>	Newly developed EBS lectures include subtitles, and the educational content on the Eduable website includes sign language and subtitles, with regional support centers providing sign language and stenography services.
<b>Physical Disability</b>	Learning devices and assistive technology devices are provided.
<b>Developmental Disability</b>	Various forms of distance learning are provided, including a combination of home visits and online learning, as well as content-oriented and task-oriented online classes.

## 7. Overcoming Challenges

### 03 Reinforcing Communication among online class stakeholders

- Running help-lines to give immediate feedback to teachers, parents and students to address any technical difficulties

#### Online Classes Support System



## 7. Conclusion : Designing the Future of Education



### Daunting Challenges

**Public Consensus** : “Education must not be stopped”

**Crisis → Opportunity** : Efforts to build a better education system

**Plan** : Korean online education model equipped with AI and cloud computing

**Joint Effort** : Global society needs to act together

RESPONDING TO COVID-19 : ONLINE CLASSES IN KOREA

THANK YOU !!



[shjang@keris.or.kr](mailto:shjang@keris.or.kr)