

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Education
School-based Professional Support Programmes
Financed by the Education Development Fund

Purpose

This paper reports on the progress of the School-based Professional Support (SBPS) Programmes financed by the Education Development Fund (EDF) in the 2010/11 school year.

Background

2. The EDF was set up in July 2004 with a grant of \$550 million as approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council to provide differentiated school-based professional support (SBPS) for building schools' capacity in taking forward the education reform initiatives. Since its inception, the EDF has been supporting schools and teachers by way of the following five strands of SBPS Programmes, namely (i) Principal Support Network; (ii) School Support Partners (Seconded Teacher Scheme); (iii) Professional Development Schools Scheme; (iv) University-School Support Programmes; and (v) Collegial Participation in External School Review.
3. An Advisory Committee on the EDF comprising frontline teachers, principals, academics and community members has been set up since August 2004 to advise on the operation of the Fund and the implementation of the SBPS Programmes. A cross-divisional working group within Education Bureau (EDB) has also been set up to oversee and monitor the delivery of the Programmes on a regular basis.
4. EDB's annual report on the progress of the implementation of the SBPS Programmes for the 2009/10 school year was submitted vide Information Paper No. CB(2)204/10-11(01) in October 2010.

Progress Update

5. The demand for the support services under the five strands of SBPS

Programmes has remained high over the years. The number of schools supported by the SBPS Programmes since the 2004/05 school year is at Annex I. A brief account of the five Programmes involving 505 schools and a summary of their implementation in the 2010/11 school year are at Annex II.

6. Over the past seven years, the EDF has allocated a total of \$445.5 million for some 3,800 school support services. As of August 2011, the Fund has a balance of some \$165.6 million which should be adequate to meet the committed expenditures of the existing SBPS Programmes for completion before the 2012/13 school year.

7. As to date, EDF is holding an uncommitted amount of about \$60 million. The current cash position of EDF is at Annex III. EDB is conducting an in-house review with a view to informing the way forward for the EDF beyond 2012. EDB will report the recommendations to the Panel on Education by the end of this year.

Advice Sought

8. Members are invited to note the progress of the SBPS Programmes.

**Education Bureau
October 2011**

Number of Schools Supported by SBPS Programmes financed by EDF

	2004/05 School Year			2005/06 School Year			2006/07 School Year			2007/08 School Year				2008/09 School Year				2009/10 School Year				2010/11 School Year (as at 31.8.2011)			
	Sec	Pri	Sp	Sec	Pri	Sp	Sec	Pri	Sp	Sec	Pri	Sp	KG*	Sec	Pri	Sp	KG*	Sec	Pri	Sp	KG*	Sec	Pri	Sp	KG*
Number of participating schools & its % share in respect of the respective school types	165 (35.7%)	108 (16.3%)	10 (16.1%)	228 (48.6%)	216 (35.2%)	20 (32.3%)	218 (46.1%)	246 (43.9%)	21 (34.4%)	170 (36.2%)	220 (41.0%)	15 (25.0%)	48 (4.9%)	170 (36.5%)	196 (38.1%)	14 (23.3%)	87 (8.7%)	204 (44.1%)	204 (41.4%)	19 (31.7%)	98 (10.2%)	168 (36.2%)	195 (40.4%)	31 (51.7%)	111 (11.7%)
Total	283			464			485			453				467				525				505			

*KG stands for kindergartens and kindergarten-cum-child care centres

**Progress of Implementation of the
School-based Professional Support Programmes in the 2010/11 school year*****I. Principal Support Network (PSN)***

Strategy	Secondment of experienced principals or recruitment of retired principals to provide collegial support for partner principals, and formation of network clusters for interactive professional sharing among principals, with a view to enhancing their leadership skills through various modes of professional exchange activities.
Progress of Implementation (2010/11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Three retired principals were invited to join the Collegial Principal Support Network (CPSN) to provide collegial support for newly appointed partner principals.➤ Three CPSNs, for the newly appointed partner principals in primary, secondary and special education sectors respectively, were set up. Network activities including workshops, school visits and professional sharing were conducted.➤ A series of talks delivered by experts, business and community leaders under the “Education Leadership Programme” were organized to provide new perspectives for principals to examine their work from different perspectives.➤ Five series of “Middle Managers Learning Community” workshops on enhancing deputy primary school heads’ capacity in school development, professional leadership, team building as well as on problem-solving were successfully conducted.
No. of Beneficiaries/	24 principals from secondary, primary and special schools joined the collegial principal support networks. About 260 participants took part in support activities such as workshops, seminars and visits, under the Principal Support Network.
Accumulative Expenditure (from 2004/05 to 2010/11)	\$8.1 M

II. School Support Partners (Seconded Teacher Scheme) (SSP)

<p>Strategy</p>	<p><u>SSP(Local)</u></p> <p>Secondment of experienced frontline teachers on a full-time or part-time basis to provide peer support to teachers in other schools on various theme-based or key learning area projects and to establish platforms for professional sharing.</p> <p><u>SSP(Mainland)</u></p> <p>Interflow programmes with Mainland expert teachers to enhance professional capacity.</p>
<p>Progress of Implementation (2010/11)</p>	<p><u>SSP(Local)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In the 2010/11 school year, 36 seconded teachers were recruited on a part-time basis to support the implementation of the partnership projects on topics which included theme-based learning networks, preparation for the New Senior Secondary Curriculum and catering for learner diversity and support on small class teaching, etc. <p><u>SSP(Mainland)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 48 Mainland expert teachers joined the “Mainland-Hong Kong Teachers Exchange & Collaboration Programme” to facilitate professional interflow and capacity building. They worked in partnership and shared their experiences with local primary and secondary school teachers in various areas relating to the learning and teaching of Chinese Language and Mathematics. In respect of kindergartens, the collaboration programmes included music, physical or arts integrated activities. ➤ Two district-based networks of primary schools were established to facilitate schools’ development in the learning and teaching of Mathematics.

	<p><u>SSP(Local) – New focus</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The first phase of the “Pilot Scheme on Hong Kong Teachers’ Exchange Activities to the Mainland” was launched in May 2010. Ten local English language teachers were seconded to conduct on-site exchange activities with schools in Foshan and Shenzhen. ➤ Based on the successful experiences of the first phase of the programme, the Pilot Scheme was extended to 29 local teachers and the duration of secondment was extended from 1 - 2 weeks to 4 weeks in the Mainland. Mainland teachers from schools participating in the Pilot Scheme were invited to visit Hong Kong schools and conduct interflow programme for local teachers during their 1-week stay in Hong Kong.
<p>No. of Beneficiaries</p>	<p><u>SSP(Local)</u></p> <p>In the 2010/11 school year, a total of 36 seconded teachers from local primary and secondary schools participated in various SSP projects.</p> <p><u>SSP(Mainland)</u></p> <p>A total of 48 Mainland teachers joined the Mainland-Hong Kong Teachers Exchange & Collaboration Programme. They provided intensive support to 10 secondary schools, 46 primary schools and 60 pre-primary institutions. More than 50 teachers from other 44 primary schools took part in the district-based network with focus on the learning and teaching of Mathematics.</p>
<p>Accumulative Expenditure (from 2004/05 to 2010/11)</p>	<p>\$141.7M</p>

III. Professional Development Schools (PDS) Scheme

Strategy	Designating schools with exemplary practices in learning and teaching and a good sharing culture as PDSs. Each PDS forms a network with two or three partner schools focusing on specific pedagogical themes to foster an interactive collaborative culture and enhance the effectiveness of learning and teaching through various exchange activities.
Progress of Implementation in 2010/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In the 2010/11 school year, there were 19 PDSs comprising 10 primary schools, 8 secondary schools and 1 special school. ➤ The areas for professional sharing covered a wide range of subjects and themes, including Chinese, English, Mathematics, General Studies, Liberal Studies and Integrated Education.
No. of Beneficiaries	56 partner schools comprising 25 secondary, 30 primary and 1 special schools benefited from the scheme.
Accumulative Expenditure (from 2004/05 to 2010/2011)	\$29M

IV. University-School Support Programmes (USP)

Strategy	Universities are commissioned to provide a diversified mode of support services to cater for schools' developmental needs through connecting research-based pedagogies with classroom practices.
Progress of Implementation (2010/11)	<p>Seven projects were financed by the Fund in the 2010/11 school year:</p> <p>(1) Quality School Improvement Project (2008-2011) <i>(Hong Kong Institute of Educational Research, Faculty of Education, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)</i></p> <p>(2) Professional Development Network for Knowledge</p>

	<p>Building in Schools (2008-2011)</p> <p><i>(Centre for Information Technology in Education, Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong)</i></p> <p>(3) Supporting Secondary Schools in the Teaching and Learning of Chinese for non-native learners (2008-2011)</p> <p><i>(Centre for Advancement of Chinese Language Education and Research, Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong)</i></p> <p>(4) Empowering Early Childhood Institutions in Implementing Effective School-based Curriculum (2008-2011)</p> <p><i>(Centre for Childhood Research and Innovation, The Hong Kong Institute of Education)</i></p> <p>(5) Quality School Improvement Project : Support for Learning Diversity (2010-2013)</p> <p><i>(Hong Kong Institute of Educational Research, Faculty of Education, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)</i></p> <p>(6) Partnership for Promoting Whole-Child Development Project (2010-2013)</p> <p><i>(The Centre for University and School Partnership, Faculty of Education, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)</i></p> <p>(7) Exploratory Study in Enhancing the Pedagogical Practices in Hong Kong Special Schools (2010-2012)</p> <p><i>(Centre for Special Needs and Studies in Inclusive Education, The Hong Kong Institute of Education)</i></p>
<p>No. of Beneficiaries</p>	<p>➤ 65 secondary schools, 38 primary schools, 21 special schools and 51 pre-primary institutions benefited from the above-mentioned Programmes.</p>
<p>Accumulative Expenditure (from 2004/05 to 2010/11)</p>	<p>\$261.5M</p>

V. Collegial Participation in External School Review (ESR)

Strategy	Experienced serving principals and teachers are invited to engage in the ESR of other schools as external reviewers to enhance their understanding of the school self-improvement processes and to enhance the professional competency of the ESR team.
Progress of Implementation (2010/11)	The second cycle of ESR commenced for primary, secondary schools and special schools starting from the 2009/10 school year.
No. of Beneficiaries	Between September 2010 and June 2011, 136 external reviewers from 70 secondary schools, 57 primary schools and 9 special schools joined EDB's ESR.
Accumulative Expenditure (from 2004/05 to 2010/2011)	\$4.3M

SBPS Programme Expenditure

School Year	(HK\$ Million)								
	2004/05 (Actual)	2005/06 (Actual)	2006/07 (Actual)	2007/08 (Actual)	2008/09 (Actual)	2009/10 (Actual)	2010/11 (Actual)	Accumulated Total (2004/05 to 2010/11)	2011/12 (Estimate)
Principal Support Network (PSN)	2.29	0.99	0.75	0.86	1.42	1.46	0.33	8.10	1.38
School Support Partners (Seconded Teacher) Scheme (SSP)	1.08	9.43	22.20	25.89	31.77	23.01	28.32	141.70	37.24
Professional Development Schools (PDS) Scheme	1.60	1.56	4.68	2.37	4.99	7.58	6.22	29.00	8.90
University-School Support Programmes (USP)	20.20	24.16	37.10	63.70	30.75	55.49	30.10	261.50	35.64
Collegial Participation in External School Review (ESR)	0.51	0.66	0.78	0.51	0.35	0.76	0.73	4.30	0.36
External Review (ER) of SBPS/SBSS Programmes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.37	0.37	0.00	0.92	0.00
Total	25.68	36.80	65.51	93.51	69.65	88.67	65.70	445.52	83.52

Cash Balance of EDF at the end of each School Year

School Year (Sept - Aug)	(HK\$ Million)							
	2004/05 (Actual)	2005/06 (Actual)	2006/07 (Actual)	2007/08 (Actual)	2008/09 (Actual)	2009/10 (Actual)	2010/11 (Actual)	2011/12 (Estimate)
Opening Cash Balance	0.00	535.45	505.63	457.05	379.61	316.4	229.49	165.65
Income								
Fund Injection	550.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interests	11.13	6.98	16.93	16.07	6.44	1.76	1.86	1.24
Expenditure								
SBPS Programme Expenditure	(25.68)	(36.80)	(65.51)	(93.51)	(69.65)	(88.67)	(65.70)	(83.52)
Cash Balance (by the end of Aug)	535.45	505.63	457.05	379.61	316.40	229.49	165.65	83.37