

**Virtual School Concept To Be Introduced In Two Years - Muhyiddin
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 30 (Bernama) -- Parents can keep track of their children's education via the virtual concept to be introduced in schools in two years, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Set to be implemented as pilot project in some schools next year, it will among others, allow parents to interact with school authorities via video conferencing.

"We are at pilot stage of virtual learning concept modeled after developed countries like South Korea," he told reporters after a surprise visit to Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Taman Tun Dr Ismail, here Friday.

Muhyiddin visited South Korea last year to check out the education system using information communication technology (ICT) and National Education Information System (NEIS), a computer network connecting all schools.

With NEIS, parents could gather more information on their children's educational performance by communicating directly with teachers online.

"Based on this information, parents can reach teachers directly for advice based on the students performance," said the education minister.

The network allows parents to monitor children's development at school and communicate with teachers on the Internet.

Earlier, he said parents should be involved in the schooling system as it has been proven that their involvement has brought success.

"In the many countries visited, I was first greeted by parents and not teachers, like in Australia. When asked, parents told me 'we come here to help our schools because our kids are here.'"

Muhyiddin stressed that history showed that only education could change the fate of the people and nation.

"During independence, 70 percent of the people were poor. They were schools but the colonialists did not offer assistance.

"After independence, we found a solution in education to help the people escape poverty which has since been reduced."

He said under the Barisan Nasional (BN) government many fields are now being controlled by Malaysians, all because of quality education.

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