



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

香港灣仔皇后大道東213號胡忠大廈10樓1003室 學校行政及支援分部

School Administration and Support Division, Room 1003, 10/F., Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

本局檔號 Our Ref.: EDB(EPSNT)/ADM/055/4(7)

電話 Telephone: 2892 6401

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

傳真 Fax Line: 2119 9061

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Miss Odelia LEUNG
Clerk to Education Panel
Legislative Council
Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miss LEUNG

**Legislative Council
Special Meeting of the Panel on Education on 21 October 2011**

Assistance to autistic children

At the special meeting of the LegCo Panel on Education on 21 October 2011, when discussing the assistance to autistic children, Members requested information on the number of autistic students in schools and the assistance to be provided to these students in the three-year pilot scheme on the enhancement of support services for students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). I am writing to provide the required information at Appendix.

If you have further enquiry on the above, please contact Ms Doris LEE at 2639 4754 or 2437 7260.

Yours sincerely

(Miss PL WU)

for Secretary for Education

Number of autistic students and services to be provided under the pilot scheme

In the 2010/11 school year (as of 15 September 2010), the number of students with ASD attending ordinary secondary and primary schools are around 780 and 1 980 respectively.

We plan to implement the three-year pilot scheme on enhancement of support services for students with ASD in the 2011/12 school year in ordinary secondary and primary schools. With a view to facilitating learning by students with ASD, the pilot scheme aims to improve their social communication, emotional management and learning skills. The pilot scheme comprises two parts. For part one of the scheme, structured group training will be provided for students with ASD on top of their regular learning at ordinary schools. The Education Bureau (EDB) will commission non-governmental organizations and / or tertiary institutions which have the relevant expertise to provide small group training after school and / or on Saturdays for ASD students in all grade levels in the participating schools. The target is to cover around 40% of the students with ASD in about 50 primary and 30 secondary schools. For part two of the scheme, about 30 primary schools will be supported by educational psychologists in developing and trying out a comprehensive school support model for early intervention of students with ASD at junior primary levels. As the pilot schools will need to create room for the teachers to develop and try out various assessment tools and intervention strategies, as well as consolidate their knowledge and experience in an operation manual for dissemination to, and sharing with, all primary schools in Hong Kong upon completion of the scheme, the EDB will provide additional funding for the schools to employ teaching assistants during the pilot period.

The tendering exercise for part one of the scheme is in progress. In April this year, the EDB introduced the main features of the pilot scheme in the workshops on supporting students with ASD organized for secondary and primary schools. Schools were invited to apply for participation through an EDB circular issued in May 2011. Responses from the schools are encouraging and priority will be given to schools with larger clusters of students with ASD.

When considering the way forward, we will evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot scheme by taking into account not only the feedback from the stakeholders but also the capacity of the service providers and professionals.