

Education Convergence

1 June 2006

Class Structure in Secondary Schools

Our organization has learned that the Education Panel of Legco will discuss and the Education and Manpower Bureau is planning future class structure of secondary schools. This greatly concerns us, and thus we'd like to make the following suggestions:

- 1) For secondary schools, it is better to keep to 24 classes (6 forms x 4 classes) in principle, so that there would be enough teaching staff in the new senior education to provide more elective subjects for students to choose from. Schools, moreover, can make use of this to put an end to floating class and thereby make room for split-class teaching.
- 2) The class size at present is 30 students in Forms Six and Seven. In the new structure, it should be around 30 students so as to enhance proactive teaching, enquiry learning, and the teaching efficacy in carrying out group discussion/project learning/school-based assessment/teacher assessment scheme (e.g. Physics) of curriculum and assessment reforms.
- 3) While planning class structure, secondary schools have, too, to tackle the problem of excess teachers. The Bureau has offered a grace period of 5 years. It is, however, too short, and even pulling back some schools from starting earlier to practise 4-class senior secondary education. Therefore, we suggest an allowance on top of the basic 5-year grace period, depending on their specific needs, that allows individual schools a period up to 10 years at maximum.
- 4) For form One classes, the minimum size should be 23 and maximum to be 30 i.e. 23-30 students for one class, 31-60 students for two classes and 61-91 students for three classes. In this way, the medium size class system can be implemented in the secondary education.