

## School lets boy with gender identity disorder try attending as girl

SAITAMA (Kyodo) An 8-year-old boy who suffers mental woes caused by gender identity disorder has attended a public elementary school as a girl since last fall, a local board of education in Saitama Prefecture said Friday.

The decision was made to make school life comfortable for the second-grader, who has had a desire to "become a girl" since kindergarten and began to feel distress after entering the elementary school and feeling pressured to stand when he had to urinate, officials of the board said.

The school continues to keep him designated as a boy on its register.

There was a past case, in Hyogo Prefecture, where a boy was accepted to school as a girl. But registering such a change while a pupil is in school is rare. Schools generally struggle to cope with the agony children face with the disorder.

The Saitama pupil was diagnosed last March as having gender identity disorder, a term used to describe people facing a gap between their biological and mental sexual orientations. The child's doctor recommended that treating the pupil as a girl would make school life an easier adjustment.

After the diagnosis, the school told other pupils about the boy and the circumstances arising from his problems last September when they returned from summer break.

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