

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

**Supplementary Information Note
on Boarding Service for Students with Physical Disability**

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide supplementary information on the latest development of the boarding service provided for students with physical disability (PD).

Background

2. In January 2005, the Education and Manpower Bureau provided the Joint Meeting of LegCo Panel on Education and LegCo Panel on Welfare Services with an Information Note (LC Paper No. CB(2)553/04-05(01)), covering information on the policy on boarding service for students with PD and various arrangements to cater for their long-term boarding needs. Extract of the relevant parts of the document is at Appendix 1. In February 2005, this Bureau also provided the Sub-committee with a point-by-point written response (LC Paper No. CB(2)866/04-05(02)) to the views raised by the deputations at the Joint Meeting.

Latest distribution of residential area of boarders in schools for the physically disabled

3. The latest distribution of residential area of boarders in schools for the physically disabled is at Appendix 2.

Latest development of the boarding service for students with physical disability

4. In connection with the proposal to pilot a 2-year self-financed small-scale boarding section with 8 places by a school for the physically disabled in Sha Tin, the latest development is as follows:

- (a) The school has obtained consent from relevant government departments in converting part of its school premises into a small-scale boarding section;
- (b) In late March 2005, the foregoing school filed an application to this Bureau, covering concrete plans for conversion of part of its school premises to pilot the self-financed small-scale boarding service;
- (c) In early May 2005, this Bureau replied the school in writing that there was no objection in principle to the 2-year self-financed pilot project and the conversion of part of the school premises for such purpose. Details in school operation, conversion works, staff arrangements and financial treatments that need attention were also listed out to facilitate smooth implementation of the project; and
- (d) It is learnt that the school has planned to introduce the project to the parents in mid-June, and that preparation work for conversion is underway. The pilot project is expected to commence in the coming school year.

Education and Manpower Bureau
June 2005

**Extract of Information Note to Joint Meeting of LegCo Panel on
Education and LegCo Panel on Welfare Services of 10 January 2005
(LC Paper No. CB(2)553/04-05(01))**

1. The Education and Manpower Bureau has provided an information note for the Joint Meeting of LegCo Panel on Education and LegCo Panel on Welfare Services of 10 January 2005. The paper covers the boarding service for students with physical disability. The relevant parts are extracted below:

Boarding service for students with physical disability

2. This Bureau sets up boarding section in some schools for the physically disabled (PD schools) in order to solve their boarding problem when they receive education. This service is planned on a territory-wide basis without regional constraints.

3. At present, there are seven PD schools in Hong Kong. They are located on the Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and the New Territories, providing a total of 820 school places. Two of them, which are on the Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon, have boarding sections providing a total of 170 boarding places for students from different regions who have long-term boarding needs. As at 15 November 2004, there were nine vacancies available in these two boarding sections.

4. The boarding sections of these two schools are of a larger scale, and they have been providing school buses and arranging rehabilitation buses for the students' journeys to and from home. All along, parents of individual students who have more severe physical disability or reside in remote areas may liaise with their schools to handle the individual circumstances.

5. For students with physical disability who are residing in the New Territories and unwilling to enroll in the PD schools in Kowloon or on the Hong Kong Island, this Bureau has liaised with the sponsoring bodies of some special schools with boarding section in the New Territories. They have consented to render assistance so that students of PD schools in the New Territories who have long-term boarding needs can be admitted to the boarding section of their special schools. As the special schools of other categories, in

recent years, have also admitted multi-disabled students who are also physically disabled, their staff members are experienced in taking care of these students.

6. Under the community support programmes for people with disabilities and their family funded by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), the physically disabled students would also be provided with respite services. These respite services include the “Holiday Care Service” which provides short-term day care service during holidays; the “Home Respite Service” which provides hourly charged day care service in the disabled person’s home; and the “Extended Care Service” provided in the Day Activity Centres. Physically disabled students aged 15 or above could also be admitted to the residential homes for the mentally handicapped/physically disabled subvented by the SWD for temporary care, relieving the burden on their family.

7. Recently, a sponsoring body proposed to pilot a self-financed small-scale boarding section in a PD school in Sha Tin. This Bureau also actively assists the school in implementing the proposal.

8. This Bureau will continue to monitor the supply and demand of the boarding sections of PD schools, and will continue to arrange for admission of students with long-term boarding needs to the boarding sections. This Bureau will also continue to liaise with the school mentioned in Paragraph 7 above and with the departments concerned, and will keep a close watch on the progress and implementation of their pilot project.

**Distribution of residential area of boarders
in schools for the physically disabled
(as at 15 April 2005)**

Schools for the physically disabled with boarding section	Boarding Capacity	Distribution of residential areas of boarders							
		Hong Kong Island	Outlying islands	Kowloon	Sai Kung and Sha Tin	NT North and Tai Po	Tuen Mun and Yuen Long	Kwai Chung and Tsuen Wan	Total
John F Kennedy Centre	80	31	5	11	6	3	10	10	76
Princess Alexandra Red Cross Residential School	90	2	1	42	8	11	14	7	85
Total	170	33	6	53	14	14	24	17	161