



**The Association of English Medium Secondary Schools**  
香 港 英 文 中 學 聯 會

c/o Carmel Divine Grace Foundation Secondary School  
Po Lam Estate, Tseung Kwan O, Hong Kong

**Restructuring of classes  
under the new academic structure for senior secondary education**

With regard to the above, our Association is of the following opinion:

1. We are in favour of the government's position that pupils should, whenever possible, be allowed to complete their six years of secondary education in the same school. We are also gratified to learn that EMB would facilitate the transfer of S.3 pupils should they find the senior secondary curriculum of their schools not suited to their personal development and aspirations.
2. Accepting the government's position that schools with less than 18 classes will be hard put to provide their pupils with a "broad and balanced senior secondary curriculum," we urge EMB to, firstly, provide schools, for their reference, data on projected S.1 student population for the coming 6 years; secondly, alert schools, after parents of Primary Six pupils have filed their Choice of Schools forms during the Central Allocation stage of SSPA, which may receive less than three class of S.1 pupils in the coming September so that schools can start planning as soon as possible; thirdly, with the consent of the schools concerned, publish a list of schools with less than three S.1 classes which are interested in merging; fourthly, when two or more schools merge, the new school should be allowed to operate at two or more sites as long as there are at least three classes per level at each site.
3. By allowing schools which have less than three S.1 classes but which can afford to provide a "broad and balanced senior secondary curriculum" to continue to operate, EMB seems to favour sponsoring bodies with deep pockets.
4. While we appreciate government's recognition of "schools which have a sound professional standing and a good track record of student achievement" by allowing them, upon passing a "special quality assurance review," to continue to participate in the SSPA for three consecutive years and allocating to them three classes of S.1 pupils, does this mean that EMB will allocate pupils without regard to parental choice? Will this also mean that schools which otherwise would have been allocated three classes of S.1 pupils would be allocated fewer pupils, thereby endangering their continued operation?
5. It is grossly unfair that some existing senior secondary schools have been allowed to operate as *de facto* mainstream secondary schools, i.e., to allow them to admit junior secondary pupils. To officially allow the mainstreaming of senior secondary schools is inadmissible.



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6. The increase in the effective class-to-teacher ratio for schools admitting low academic achievers will do no good for these schools if, with declining student population, they cannot recruit three classes of S.1 pupils. It would have been better if the effective class-to-teacher ratio stayed unchanged at 1:1.3 but their class size was reduced to, say, 20. In this case, the school needs to recruit only 41 pupils to operate three S.1 classes instead of 71. Using the enhanced class-to-teacher ratio, these 41 pupils will be taught by 3.6 (2+1.6) teachers while, using the old ratio, the number of teachers is 3.9, a difference of only 0.3 teacher.
7. It is irresponsible for government to “review the class size after the double cohort year in the 2011/12 school year.” The review should start now, so that, if deemed appropriate, class size can be reduced immediately after the double cohort year, starting in September 2012. This will help government greatly in dealing with the more than 1,200 teachers needed just for the double cohort year. Assuming that the review takes one year to complete, government will then have enough time to put in place an in-service training programme for teachers of smaller class sizes. Then, in September 2012, there will be enough trained teachers who can take advantage of the smaller class size to improve the quality of secondary education, to the benefit of our future generations and of Hong Kong.
8. This “restructuring of classes under the new academic structure for senior secondary education” should be considered in the wider context of the “334 reform.” In this regard, our Association is categorically against EMB’s requirement that all EMI schools teach Liberal Studies, after a transition period of four years, in English. We shall be pleased to brief members of this Panel on the many reasons. For the time being, we refer members to the articles 《從通識定位看教學語言》 and 《通識科教學語言和發展隱憂》 written by an experience Liberal Studies teacher, Mr W.S. Tai (戴偉森), Vice Principal of Sha Tin Methodist College, and published in the Ming Pao Daily News on 29 May and 30 May 2006, respectively.

LOUR Tsang Tsay, Lawrence  
Chairperson

12 June 2006