



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

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12 September 2014
By Fax and Email

Clerk to the Finance Committee
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr Derek LO)

Dear Mr Lo,

Finance Committee

Follow-up to meetings on 4 July 2014

Thank you for your letter of 20 August 2014 to the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, inviting the Administration to provide information below as a follow up to the discussion at the Finance Committee meetings held on 4 July 2014 on the item FCR(2014-15)4 on “Grant to the Vocational Training Council for implementing the Pilot Training and Support Scheme” –

- (a) Outlining existing measures being adopted by the Vocational Training Council (VTC) to help students with special education needs (SEN) and ethnic minority students; and
- (b) on the number of students with SEN who might qualify for recruitment under the Pilot Scheme, but are not qualified for admission to universities, and the number of these students who are expected to be recruited under the Pilot Scheme.

Regarding (a), in order to help students with SEN and non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students better study and adapt to campus life, dedicated services are provided by VTC to suit their needs. Services for students with SEN include provision of technical learning aids, special in-class and examination arrangements, academic and learning support, professional consultation, assessment services and career advisory; and for NCS students include academic and learning support (such as alternative vocational Chinese modules and additional tutorial classes if feasible), counseling and coaching, peer support through the peer mentorship scheme and various student activities for promoting a culture of inclusion in campus and integration with the community, as well as advisory support for articulation and career development.

As for (b), it should be noted that the Pilot Scheme targets Secondary 3 to Secondary 6 school leavers and eligible adult learners, rather than Secondary 6 school leavers alone who may be articulated to undergraduate programmes if they meet the relevant admission requirements. The Pilot Scheme will initially cover the electrical and mechanical (E&M) industry, and VTC will explore extending the Pilot Scheme to other industries which meet the relevant criteria. The Pilot Scheme will benefit 2 000 students in total for two cohorts of intakes admitted to VTC's training programmes for specific industries in the 2013/14 and 2014/15 academic years, and may be extended in case there are unexpended funds after implementing the Pilot Scheme for these two cohorts. The E&M industry was paying incentive allowance to students admitted in the 2013/14 academic year who were in their first year of training, of which there were 18 students with SEN. The Government will join in to offer incentive allowance to these students from their second year of training, if they are willing to participate in the Pilot Scheme. The number of SEN students joining the Pilot Scheme in later academic years is unknown at this stage.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Pecvin Yong)
for Secretary for Education

c.c.: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
(Attn: Ms Catherine WONG)