

寄件人： ALEX CHIU  
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主題： IMPORTANT - Panel Meeting on ESF Subvention 11 Jul

Dear Hon Starry Lee, Mr Michael Suen, and All Others,

The Legco Education Panel Meeting on "Review of ESF Subvention" will be held on 11th Jul. We ESF parents sincerely hope you would listen to our voice. Please see the letter with supports from PTAs. Attached also is the data on subvention. We believe there will be sensible and open-minded discussion in the meeting, with the interests of students and benefits to HK education system as ultimate consideration.

We are compiling individual parent's response and will send to you later.

Best Regards

Dr Alex CHIU  
Consultant Cardiologist, Caritas Medical Centre  
(Parent of 3 children studying in Shatin Junior & Shatin College, upcoming year 4, 7, 9)



PARENTS VIEW ON ESF SUBVENTION\_4.7.2011.doc



subventions comparison 2006-2011.pdf



Another Letter to Legco.doc

4<sup>th</sup> July 2011

To : Legco Education Panel (Hon Starry Lee, Hon Cyd Ho, All Members)  
Education Bureau (Mr Michael Suen, Ms Cherry Tse, Mr Kenneth Chen, Ms Mable Chan)  
Cc : ESF ComPar Chair , all PTA Chairs

### **PARENTS' VIEW ON SUBVENTION TO ESF**

The Legco Education Panel Meeting on “Review of ESF Subvention” will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> Jul 2011 following the recent negotiation between EDB and ESF. Whether ESF subvention would be continued or not will be discussed.

ESF parents are critically concerned about the future subventions as parents bear the greatest impact from any change in subvention level.

The subvented ESF was established by Ordinance in 1967 with subsidies according to the “Parity of subsidy” principle. However, the level of subvention has been frozen since 1999 for “efficiency saving purpose” because of economic downturn. But the subvention to local subvented (Aided/DSS) schools have been increased yearly since then as per appendix, whereas that to ESF remained frozen. Therefore ESF students are underprivileged rather than “overprivileged” as misconceived by public.

Currently there are about 13,000 students in ESF. We believe that the important role of ESF includes:

- Provides the ONLY affordable choice for thousands of non-Chinese speaking permanent residents
- Provides the ONLY affordable choice for many returnee children who could not fit in local educational system
- Provides a choice of English/Liberal education for local students. This would also relief the demand for school places in mainstream EMI schools
- Provides affordable school places to attract and retain overseas talented “expatriates” whose employment terms are no more generous than local employees eg “NET teachers” / University’s lecturers ...

Basic Law guarantees that policy on subventions prior to 1997 shall be maintained. ESF should not be unilaterally excluded from the government aided sector.

In the Legco Education panel meeting (22th Mar 2007) about the new ESF ordinance, members were generally supportive of lifting up subvention on par with local subvented schools.

Someone argues that there is “unfair” competition between ESF and private international schools, and so ESF subvention should be removed. The argument is simply unsound. ESF has been subvented for 44 years. Local

system also comprise of private and subvented (Govt., Aided, DSS) schools. If the abovementioned argument holds true, there would be “unfair” competition between the private DGS primary school and the aided Maryknoll Convent School (both are very popular girl’s schools with similar “market”), and the subvention to Maryknoll Convent School should be removed. This is not sensible at all. The co-existence of subvented and private schools in both mainstream and international sectors actually reflects the vibrant/diverse nature of HK education system which is consistent with the government policy. The parents have free choices to subvented or private schools according to their own affordability and preference.

Someone says ESF are teaching “non-local” curriculum (International Baccalaureate IB) and students are not sitting for local examination. Yet increasingly more subvented schools are offering non-local curriculum (eg IB in St Paul’s co-ed, DBS.....). Local Universities take in increasingly more students from ESF and from Non-JUPAS scheme. A striking example being that one third (~50 out of 150) of CUHK Medical students entries are through Non-JUPAS route. This reflects the increasing recognition of these kinds of students.

Someone also says ESF have great amount of reserves and parents are all rich and hence not deserving subvention. This statement is simply specious. First of all the, ESF reserve was accumulated from parents’ hard-earned money over the years. Majority of ESF families are middle class. Many are struggling for the continuous hiking of school fees over the past five years. There are of course wealthy parents but this also applies to local subvented schools (eg La Salle, Maryknoll, DBS, St. Paul’s Co-ed College...). Many children of billionaires or government high officials are studying at these schools. Everyday there is long queue of flamboyant sedans waiting to pick up students from Maryknoll Convent School. They do not need to pay school fees at all. This is perfectly acceptable because the government subventions are NOT means tested. Why are our children studying at ESF schools being discriminated? It would be unthinkable that the subvention to our children are removed while we are subsidizing other children.

ESF system provides basically through train schools from year 1 to 13. At the beginning of the schooling, parents certainly have reasonable expectation that ESF will continue to be subvented with sustained and affordable fee level throughout the study.

We sincerely plead with the government and Legco members to continue and lift the subvention on par with the local aided schools such as direct subsidy schools. This is the BASIC RIGHTS of our children.

Dr Alex CHIU (Parent Representative at Legco Education Panel Meeting Mar2007)

Consultant Cardiologist (Cardiology Service-in-charge), Caritas Medical Centre. alexchiu28@yahoo.com.hk

Dr. Sarah Rigby {Parent Representative at Legco PAC meeting (ESF subvention) Jan2005, Ex-Joint Council PTA Chair}

(cont'd)

Rochelle Williams (Shatin Junior School PTA Chair, Chair of Committee of Parents)

Clare Lam (Shatin College PTA Chair)

Joan Lye (Island School PTA Chair)

Debra Perrin (South Island School Acting PTA Chair)

Fiona Bishop, MBE (Quarry Bay School PTA chair)

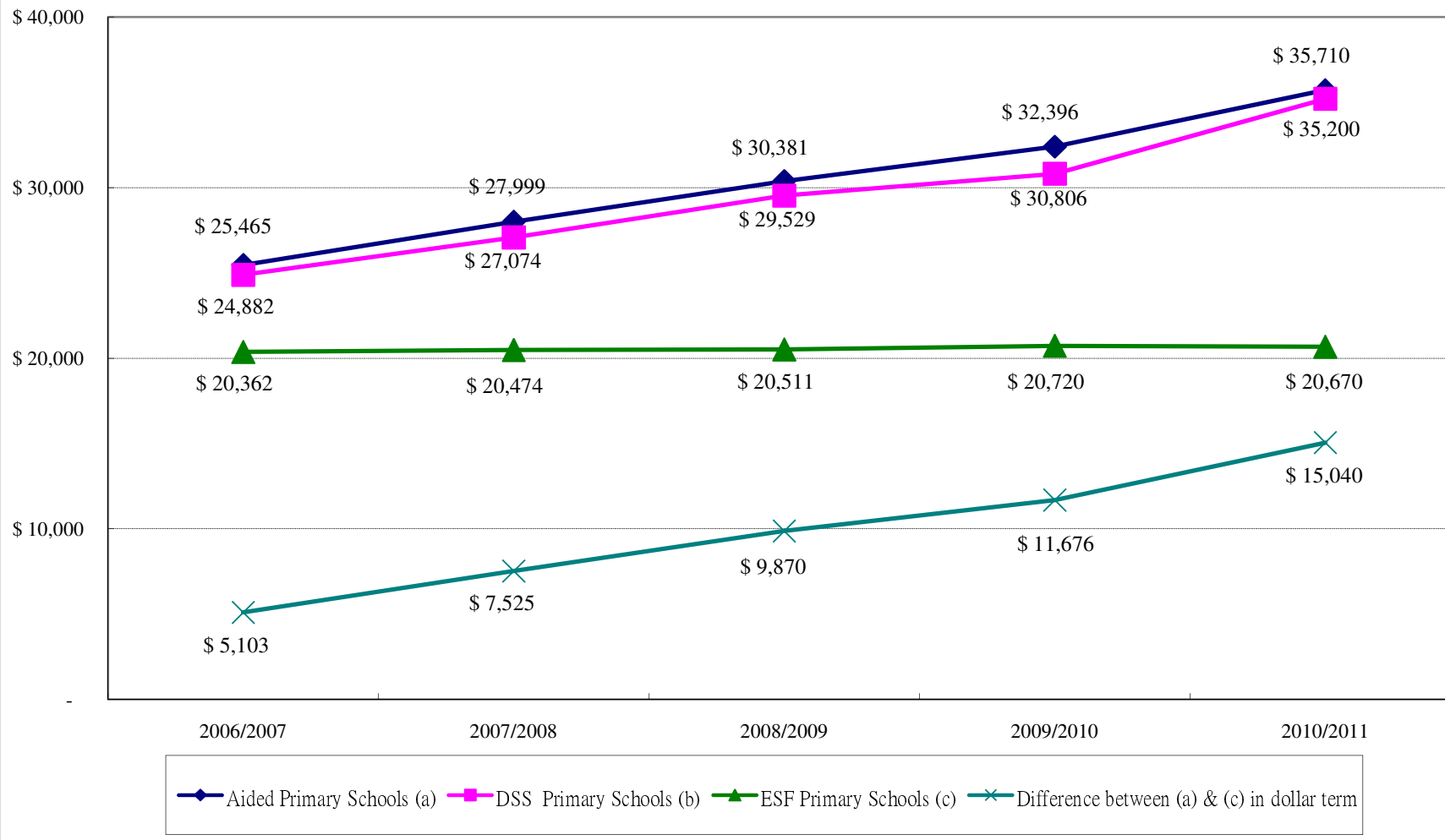
Richard M. Walker (West Island School PTA Chair)

Ada Lam (Kowloon Junior School PTA Chair)

Michelle Chan (Beacon Hill School PTA Chair)

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**Government Subsidies to Aided, DDS and ESF Primary Schools  
(HK\$ per student per year)  
Source: EDB**

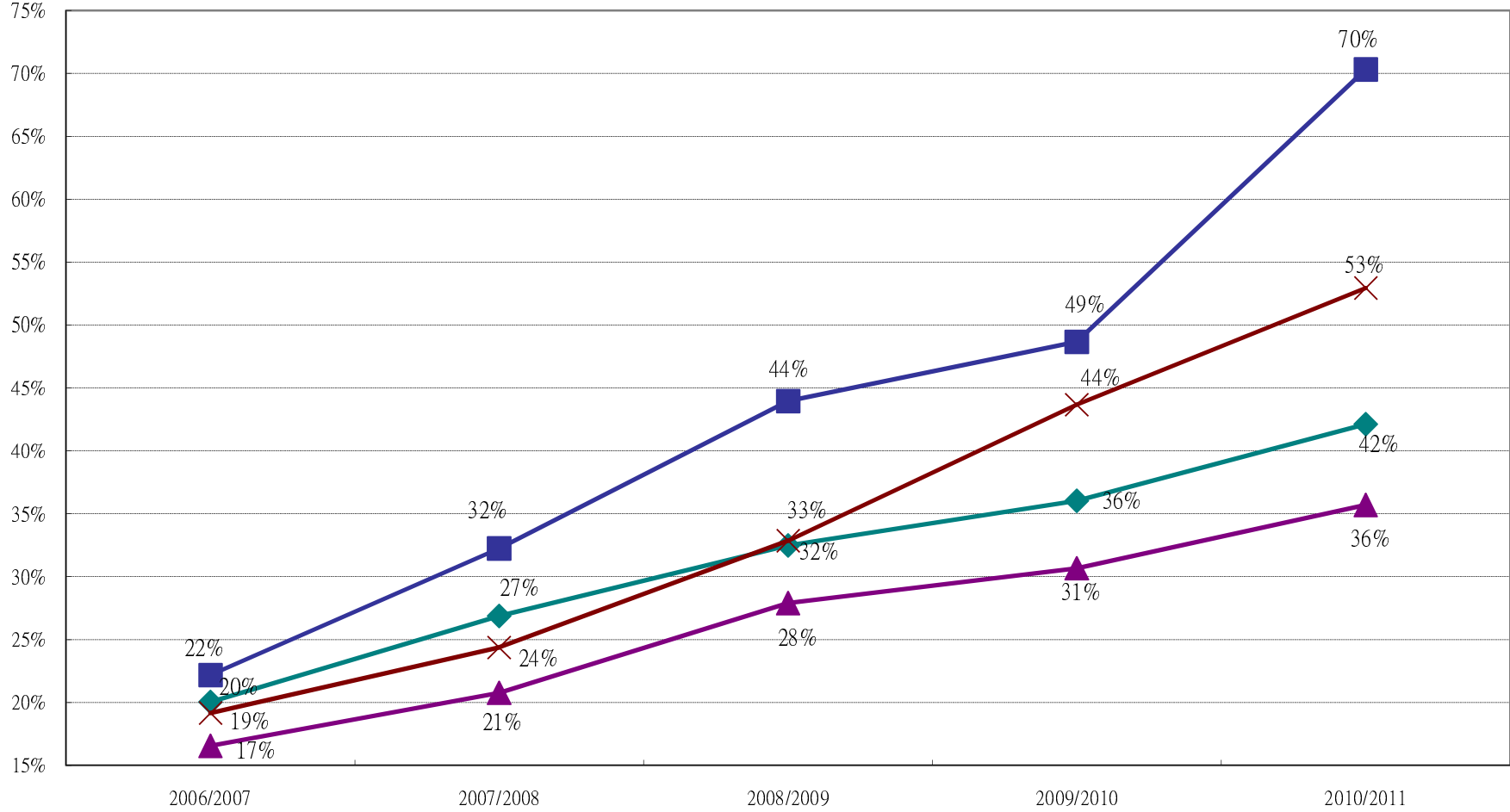


**Government Subsidies to Aided, DSS and ESF Secondary Schools  
(HK\$ per student per year)  
Source: EDB**



Note: Aided Schools are fully subvented by the Government as no school fee is paid, while Direct Subsidised Schools are partially subvented by the Government and the rest is funded by school fees. It is equitable to compare the subventions between DSS schools and ESF schools.

Difference in percentage wise



◆ Difference between (a) & (c) in percentage wise (Primary Schools)    ■ Difference between (b) & (c) in percentage wise (Primary Schools)  
▲ Difference between (d) & (f) in percentage wise (Secondary Schools)    ✕ Difference between (e) & (f) in percentage wise (Secondary Schools)

9<sup>th</sup> Jul 2011

To: Legco Education Panel (Ms Starry Lee, Ms Cyd Ho, Members)

CC : EDB (Mr Michael Suen, Mr Kenneth Chen, Ms Mable chan)

CC : ESF, ComPar, PTA Chairs

### **ESF SUBVENTION**

ESF parents are outraged that EDB unilaterally announced its intention to remove/phase out the ESF subvention. That has no reasonable ground at all. The parents of ~13,000 students who are the most important stakeholder/end-user were not consulted (same mistake!). That is absolutely unacceptable.

ESF students have very good performance in the newly released IB results. The unit cost/subsidy of each ESF student is lower than that of other subvented schools. Isn't it good "value for money" to government and HK societies? So it is really unreasonable, illogical, and even unlawful to force ESF to become private school.

I believe any people with passion in education would support ESF.

Dr Alex CHIU

Consultant Cardiologist, Caritas Medical Centre