

Panel on Education
List of follow-up actions
(position as at 8 November 2004)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
<p>1. <u>Loans to non-profit-making international schools</u></p> <p>1.1 Review of the policy on financial assistance to schools operated by the English Schools Foundation (ESF)</p>	<p>26.11.99 (Finance Committee)</p>	<p>The Administration agreed to report the outcome of the review to the Panel in due course.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p><u>Latest position</u> Current per class subsidy was frozen at the 1999-2000 school year price level. In line with Government-wide retrenchment policy, for 2004-2005, overall subvention to ESF is further subject to an efficiency saving of 6.44%. The number of subvented classes has also been frozen at the 2003-04 level with effect from 2004-05. The Administration is reviewing the subsidy policy on ESF taking into account the prevailing financial stringency of Government, cost-effectiveness of ESF's operation and the interests of parents and students.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
<p>2. <u>Further expansion of the Non-means Tested Loan Scheme (NLS)</u></p> <p>2.1 Risk-adjusted factor and repayment period</p>	<p>19.6.00</p>	<p>The Panel requested the Administration to review the risk-adjusted factor and the repayment period of NLS in the light of members' comments at the meeting.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p><u>Latest position</u> The Administration is considering the possibility of outsourcing NLS to the private sector.</p>
<p>3. <u>Briefing on the Higher Education Review</u></p> <p>3.1 Institutional governance and staff grievances</p>	<p>2.12.02 and 21.6.04</p>	<p>The University Grants Committee (UGC) agreed to provide an update on the development of an internal grievances and complaint mechanism in UGC-funded tertiary institutions at an appropriate time.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p><u>Latest position</u> The institutions are at various stages of reviewing their governance and management structures, including their internal grievances and complaint mechanisms. The Administration will provide an update in due course.</p>
<p>4. <u>Enhanced School Development and Accountability</u></p> <p>4.1 Implementation of the enhanced school development and accountability (SDA) framework</p>	<p>28.4.03</p>	<p>The Administration agreed to provide an interim report on the results of implementation by the end of the 2003-04 school year.</p>	<p>The Administration has proposed to present an interim report on 13 December 2004.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
			<p><u>Latest position</u> Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) has conducted 106 External School Reviews (ESR) (including 7 pilot ESRs) since early February 2004. Refinement on SDA has been made in June 2004 (including reporting on Key Performance Measures) to facilitate implementation. From September to December 2004, a series of scholars forums, seminars and workshops on dissemination of good practices have been / will be organized to enhance understanding of SDA. 2004 ESR will resume in January 2005.</p>
<p>5. <u>Results of the 2003 Language Proficiency Assessment for teachers</u></p> <p>5.1 Options for upgrading the quality of English teachers</p>	<p>23.6.03</p>	<p>The Panel requested the Administration to explore workable options for upgrading the quality of English teachers and provide a paper in October 2003.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p><u>Latest Position</u> Teacher Education Institutions have introduced preparation courses for potential candidates for the Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
<p>6. <u>Information Technology in Education - way forward</u></p> <p>6.1 Comparison with other jurisdictions in the use of IT in education</p>	<p>19.4.04</p>	<p>The Panel requested the Administration to provide relevant information on the use of IT in education in Hong Kong in comparison with the figures in other jurisdictions.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p><u>Latest Position</u> An information note will be prepared in due course taking account of the "Overall Study on Reviewing the Progress and Evaluating the IT in Education Projects 1998/2003" which is targeted for completion by end 2004.</p>
<p>7. <u>Consolidation of high cost and low utilization primary schools</u></p> <p>7.1 Policy and follow-up measures</p>	<p>19.4.04</p>	<p>The Panel requested the Administration to provide an information paper on its long-term policy and follow-up measures to resolve the problems arising from consolidation of under-utilized primary schools and provide an estimate of the number of primary schools which would be affected by the policy in the future.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p><u>Latest Position</u> The information paper will be prepared in due course taking into account the outcome of the legal implications of the various reviews in progress.</p>