

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Education

Making Available Land and Capital Grant for Construction of School Premises

Purpose

In response to the enquiry of the Honourable Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung, this note recaps the overall policy and principles adopted by the Administration in making available land and financial assistance for the construction of school premises.

Policy Objectives

2. In general, the Administration makes available land and financial assistance for the construction of school premises to meet one or more of the following policy objectives –
 - (a) to provide a sufficient number of public schools required to deliver free and universal basic education for all eligible children;
 - (b) to enable existing bi-sessional primary schools to convert into whole-day operation through the provision of additional premises;
 - (c) to redevelop or reprovision existing schools accommodated in sub-standard premises; and
 - (d) to provide diversity and choice in the education system through the establishment of new Private Independent Schools, new schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) and international schools.

School Allocation Mechanism

3. Once the need to make available land and financial assistance for a particular policy objective has been established, we will, subject to the availability of suitable site(s), invite applications from school sponsoring bodies for the designated use. We consider the applications on the advice of a School Allocation Committee with membership comprising both official and non-official members who are familiar with the education system of Hong Kong.

4. It has been a long-established practice under our school allocation mechanism to consider only applications from non-profit-making school sponsors which are exempted from tax under the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112). In general, interested school sponsors meeting this basic eligibility requirement are required to submit with their application a detailed school proposal which covers the school sponsor's vision and mission, the school's management and organization, teaching and learning, school ethos and support for students, performance targets as well as self-evaluation indicators. The operating track record of existing schools/school sponsoring bodies, if relevant, will also be considered. Additional factors will also be taken into account for specific types of applications¹. Given the emphasis on holistic assessment which emphasizes quality of the education to be provided, an applicant which is currently operating from self-financed premises does not necessarily have a stronger claim over other applicants operating from premises established with Government's support.

5. After completion of the allocation process, we will proceed with detailed design of the school project with the involvement of the successful applicant and make a funding proposal to the Public Works Sub-committee of the Legislative Council Finance Committee after the detailed design and cost estimates are worked out.

Education and Manpower Bureau
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¹ These include, for example, enrolment situation for bi-sessional primary schools applying for school premises to achieve whole-day conversion, and the physical conditions of the existing premises for redevelopment and re-provisioning cases, etc.