



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局

Education Bureau

Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

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8 January 2009

Miss Odelia Leung  
Clerk to Panel on Education  
Legislative Council  
3rd floor, Citibank Tower  
3 Garden Road  
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Leung,

**Panel on Education**  
**List of follow-up actions**

At the meeting on 8 December 2008, Members asked for further information on the savings arising from a decline in school-age population and whether they would be redeployed to the university sector for the implementation of 4-year undergraduate programmes.

As stated in the report "The New Academic Structure for Senior Secondary Education and Higher Education - Action Plan for Investing in the Future of Hong Kong" published in 2005, it is a misconception that the Government will redirect resources freed up from the projected decline in secondary student enrolment to fund the 4-year undergraduate programmes in the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded sector.

Generally speaking, recurrent savings arising from the secondary student population decline will be ploughed back to the implementation of the senior secondary structure in the secondary school level. Various support initiatives are being introduced, including the Senior Secondary Curriculum Support Grant, Diversity Learning Grant, etc. Furthermore, we have also

introduced further relief measures relating to Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) and approved class size. These measures include reducing the number of Secondary 1 (S1) students allocated under the SSPA system from 38 to 36 students per class in 2009 and further to 34 students in 2010, and the relaxation of the threshold for counting the number of S1 classes for secondary schools with surplus teachers in September 2008 from 35 to 33 students per class and further to 30 students per class in September 2009. It is estimated that upon full implementation of these measures, the ultimate funds involved will be over \$1.4 billion. These measures aim to provide a relatively stable environment for secondary schools, particularly those which may have to face class reduction due to a shrinking population.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Wong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

(Amy Wong)  
for Secretary for Education