



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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30 July 2014

Clerk to Panel

Legislative Council Panel on Education

Legislative Council Complex

1 Legislative Council Road

Central, Hong Kong

(Attn: Ms Polly YEUNG)

Dear Ms YEUNG,

**Legislative Council Panel on Education**  
**Overall situation of public sector secondary schools**  
**upon release of 2014 Secondary One allocation results**

I refer to your letter dated 16 July 2014. Regarding the Hon Ip Kin-yuen's request for information on Secondary One (S1) allocation results by district, the reply of the Education Bureau (EDB) is as follows:

On 9 July 2013, the Legislative Council Panel on Education (the Panel) discussed<sup>1</sup> the series of relief measures<sup>2</sup> announced by the EDB in 2012, with a view to maintaining the stability and strengths of public sector

<sup>1</sup> LC Paper No. CB(4)852/12-13(09) is relevant.

<sup>2</sup> The relief measures include :

- relaxing the "not less than three S1 classes" requirement;
- on the basis of the relaxation of the criterion for approving S1 classes to 25 students per class, secondary schools are allowed to operate two S1 classes with a minimum intake of 26 students, i.e. 13 students per class on average;
- allowing schools operating only one S1 class to continue operation through various school development options;
- allowing schools operating two S1 classes or less to participate in the following S1 allocation cycle with a cap of three S1 classes;
- extending the retention period for surplus teachers arising from any reduction of S1 classes from one year to three years; and
- adopting a district-/school-based approach to adjust the number of students to be allocated to each S1 class from 2013 to 2015 to cater for the differences among districts and schools, as well as the demand and supply of different districts.

secondary schools in the transitional period (from 2013 to 2015) when the number of S1 students is anticipated to drop, and the overall situation of the 2013 S1 allocation. The results of the 2014 S1 allocation were announced on 8 July 2014. As a follow-up, the EDB took the initiative to report to the Panel, on the same day through a letter, the overall situation of public sector secondary schools upon the release of the 2014 S1 allocation results. For details, please refer to LC Paper No. CB (4) 915/13-14 (01). We also met the Joint Committee of the Secondary School Councils and the Secondary School Heads Association of 18 Districts (the Joint Committee) on that day, presenting to the Joint Committee the letter to the Panel for discussion of the overall situation of public sector secondary schools upon the second year of the implementation of the series of relief measures.

As stated in the letter to the Panel, it is not the practice of the EDB to publicise the situation of public sector secondary schools upon the release of S1 allocation results. The main reason is that the actual number of S1 classes and students of public sector secondary schools is subject to the results of the headcount in mid-September. Besides, both the Joint Committee and the EDB, when capitalising on the experience of the last cycle (i.e. the first year of the implementation of the series of relief measures) specifically on whether the allocation results by district should be provided, are of the view that releasing such information will lead to unnecessary speculations and labelling on individual schools that have to admit S1 students for sustainable development after the release of the allocation results, i.e. during the summer holiday. It may also have an adverse impact on the schools in districts with relatively stable demand and supply of S1 places. It is our consensus that the S1 allocation results may not reflect the situation after commencement of the school year as secondary schools will, after the release of the results, admit students as usual during the summer holiday. To avoid unnecessary concerns and flawed perceptions lest they would mislead the public to label and cause adverse impact on individual schools, it is considered that the information about the allocation results provided by the EDB through LC Paper No. CB(4)915/13-14(01) should already provide stakeholders including the education sector an overview of the overall situation of the public sector secondary schools. Further information by district or of individual schools is considered not necessary. We will adhere to the above principle to handle all requests for related information.

The EDB will as usual compile the number of S1 classes operated in aided and government secondary schools by district (including breakdown by number of classes) and number of students in the 2014/15 school year after the September headcount for the Panel, if necessary. As regards relevant information of the 2013/14 school year, please refer to pages 344 to 350 (EDB083) and page 371 (EDB087) of the Controlling Officer's Reply of the Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2014-15.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms L B IP)  
for Secretary for Education