



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

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Mrs Constance LI
Clerk to Finance Committee
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs LI,

Support for Disadvantaged Students

At the Finance Committee Meeting held on 17 December 2010 which has discussed, among other agenda items, the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and the Social Security Allowance Scheme, Hon WONG Kwok-hing asked about the measures to support the disadvantaged students to participate in extra-curricular activities. The Labour and Welfare Bureau has referred the above to us for a reply.

Under the policy on poverty alleviation, the Education Bureau has implemented the School-based After-school Learning and Support Programmes (Programme) since the 2005/06 school year to provide schools and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with funding to organise after-school activities for Primary 1 to Secondary 7 students in receipt of the CSSA/full-grant under the Student Financial Assistance Schemes (SFAS)¹ so as to facilitate students' whole-person development.

¹ Schools and NGOs have been given the discretion to offer not more than 10% of the places of the activities to other needy students not receiving CSSA/full grant under SFAS.

To tie in with the objective of the Programme, the after-school activities as organised should cover 3 major areas, viz. tutorial services to improve learning effectiveness and other activities which are generally known as extra-curricular activities such as cultural and art activities, sports activities, adventure activities, self-confidence development training, social and communication skills training, leadership training, voluntary services, outdoor activities and visits, etc. with a view to broadening students' learning experiences and raising their understanding of the community and sense of belonging.

Regarding the funding mode of the Programme, all public-sector primary and secondary schools and schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) may apply for the School-based Grant under the Programme while NGOs are invited on a yearly basis to submit proposals to apply for funding under the Community-based Project Grant. Schools may also collaborate with NGOs in bidding for the grant.

Starting from the 2010/11 school year, the provision of the Programme has been substantially increased from \$75 million to \$175 million to strengthen the depth and breadth of the Programme so as to provide more opportunities for disadvantaged students to participate in school-based as well as community-based after-school activities.

In the 2010/11 school year, a total of 309 community-based applications have been approved, with funding amounting to about \$110 million and serving about 68 600 target students. In tandem, 853 public-sector schools and schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme with a total of about 163 400 target students have been provided with the School-based Grant amounting to about \$65 million.

Given the fact that the Programme is to complement similar support for needy students as provided by the other Government bureaux/departments as well as other organizations, we have encouraged schools and NGOs to redeploy other funding / subsidies as appropriate to support needy students.

For enquiries, please contact the undersigned at 2863 4725.

Yours sincerely,

(C K CHOY)
for Secretary for Education