

Proposed Research Outline

Special Education in Selected Places

1. Background

1.1 The Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment Opportunities for Children with Special Educational Needs, at its meeting on 25 April 2005, requested the Research and Library Services Division (RLSD) to conduct a research on special education in selected places to facilitate the deliberation of the Subcommittee on the development of special education in Hong Kong.

2. Scope of research

2.1 A detailed discussion on special education in the selected places covers the following aspects:

- (a) legislative framework;
- (b) structure of educational system;
- (c) policies relating to special education;
- (d) child assessment for special educational needs (SEN);
- (e) special education programmes (eligibility requirements, funding, involvement of government and the private sector, parental participation and appeal); and
- (f) integration with mainstream programmes.

2.2 The analysis chapter compares various features of special education in the selected places.

3. Proposed selected places

3.1 RLSD proposes to study the following places:

- (a) the State of California (California) in the United States;
- (b) the Province of Ontario (Ontario) in Canada; and
- (c) the United Kingdom (UK).

3.2 California is chosen because school districts in California are required to not only provide a free appropriate public education to eligible students with disabilities, but also design an Individualized Education Program for each student to meet his/her needs. Ontario is chosen because the provincial government has set up a mandatory province-wide standard for school boards to develop their special education plans. In the UK, local education authorities are required to make arrangements for children with SEN. In particular, efforts are made to place such children in mainstream schools.

4. Proposed completion date

4.1 RLSD proposes to complete the research by August 2005.