

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion (position as at 12 March 2010)

Proposed timing
for discussion

1. Subsidy on Internet access charges for needy students and related measures

Item proposed by the Administration. The item aims to seek members' views on the proposal to help needy students with Internet learning in the 2010-2011 Budget, i.e.

April 2010

- (a) disbursing a cash subsidy on Internet access charges in 2010-2011 academic year to each family with children studying in primary or secondary schools who are receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or eligible for student financial assistance from the Student Financial Assistance Agency; and
- (b) setting up a non-profit making organisation to provide economical Internet services and computer hardware to low-income families in need and other complementary services.

The Administration plans to submit the proposal to the Finance Committee for consideration in mid-late May 2010.

2. Fifth Matching Grant Scheme for Local Degree-awarding Institutions

Item proposed by the Administration. In the Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary proposes to allocate \$1 billion to launch the fifth Matching Grant Scheme for matching private donations secured by the 12 local degree-awarding institutions. Subject to the members' support, the Administration will seek funding approval of the Finance Committee.

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The Administration plans to submit the proposal to the Finance Committee for consideration on 30 April 2010.

Proposed timing
for discussion

3. Review of the Financial Assistance Scheme for Designated Evening Adult Education Courses

Item proposed by the Administration. When seeking Legislative Council's approval of the revised Financial Assistance for Designated Evening Adult Education Courses in 2008, the Administration undertook to review the Government's support for adult learners pursuing evening mainstream secondary education after the completion of the 2008-2009 school year. This item seeks members' views on the proposed way forward.

April 2010

4. The progress of local and international recognition and promotion of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Qualification

At the meeting on 8 February 2010, members raised the concern about the local and international recognition of HKDSE. According to the Administration, the Education Bureau and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority have been working closely to secure local and international recognition of the HKDSE. Efforts have been focused on promoting the HKDSE for admission to universities and higher education institutions, as well as securing employment opportunities. The first stage of the exercise includes studies with the Universities and Colleges Admissions Services of the United Kingdom. Local promotion to different institutions is in progress. On the other hand, Hong Kong delegation will be visiting overseas countries including Canada, UK, USA, Australia, India, and Singapore to further promote the new academic structure and the international recognition of the HKDSE.

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5. Injection into the Language Fund

Item proposed by the Administration. This item seeks to have Members' support for injecting \$500 million into the Language Fund to further upgrade the students' biliterate and trilingual proficiency.

May 2010

Proposed timing
for discussion

6. Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (the Scheme)

The subject was proposed by Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong. Mr CHEUNG was of the view that the objectives and effectiveness of the Scheme were unclear.

To be confirmed

7. Final Report of the Study on Small Class Teaching

At the meeting on 11 January 2010, members agreed to discuss and invite deputations to give views on the subject.

To be confirmed
(Subject to the
availability of the
Consultant)

8. Education for students with special educational needs (SEN)

In the context of discussing the school leaving arrangements for students with intellectual disability at the various meetings in June and July 2009, members considered that the Panel should discuss the provision of education for students with SEN.

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 15 October 2009, members agreed to follow up the school leaving arrangements for students with intellectual disability. The Chairman proposed at the meeting on 8 February 2010 that discussion on the subject should include assessment and recognition of qualifications of students as well as review of class structure of special schools.

9. Liberal Studies

The subject was discussed at the meeting on 11 July 2009. At the meeting on 15 October 2009, members suggested that the Panel should continue to discuss the subject.

To be confirmed

10. Exit pathways for students taking the 2010 Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE)

At the meeting on 9 November 2009, members agreed to discuss the exit pathways for students taking the 2010 HKCEE. Members were concerned that in the past, Secondary (S) 5 graduates who were not admitted to S6 classes had the opportunity of repeating S5, as well as re-taking the HKCEE in the following year. However, candidates sitting for the last

To be confirmed

Proposed timing
for discussion

HKCEE held in 2010 would no longer have such an option.

11. Trial scheme on school drug testing in Tai Po District (the Scheme) and development of rehabilitation centre-cum-schools

At the meeting on 8 September 2009, the Administration agreed to provide an interim report on the Scheme as well as the estimated additional resources required for downstream services.

The Panel on Security discussed implementation progress of the trial scheme on school drug testing in Tai Po District at its meeting on 2 March 2010.

As the focus of discussion of the Panel on Security was different from that of the Panel on Education, members considered that the two Panels should follow up the subject from different perspective. Members agreed at the meeting on 8 February 2010 to discuss the Scheme at a later stage after it had been implemented for a longer period.

A paper on education for young drug abusers and relocation of Christian Zheng Sheng College will be discussed at the Panel meeting on 18 March 2010

12. International schools

At the meeting on 15 October 2009, members raised the concern about student enrolment in international schools built on land granted by the Government. Pending the provision of written information from the Administration on the policy concerning proper use of public resources allocated to international schools, the Panel will consider the need to discuss the subject.

The information paper provided by the Administration was circulated to members on 2 December 2009 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)429/09-10. The Chairman considered it necessary to discuss the subject.

To be confirmed