

**Panel on Education**

**List of outstanding items for discussion**  
(position as at 6 June 2006)

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**1. The new Student Travel Subsidy Scheme**

In discussing the proposed merger of Student Travel Subsidy Scheme and Cross-net Subsidy Scheme at the meeting on 8 November 2004, some members considered it necessary to review the eligibility criteria for a full rate and a half rate grant under the merged scheme (the new Student Travel Subsidy Scheme) for applicants from families with different incomes and number of members. The Administration undertook to revert to the Panel at a future meeting. To be confirmed

**2. School Development and Accountability (SDA)**

The Panel discussed the progress of implementation of the school development and accountability framework at its meeting on 13 December 2004, with emphasis on the implementation of school self-evaluation and the external school review processes. Members agreed to revisit the issue and meet deputations at a future meeting. 10 July 2006

The Administration would like to report on the progress of SDA implementation at the July meeting. It will inform members on the mode and arrangements of external school review for the second cycle to commence in the 2008-09 school year.

**3. Use of Language Fund – proposals to strengthen support in language education at pre-primary and primary levels**

At the meeting on 9 May 2005, members requested the Administration to review the allocation for the professional development of pre-primary teachers and keep members informed of the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research's (SCOLAR's) final decision on the issue. Members also requested the Administration to arrange the Chairman of the SCOLAR to brief the Panel on the progress of its implementation at a future meeting. The Administration agreed to revert to the Panel later. To be confirmed

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**4. Review on governance structure of UGC-funded institutions and their grievances and complaints mechanisms**

At the meeting on 9 May 2005, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong suggested that the Panel should follow up discussion on the governance structure of UGC-funded institutions and their internal grievances and complaint mechanisms. He also suggested that deputations should be invited to present views at the meeting. At the meeting on 10 April 2006, Dr Fernando CHEUNG raised the same suggestion again.

To be confirmed

**5. Review of student financial assistance schemes**

At the meeting on 11 July 2005, the Panel requested the Administration to review the provision of financial assistances to needy students under various student financial assistance schemes, having regard to the impact of the increases in tuition fees under the new academic structure for senior secondary education and higher education. The Administration agreed to revert to the Panel with the review results and recommendations in the new session.

To be confirmed

**6. Future development of the textbook industry**

Item proposed by Mrs Selina CHOW at the meeting on 13 October 2005. Members noted that arising from the Administration's proposals on various copyright-related issues, the textbook industry had expressed grave concern about the impact of the proposed exemption of non-profit-making educational establishments and educational establishment subvented by Government from the proposed criminal liability for copying and distribution of copyright infringing printed works on the future development of the textbook industry. Members agreed to receive views from the industry and other sectors which might have different perspectives on the issue, including the Consumer Council which conducted annual surveys on textbook prices. Members of the Panel on Commerce and Industry will be invited to join the discussion of this item.

To be confirmed

**7. Reduction of classes in secondary schools and merger of secondary schools**

Item proposed by Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong at the meeting on 13 October 2005. Mr CHEUNG expressed concern about the reduction of classes in secondary schools in the light of a declining student population, and the proposed merger of secondary schools with less than 12 classes. To be confirmed

**8. Arts and cultural studies in school education**

Item proposed by Mrs Selina CHOW at the meeting on 13 October 2005. Mrs CHOW considered that the Panel should discuss the curriculum for arts and cultural studies in schools in the light of the Government's policy commitment to enrich the quality of life in Hong Kong. To be confirmed

**9. Curriculum and assessment framework for new senior secondary education**

At the meeting on 14 November 2005, Mr Patrick LAU expressed concern about the curriculum design of Liberal Studies under the new academic structure for senior secondary education. The Administration informed the meeting that the Education and Manpower Bureau had completed the consultation with the school sector on the design of the curriculum and assessment framework for the new senior secondary structure. 10 July 2006

The Administration proposes to provide an update on the latest developments of the new academic structure including the feedback on "Further Consultation on Career-oriented Studies and the New Senior Secondary Academic Structure for Special Schools" at the meeting on 10 July 2006. The Administration has indicated that the second consultation on the detailed design of the curriculum and assessment (C&A) frameworks for the 24 new senior secondary (NSS) subjects was completed in October 2005. Based on the feedback and having regard to the characteristics and background of each subject, the design and contents of the C&A frameworks for the 24 subjects have been revised. A third consultation with focus on the assessment design, particularly the school-based assessment of the NSS subjects will be conducted in September/October 2006.

The Administration has also indicated that the three-month consultation on “Action for the Future – Further Consultation on Career-oriented Studies and the New Senior Secondary Academic Structure for Special Schools” was ended at 24 April. Responses from the public and schools are being analyzed. A report will be sent to schools in September 2006.

**10. Workload of teachers**

Item proposed by Ms Audrey EU at the meeting on 12 December 2005. Ms EU expressed concern about the long working hours and heavy workload of teachers in schools. Members agreed to discuss the item at a future meeting. To be confirmed

**11. Education for children of ethnic minorities**

At the meeting on 9 January 2006, members agreed to follow up the issue at a future meeting. The Administration’s response to members’ concerns was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1536/05-06(01) on 29 March 2006. To be confirmed

**12. Appointment of government school teachers on permanent terms under the new civil service entrance system**

Item proposed by Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung. Mr LEUNG is concerned that some serving teachers in government school are unable to convert to permanent terms upon completion of a six-year contract. To be confirmed

**13. Remuneration systems in University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions after deregulation of university salaries**

The Panel had a follow-up discussion on this matter on 26 January 2006 at which views and concerns of deputations were received. The Administration will consider the members’ views and revert to the Panel at a future meeting. To be confirmed

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**14. Implementation of research projects funded by the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB)**

Item proposed by Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung. Mr LEUNG is concerned about the allegation made by the University Education Concern Group that EMB had unduly influenced the work of academics in the conduct of research projects funded by EMB by way of the bidding mechanism. Members agreed to discuss the issue at a future meeting. To be confirmed

**15. Education for gifted children**

Item proposed by Mr Jasper TSANG at the meeting on 8 May 2006. Mr TSANG is concerned about the provision of education for gifted children in school. To be confirmed