

Panel on Education

**Views and suggestions on prices of school textbooks
raised by members at the meeting on 11 June 2007**

Price

1. The prices of textbooks should be a criterion for inclusion of textbooks on the Recommended Textbook List (RTL) compiled by the Education Bureau (EDB).
2. Parent-teacher associations should be consulted on the prices of textbooks on school textbook lists.
3. The total prices of textbooks for different levels should be specified on school textbook lists for parents' reference. EDB should follow up with schools should the textbooks selected by them are of very high prices.
4. Policies and measures should be formulated to prohibit the provision and acceptance of advantages and gifts between schools and publishers, except for the provision of a limited number of free textbooks for teachers.

Weight

5. The weight of textbooks should be a criterion for inclusion of textbooks on the RTL compiled by EDB.
6. Parent-teacher associations should be consulted on the weight of textbooks on school textbook lists.
7. The total weight of textbooks for different levels should be specified on the school textbook lists. EDB should follow up with schools should the textbooks selected by them are of very heavy weight.

Edition

8. Schools should specify the edition of the textbooks on the school textbook lists to facilitate students' and parents' consideration of using second-hand textbooks.
9. Schools should specify on the textbook lists that old editions of reprint textbooks could be used so that parents could decide on the need to purchase the reprint textbooks.
10. Schools should promote parental awareness of the issue by publishers of addenda or corrigenda for updating of information in textbooks.

Reference materials

11. Schools should differentiate on the textbook lists textbooks from reference books/materials such as dictionaries and atlas so that parents and students could decide on the need to buy the latter.

12. Schools should provide story books in libraries for loan to students.

School textbook fairs

13. Schools should be encouraged to organize old textbook fairs and donations of textbooks.

Electronic textbook

14. Policies and measures should be formulated to promote the use of electronic textbooks in schools.

Provision of textbooks

15. EDB should make reference to overseas experiences on the provision of textbooks by Government and conduct a survey on parents and students to ascertain preference in this regard.