

**Panel on Education**  
**List of follow-up actions**  
(position as at 6 November 2007)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
1. <u>Further expansion of the Non-means Tested Loan Scheme (NLS)</u>  1.1 Risk-adjusted factor and repayment period	19.6.00 and 26.1.06	The Administration was requested to review the risk-adjusted factor and the repayment period of NLS in the light of members' comments.	<u>Latest position</u> A review is being conducted. The Administration will report the review results to the Panel shortly.
2. <u>Briefing on the Higher Education Review</u>  2.1 Institutional governance and staff grievances	2.12.02 and 21.6.04	The University Grants Committee (UGC) agreed to provide an update on the development of an internal grievances and complaint mechanism in the UGC-funded tertiary institutions at an appropriate time.	<u>Latest position</u> All the institutions have completed reviews of their governance and management structures, including their internal grievances and complaint mechanisms. The UGC will provide an update shortly.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Follow-up action required</b>	<b>Administration's response</b>
<p>3. <u>Consolidation of high cost and low utilization of primary schools</u></p> <p>3.1 Policy and follow-up measures</p>	<p>19.4.04</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide an information paper on its long-term policy and follow-up measures to resolve the problems arising from consolidation of under-utilized primary schools and provide an estimate of the number of primary schools which would be affected by the policy in the future.</p>	<p><u>Latest Position</u> This item has been superseded by recent developments. In September 2007, the Administration announced further relief measures for the primary schools in the 2008-2009 school year, viz. reduction in the number of students to be allocated to a Primary One class under the Primary Schools Admission (POA) system from 37 to 35, or from 32 to 30, with corresponding reduction in the minimum threshold for the operation of a Primary One class from 23 to 21. In October 2007, the Chief Executive announced in his Policy Address the implementation of small class teaching in public sector primary schools progressively, starting from the cohort of students entering Primary One in the 2009-2010 school year. Upon implementation, the standard class size for allocation purpose under POA will be reduced to 25 for schools practising small class and 30 for other schools. The minimum threshold for the operation of a Primary One class will also be further reduced from 21 to 16.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
			<p>With the above developments, the backdrop against which Members expressed their earlier concerns in 2004 has been changed significantly. The incidence of school consolidation should be ameliorated, but the Administration is not in a position to estimate the number of schools (if any) to be affected given the variables involved, i.e. options on class size, parental choice, population changes etc. The Administration will continue to monitor the situation and report to the Panel on a need basis.</p>
<p>4. <u>Briefing by the Secretary for Education and Manpower on the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2005-2006</u></p> <p>4.1 Bullying and violence in schools</p> <p>4.2 Provision of post-secondary education opportunities to meet the forecast manpower needs</p>	<p>20.10.05</p> <p>20.10.05</p>	<p>The Administration undertook to provide an information note on bullying and violence in schools.</p> <p>The Administration was requested to provide an information note on provision of post-secondary education opportunities to meet the forecast manpower needs.</p>	<p><u>Latest Position</u> The information note will be prepared in due course when sufficient data have been collected through surveys.</p> <p>Response awaited.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
<p>5. <u>The Language Fund</u></p> <p>5.1 Teaching of English in kindergartens</p> <p>5.2 Teaching of Chinese Language in Putonghua</p>	<p>12.12.05 and 11.6.07</p> <p>12.12.05</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the report of the pilot scheme on provision of support to kindergartens in providing quality English exposure to pre-primary students.</p> <p>The Administration was requested to provide the report on the study conducted by the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research on the use of Putonghua to teach Chinese Language in schools.</p>	<p><u>Latest position</u> Report of the pilot scheme will be available early 2008.</p> <p><u>Latest position</u> Data analysis of the study is in progress. The Administration expects to complete the study report by end January 2008.</p>
<p>6. <u>Articulation and employment opportunities for sub-degree graduates</u></p> <p>6.1 Supply of and demand for sub-degree places and resources allocation</p> <p>6.2 Participation rate of university education in overseas places</p>	<p>11.12.06</p> <p>11.12.06</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide updated information concerning the supply of and demand for sub-degree places and the resources allocated for the sector.</p> <p>The Administration was requested to provide the percentage of secondary school graduates who had access to university education in overseas places such as South Korea and Taiwan.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p>Response awaited.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
6.3 Sub-degree qualifications of civil service recruits in 2005.	11.12.06	The Administration was requested to provide a breakdown of the sub-degree qualifications held by the 1 206 new recruits in 2005 by the name of the awarding institutions.	Response awaited.
7. <u>Briefing by the Secretary for Education</u>			
7.1 Small Class Teaching	9.7.07	The Administration was requested to estimate the cost for implementing small class teaching at different levels.	<u>Latest position</u> Implementation of Small Class Teaching in public sector primary schools starting from the 2009-2010 school year has been included as one of the new initiatives in education in the Policy Address. The Administration will map out the implementation details in consultation with the stakeholders including the Panel and have these finalized before September 2008. Pending the drawing up of implementation details and options by schools, the Administration is not in a position to arrive at a realistic estimate for the cost of implementation.
7.2 Undergraduate programme places for sub-degree holders	9.7.07	The Administration was requested to work out the estimated cost for the provision of articulation places in the UGC-funded institutions that would meet the demand of sub-degree holders.	Response awaited.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Follow-up action required</b>	<b>Administration's response</b>
8. <u>2007-2008 Policy Briefing</u>  8.1 Provision of free pre-primary education          8.2 Views on academic freedom	18.10.07          18.10.07	The Administration was requested to provide the additional cost, on top of the expenditure for implementing the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme, for the provision of free pre-primary education.          The Administration was requested to explain its stance and views on academic freedom.	Response awaited.          Response awaited.