

Special Needs Education in Japan

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Outline

I . General Information

II . Special Needs Education System of JAPAN

- 1. Where children with disabilities learn**
(i Regular Class / ii Special Class /
iii Special Needs Schools / iv Out of
Education)
- 2. Resource for Children with Disabilities**

I . General Information (1)

Basic Idea

To Guarantee for providing education opportunity for all students *by Law*

I . General Information (2)

Compulsory Education

— *The Constitution of Japan (Article 26)* —

“All people shall have right to receive an equal education corresponding to their abilities, as provided for by law. ”

“The people shall be obligated to have all boys and girls under their protection receive general education as provided by law. Such compulsory education shall be free.”

I . General Information (3)

- All children who have attained the age of 6 are included in compulsory education.
- Necessary measures are provided according to children's needs.

e.g. Physical & Mental Special Needs

- ▶▶ Special Needs Education in both regular schools and special schools .

I . General Information (4)

Inclusive Education

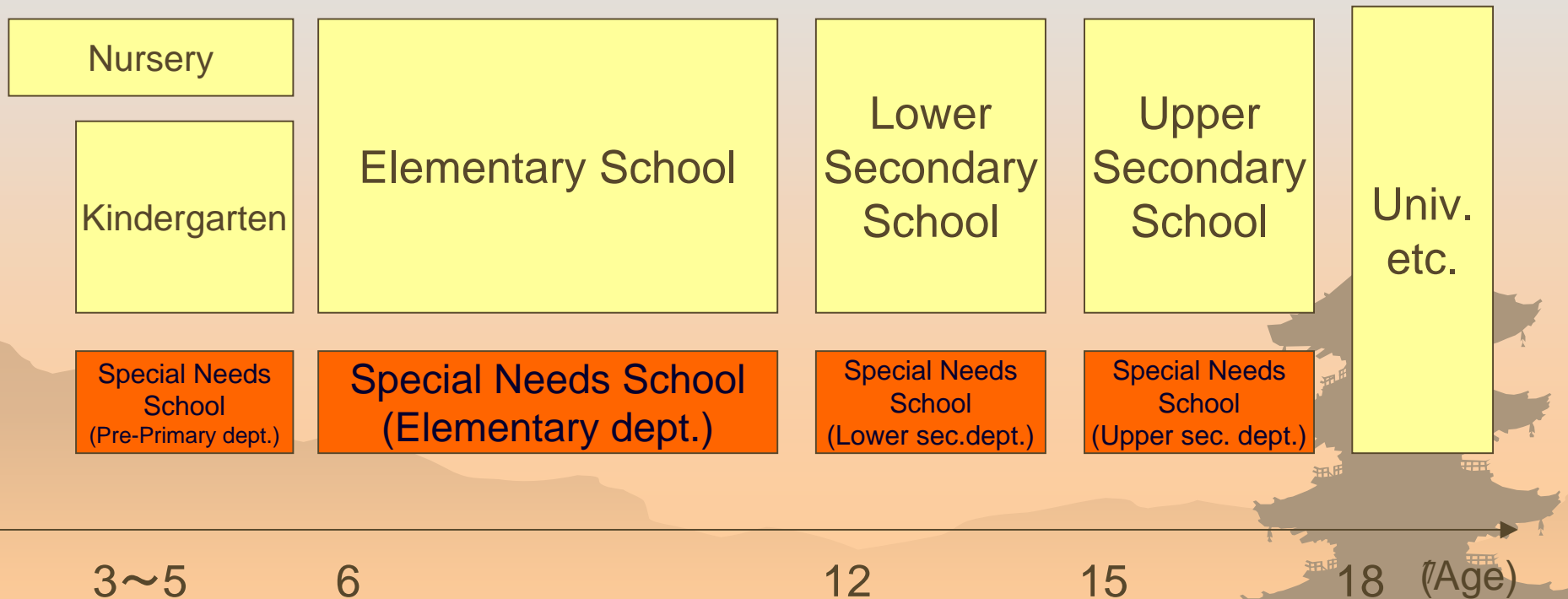
- Japan participates in a program of OECD/SENDDDD (Special Educational Needs for Students with Disabilities, Learning Difficulties and Disadvantages)
- One of Japan's policy interests today is on Special Needs Education.

cf. UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- Special Needs Education in Japan is following;

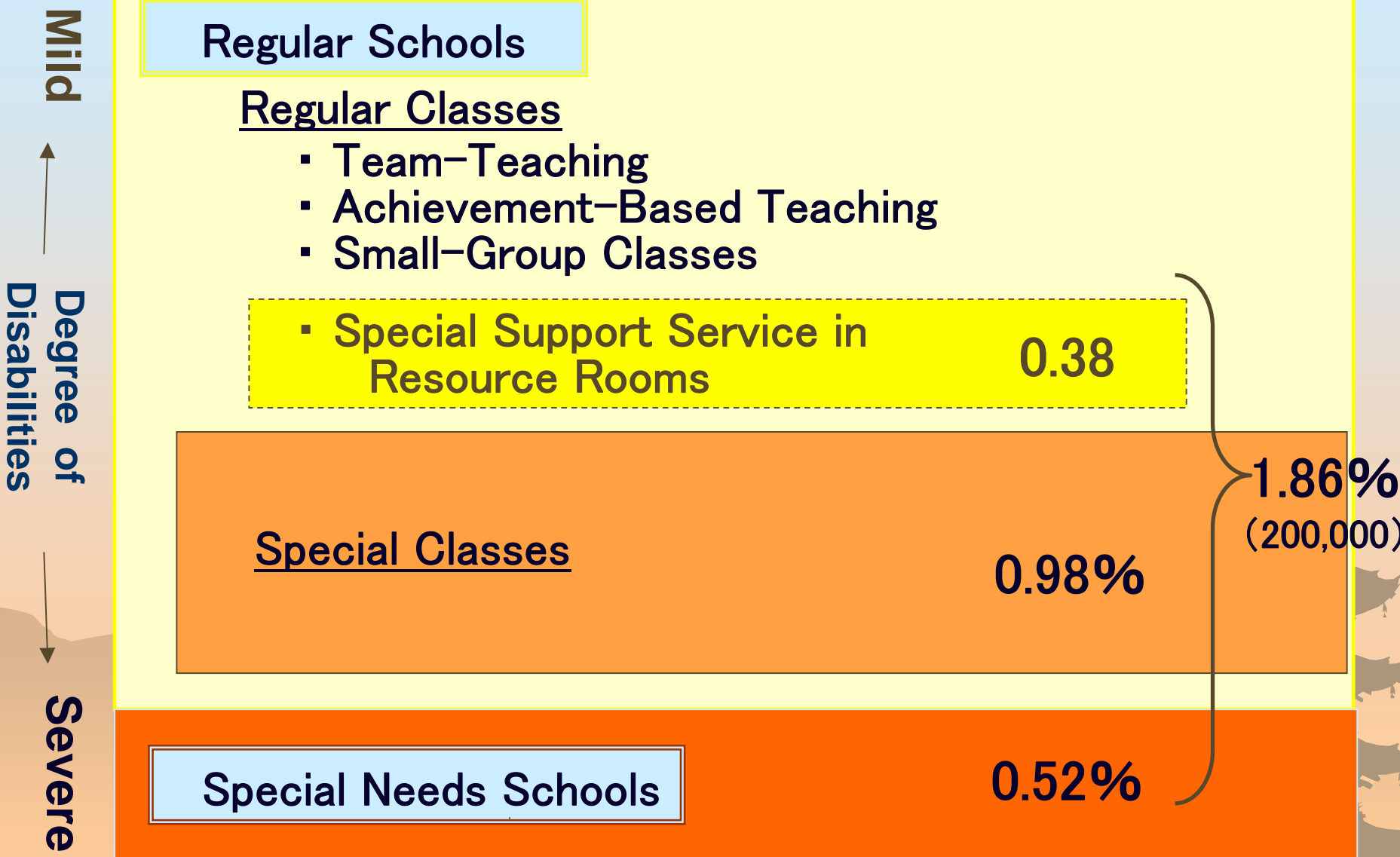
II . Special Needs Education in JAPAN(1)

- Total population in Japan : 120,000,000
in Compulsory Education : 10,820,000
- Compulsory Education : 9 years



II .Special Needs Education System of JAPAN (2)

- View of the SNE System [In Compulsory Education] -



II . Special Needs Education System of JAPAN (3) **— Where children with disabilities learn —**

i) Regular Schools > Regular Classes

- Class Size (children per class)**
national average: **26**(Elementary) / **30**(Lower Secondary)
(standard by law: maximum **40**)

Team Teaching

Achievement-Based Teaching

Teaching in Small Groups

Support Assistants

Special Support Service in Resource Rooms

(individual or small-group lessons for several hours
in a week)

II . Special Needs Education System of JAPAN (4) — Where children with disabilities learn —

ii) Regular Schools > Special Classes

- **Target:** children with mild disabilities (**0.98%**)
in compulsory schools
(& branch classes in hospitals)
- **Schools having special class: 64.2%**
- **Class Size (children per class) :**
national average: 3
(standard by law : maximum 8)



II . Special Needs Education System of JAPAN (5)

— Where children with disabilities learn —

iii) Special Schools

- **Target:** children with severe disabilities (**0.52%**)

- **Class Size (children per class) :**

national average: **3** children per class

standard by law: maximum **6** (**singly** disabled)

3 (**multiply** disabled)

- **Curricula:**

Basically follow that of regular schools

(However, there are special adaptations for intellectually disabled)

+

Activities to Promote Independence



II . Special Needs Education System of JAPAN (6) — Where children with disabilities learn —

iv) Permitted Exemption from, or Postponement of School Attendance

- For children with weakness due to sickness, delayed growth or other inevitable reasons (Documents written by doctors required)
- Only with the parents' application
- Currently, **81** children are out of education system because of disabilities

II . Special Needs Education System of JAPAN (7) —Roles of the Central / Local Govn't—

Central Govn't Decide basic policy

National Institute of Special Needs Education

Local Govn't Establish and manage schools

Prefectural Special Schools

Regular Schools (Upper Secondary)

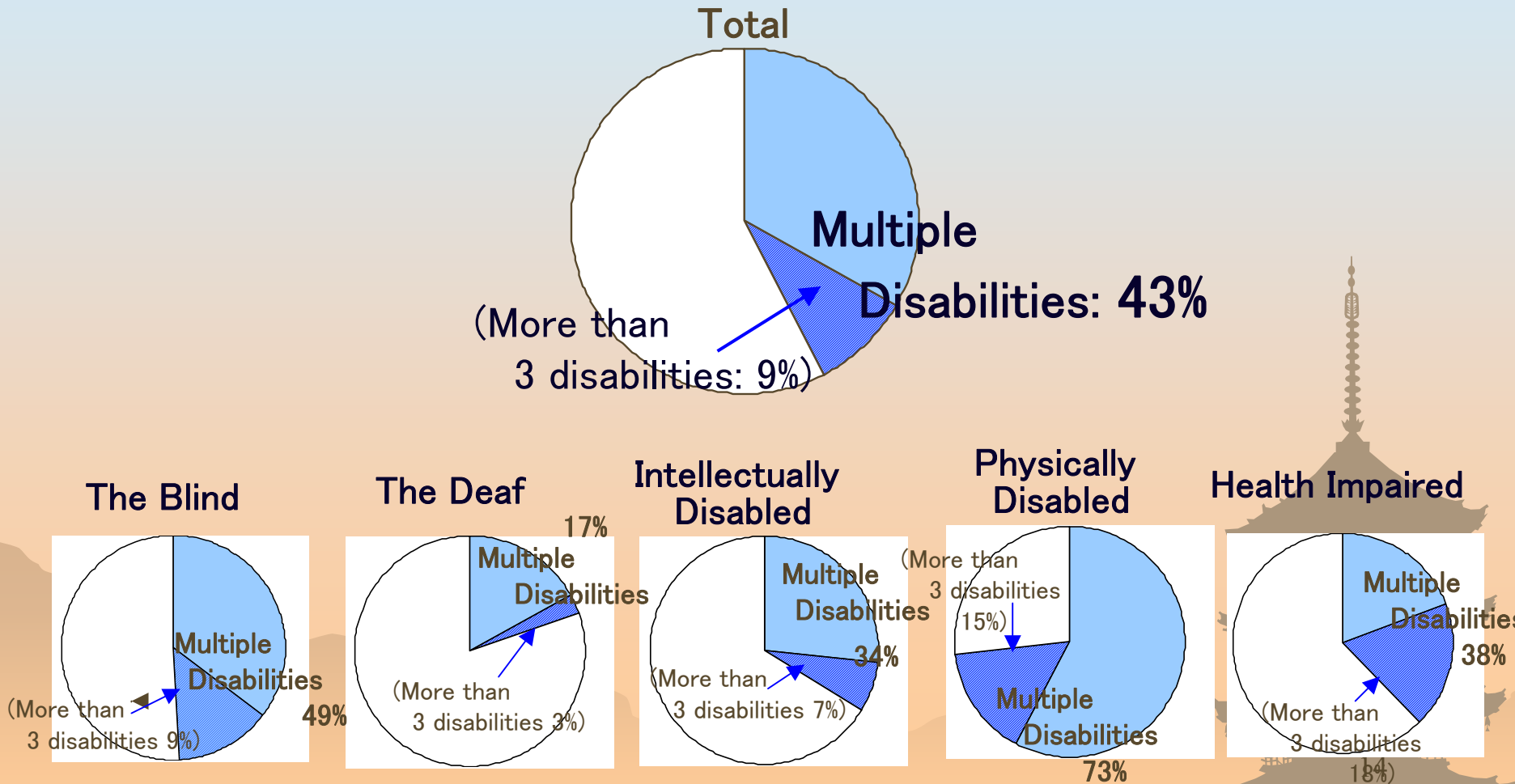
Municipal Regular Schools (Compulsory)

II. Special Needs Education System of JAPAN (8)

System Reform from 2007FY ①

— Background —

Ratio of Children with Multiple Disabilities in Special Schools (in Public Sector / Elementary & Lower Secondary Level)



II. Special Needs Education System of JAPAN (9)

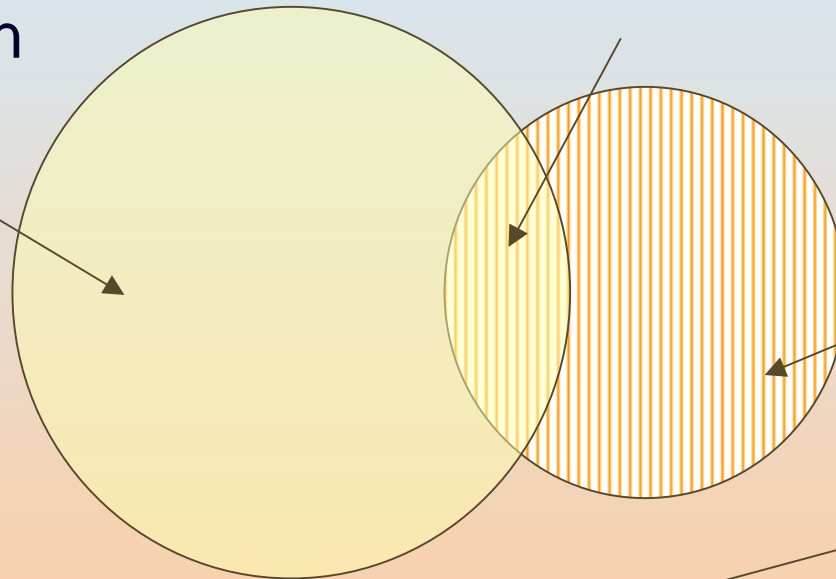
System Reform from 2007FY ②

—Background—

**Difficulties in Both
Learning and Behavior**

1.2 %

Difficulties in
Learning
4.5 %



Difficulties in
Behavior
2.9 %

**Difficulties in
Learning or Behavior**

6.3 %

II . Special Needs Education System of JAPAN (10) System Reform from 2007FY ③ —Revising the School Education Law—

- (1) Change from single-category-specific special schools
- (2) Legally Clarified the Special Needs Education in Regular Schools
- (3) Oblige the Schools to advice & cooperate with the Regular Schools in the region

II . Special Needs Education System of JAPAN (11)

System Reform from 2007FY ④

- Change from single-category-specific special schools -

< ~2006FY >

School for the Blind

School for the Deaf

School for Students
with
Intellectual Disabilities,
Physically Disabled,
Health Impaired

Increasing number
of students with
multiple disabilities

< 2007FY ~ >

Schools for
Special Needs Education

- can accept Students with several kinds of disabilities.
- works as a center of education for children with disabilities in each local community

II. Special Needs Education System of JAPAN (12)

System Reform from 2007FY ⑤

— Change on Special Schools —

< ~2006FY >

License of the Schools
for the Blind

License of the Schools
for the Deaf

License of the Schools
for the
Intellectual Disabled
Physically Disabled
Health Impaired

Increasing number
of students with
multiple disabilities

< 2007FY ~ >

The License of Schools
for Special Needs Education

- Require the basic knowledge and understanding of all disabilities, including LD etc.
- Ensure the teacher's specialty on 1 or more particular disabilities.

II . Special Needs Education System of JAPAN (13) Effort toward “Inclusive Education” ①

Students in Separate Settings

- Special Schools . . . 0.52%
- Special Classes . . . 0.98%



II . Special Needs Education System of JAPAN (14) Effort toward “Inclusive Education” ②

2002 Give flexibility to Local government to decide the placement of children with disabilities

2005 Start “the Program to Strengthen Support System in Regular Schools”

2007 Revise the Law to clarify promoting special needs education in Regular Schools

2007 Local Education Board legally obliged to ask the parents’ opinion for the placement of children

2007 Support Assistants (added local allocation tax grant)

II . Special Needs Education System of JAPAN (15) Effort toward “Inclusive Education” ③

(1) Joint Activities and Learning

- Based on “the Basic Law for Persons with Disabilities” (2004 Amendment)
- With nearby schools/ hometown schools

(2) Branch Schools / Branch Classes

(3) Variety of menu of “the Reasonable Accommodation”



II . Special Needs Education System of JAPAN (16)

Effort toward “Inclusive Education” ④

Example of Special Schools—

Nagahama High School &

Nagahama School for Special Needs Education

These 2 schools share . . .

- Campus
- Principal
- Uniform
- School Song
- (partly) Classes and Activities, School Events

Nagahama High School & Nagahama School for Special Needs Education

In the Same Campus (You can see 2 boards with the names of 2 schools)



Nagahama High School & Nagahama School for Special Needs Education

Entrance Ceremony



Nagahama High School & Nagahama School for Special Needs Education

Vocational Training (Wood-working)



Nagahama High School & Nagahama School for Special Needs Education

Preparing for Joint Sports Festival (making artwork to exhibit)



Nagahama High School & Nagahama School for Special Needs Education

Club Activities



Nagahama High School & Nagahama School for Special Needs Education

Joint Clean-up Campaign in the Local Community



Thank you for your attention!

