

**Sub-Committee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of
Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment
Opportunities for Children with Special Educational Needs**

**Education of children in special schools
Information Note**

Purpose

This paper provides additional information on the education of children in special schools, in response to Members' requests at the Sub-committee meeting on 30 March 2005.

Placement of students with special educational needs (SEN)

2. Students with SEN are placed in special schools based on the diagnosis/assessment findings and recommendations of relevant professionals, including doctors, psychologists, audiologists and education professionals, and in the light of parental choice. To ensure sufficient provision of special school places, we regularly review the demand and supply situation and adjust the approved capacity accordingly. The physical capacity, approved capacity and enrolment of different categories of special schools over the past three school years are at Appendix 1.

Provisions for special schools

3. Special schools are provided with 1.5 teachers per class. In addition, they enjoy additional support from a range of additional teachers and specialist staff. These provisions enable more flexible learning and teaching activities, such as group teaching and individual education programmes. In the 2004/05 school year, the teacher-to-student ratios for different categories of special schools range from 1:4.4 to 1:8.5. Details are at Appendix 2.

4. Similar to the mainstream schools, special schools can also apply to the Quality Education Fund and other charitable funds to finance projects in accordance with their educational pursuits. A list of some charitable funds available to the special education sector for application is at Appendix 3.

Post-school placement of special school leavers

5. Based on information provided by special schools, the post-school placement of special school leavers for the past three years are at Appendix 4.

Education and Manpower Bureau

April 2005

**Physical capacity, approved capacity and enrolments of special schools
in the 2002/03 to 2004/05 school years**

School Category	2002/03 School Year (as at 15.9.2002)			2003/04 School Year (as at 15.9.2003)			2004/05 School Year (as at 15.1.2005)		
	Physical Capacity	Approved Capacity	Enrolments	Physical Capacity	Approved Capacity	Enrolments	Physical Capacity	Approved Capacity	Enrolments
VI	255	225	154	255	200	164	255	200	163
HI	790	540	394	790	430	362	790	380	331
PD	830	790	754	830	790	762	880	820	775
MiMH and MoMH	1940	1720	1529	1940	1700	1565	1940	1680	1578
MiMH	2060	2020	1680	2060	1960	1740	2060	1820	1659
MoMH	1360	1330	1169	1350	1280	1126	1400	1210	1082
SMH	864	840	800	864	848	804	896	872	813
SSD	945	945	622	975	930	617	975	960	815
HS	N.A.	501	375	N.A.	440	339	N.A.	425	429
Total	9044	8911	7477	9064	8578	7479	9196	8367	7645

Note:

- (1) The rise in enrolment in the schools for the mentally handicapped was mainly due to the implementation of the Extension of Years of Education Programme.
- (2) While there are sufficient special school places to meet the demand, there are always children awaiting admission at different points in time. They include children in the process of diagnosis/assessment, children whose parents opt for admission to tie in with the school year/term; and children whose parents have strong preference for a particular special school despite the availability of places in other special schools.

Abbreviations:

VI Schools for visually impaired

HI Schools for hearing impaired

PD Schools for physically disabled

MiMH Schools for mildly mentally handicapped

MoMH Schools for moderately mentally handicapped

SMH Schools for severely mentally handicapped

SSD Schools for social development

HS Hospital school

Appendix 2

Teacher-to-Student Ratios in Special Schools (as at 15.1.2005)

School Category	No of Teachers	Enrolment	Teacher-to-Student Ratio
VI	36	163	1 : 4.5
HI	76	331	1 : 4.4
PD	143.5	775	1 : 5.4
MiMH	319.5	2728	1 : 8.5
MoMH	359	1591	1 : 4.4
SMH	182.5	813	1 : 4.5
SSD	120.5	815	1 : 6.8
HS	61	429	1 : 7.0
Total/Average	1298	7645	1 : 5.9

Note: Depending on the category, special schools are also provided with a range of specialist staff. Such staff may include special school social worker, speech therapist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, educational psychologist, brailist, school nurse, and occupational therapy assistant. In the 2004/05 school year, a total of about 450 specialist staff has been provided to special schools.

**List of some charitable funds available to
the special education sector for application**

1. Sir Robert Ho Tung Charitable Fund
2. The Chinese Permanent Cemeteries Fund
3. Li Po Chun Charitable Fund
4. Queen Elizabeth Foundation for the Mentally Handicapped
5. S. K. Yee Fund for the Disabled
6. Sir Murray MacLehose Trust Fund Donation Exercise
7. The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust
8. Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation
9. Lotteries Fund

Appendix 4

Survey on post-school placement of special school leavers

2001/02 School Year

School Category	No. of Leavers for Placement	Situation on Post-school Placement											
			DAC	SW	SE	IVTC	C&A	SC	IVE	OE	Infirmary	At Home	Others
A. Special schools offering mainstream curriculum													
VI	0	A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
HI	1	A	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
PD	35	A	2	19	1	0	5	2	0	0	0	2	2
		W	2	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Total	36		4	20	1	0	5	2	0	0	0	2	2
B. Special schools offering non-mainstream curriculum													
MiMH	128	A	6	26	2	0	0	80	-	2	0	4	2
		W	3	3	0	0	0	0					
MoMH	148	A	81	43	0	0	0	2	-	0	0	7	1
		W	9	4	0	0	0	1					
SMH	53	A	15	2	0	0	17	0	-	0	2	3	3
		W	3	0	0	0	8	0					
VI+MH	14	A	12	0	0	0	1	0	-	0	0	0	1
		W	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Total	343		129	78	2	0	26	83	-	2	2	14	7

Note: Schools for social development are not included.

2002/03 School Year

School Category	No. of Leavers for Placement	Situation on Post-school Placement											
			DAC	SW	SE	IVTC	C&A	SC	IVE	OE	Infirmary	At Home	Others
A. Special schools offering mainstream curriculum													
VI	0	A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
HI	3	A	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
		W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
PD	18	A	2	8	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	0
		W	0	0	1	0	0	0	0				
Total	21		2	8	1	0	0	7	2	1	0	0	0
B. Special schools offering non-mainstream curriculum													
MiMH	154	A	17	24	4	62	0	30	-	6	0	1	2
		W	2	4	0	1	0	1					
MoMH	163	A	118	21	1	2	0	0	-	0	0	2	2
		W	6	11	0	0	0	0					
SMH	47	A	33	0	0	0	6	0	-	0	2	1	4
		W	1	0	0	0	0	0					
VI+MH	3	A	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0
		W	2	1	0	0	0	0					
Total	367		179	61	5	65	6	31	-	6	2	4	8

Note: Schools for social development are not included.

2003/04 School Year

School Category	No. of Leavers for Placement	Situation on Post-school Placement											
			DAC	SW	SE	IVTC	C&A	SC	IVE	OE	Infirmary	At Home	Others
A. Special schools offering mainstream curriculum													
VI	0	A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
HI	9	A	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	2
		W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
PD	35	A	7	12	0	0	0	6	0	0	2	0	2
		W	1	5	0	0	0	0	0				
Total	44		12	17	0	0	0	9	0	0	2	0	4
B. Special schools offering non-mainstream curriculum													
MiMH	346	A	18	27	2	154	0	109	-	8	0	7	2
		W	3	15	1	0	0	0					
MoMH	166	A	65	38	0	10	1	12	-	0	0	2	2
		W	9	26	0	1	0	0					
SMH	82	A	19	0	0	0	25	0	-	0	12	4	2
		W	14	0	0	0	6	0					
VI+MH	8	A	5	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	3
		W	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Total	602		133	106	3	165	32	121	-	8	12	13	9

Note: Schools for social development are not included.

Abbreviations

- MiMH Schools for the Mildly Mentally Handicapped
- MoMH Schools for the Moderately Mentally Handicapped
- SMH Schools for the Severely Mentally Handicapped
- VI+MH Schools for the Visually Impaired with Mental Handicap
- VI Schools for the Visually Impaired

HI	Schools for the Hearing Impaired
PD	Schools for the Physical Disabled
DAC	Day Activity Centres
SW	Sheltered Workshops
SE	Supported Employment
IVTC	Integrated Vocational Training Centres
C&A	Care and Attention Home for Severely Disabled Persons
SC	Skills Centres
OE	Open Employment
IVE	Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education
A	Admitted
W	Waitlisted
Others	Deceased / Emigrated / Unknown/etc