

立法會 *Legislative Council*

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Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Mainland-HKSAR Families

Updated background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 17 February 2016

Policies and measures adopted by the Administration relating to Mainland-HKSAR families

Purpose

This paper provides background information and summarizes Members' discussions on the policies and measures adopted by the Administration relating to Mainland-HKSAR families in respect of (a) population policy; (b) support and social welfare services for new arrivals from the Mainland; and (c) cross-boundary students.

Background

2. At the meeting of the Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Mainland-HKSAR Families ("the Subcommittee") on 23 November 2015, Members discussed with the Administration its progress report (LC Paper No. CB(2) 292/15-16(02)) on implementation of the recommendations of the Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Mainland-HKSAR Families formed under the House Committee of the Fourth Legislative Council ("LegCo"). The Subcommittee held another meeting on 23 December 2015 to receive views from the public on the policies and measures adopted by the Administration in five subject areas¹ relating to Mainland-HKSAR families. Members agreed to hold further meetings to discuss these subject areas in detail. A Subcommittee meeting is scheduled to be held on 17 February 2016 to discuss three subject areas, viz. the Administration's policies and measures relating to Mainland-HKSAR families in respect of (a) population policy; (b) support and social welfare services for new arrivals from the Mainland; and (c) cross-boundary students.

¹ The five subject areas include (a) population policy; (b) subsidized obstetric services; (c) immigration arrangements (including One Way Permit system, overage children and Mainland single mothers); (d) support and social welfare services for new arrivals from the Mainland; and (e) cross-boundary students.

Members' deliberations

Review of population policy

3. Some Members expressed concern about the problems that a number of Mainland-HKSAR families were still facing, e.g. Mainland single mothers with minor children in Hong Kong, and asked how the Government's review of the population policy had addressed the problems.

4. According to the Administration, the Steering Committee on Population Policy acknowledged that given the prevalence of cross-boundary marriages, there was a continued need for the One Way Permit ("OWP")² Scheme to enable eligible Mainland residents to come to Hong Kong in an orderly manner for family reunion and new arrivals under the OWP Scheme would continue to be the major source of our population growth.

5. Some Members were of the view that Mainland residents who came to Hong Kong for family reunion was conducive to increasing the local labour supply and the Administration should consider the subject from this angle as well.

Support and social welfare services for new arrivals from the Mainland

Support services

6. Members have sought information on the support services provided for families with new arrivals from the Mainland. According to the Administration, various bureaux (and their departments) including the Home Affairs Bureau, Labour and Welfare Bureau, Education Bureau ("EDB"), Transport and Housing Bureau, Food and Health Bureau and Security Bureau were involved in the provision of services to new arrivals from the Mainland. The Home Affairs Department ("HAD") coordinated the service provision for new arrivals.

² Mainland residents who wish to settle in Hong Kong for family reunion must apply for OWPs from the Exit and Entry Administration Offices of the Public Security Bureau ("PSB") of the Mainland at the places of their household registration. The OWP scheme allows Mainland residents to come to Hong Kong for family reunion in an orderly manner. The existing daily quota of OWP is 150. Of these 150 places, 60 are allocated to persons holding Certificates of Entitlement ("CoE"), and the rest for application by other Mainland residents for family reunion in Hong Kong. Mainland residents under one of the following situations may apply for OWP to settle in Hong Kong -

- (a) his/her spouse is settled in Hong Kong (may bring along children aged under 18); or
- (b) he/she is aged above 18 and under 60 and needs to come to Hong Kong to take care of his/her parents settled in Hong Kong both of whom are aged above 60 and have no children in Hong Kong; or
- (c) he/she is aged above 60 and has no children in the Mainland, and has to depend on his/her children aged above 18 settled in Hong Kong; or
- (d) he/she is aged under 18 and has to depend on his/her parents settled in Hong Kong; or
- (e) he/she is a child of a Hong Kong permanent resident and holds a CoE.

7. Members considered that the Administration should understand the needs of Mainland-HKSAR families and plan comprehensively for the support services for these families. To this end, Members had called upon the Administration to collate statistics on the demographic characteristics of these families, including the number of family members on Two Way Permits ("TWPs")³ and the number of Mainland single mothers on TWPs as well as conduct a longitudinal study on new arrivals from the Mainland to better understand their service needs and to facilitate their smooth integration into the community.

8. The Administration advised that Mainland people visiting Hong Kong on TWP were visitors by nature and they were therefore not covered under the "resident population" approach under the 2011 Population Census. However, in view of the growing needs of statistics relating to cross-boundary families, it would enhance the 2011 Population Census so that trial estimates on the number of TWP holders who were living with some other family members in Hong Kong during the census period as well as some basic demographic information (e.g. relationship to household head and sex) of these TWP holders could be obtained from the census data.

9. Members were also advised that HAD and the Immigration Department ("ImmD") compiled and published on a quarterly basis information concerning OWP entrants. Statistics on the age and educational attainment of OWP holders arriving in Hong Kong from the Mainland in the past 10 years (2005-2014) are set out in **Appendix I**. The combined statistical report was disseminated to relevant Government departments and non-governmental organizations for service planning, and was uploaded onto the HAD website. HAD had started to collect information on the service needs of "overage children" OWP holders amongst other new arrivals.

³ Mainland residents who wish to visit relatives in Hong Kong could apply for TWPs with endorsement for "visiting relatives" from the Exit and Entry Administration Offices of PSB at the places of their household registration. Similar to OWPs, the application, approval and issuance of TWPs fall within the remit of the Mainland authorities. The endorsement for "visiting relatives" allows the applicant to visit relatives (including spouse, parents or spouse's parents, children, siblings) who are settled, studying or working in Hong Kong. There are two categories of TWP –

- (a) Multiple journeys within three months: holders may make multiple trips between Hong Kong and the Mainland within 90 days from the date of their first landing; and
- (b) Single journey within three months: holders may stay for up to 14 days in a single journey within the three-month validity period of the endorsement.

A one-year multiple exit endorsement for visiting relatives was introduced by the Mainland authorities in December 2009. Mainland residents who applied for OWPs under the category of separated spouses and have minor children with their Hong Kong spouses may apply to stay in Hong Kong temporarily pending issuance of their OWPs. Those with special family difficulties may also apply for one-year multiple exit endorsements for visiting relatives. Holders of the endorsement can make multiple visits to Hong Kong of up to 90 days each within the one-year validity period.

10. Some Members expressed concern about the lack of a Government policy to assist and prepare prospective migrants from the Mainland to facilitate their work and study upon settlement in Hong Kong. In their view, induction programmes should be offered to prospective migrants to enable their early integration into the community. According to the Administration, induction programmes were available to new arrivals from the Mainland while their availability to prospective migrants would be subject to individual circumstances. Besides, the 65 Integrated Family Service Centres and the two Integrated Service Centres, operated by the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") and non-governmental organizations, provided a spectrum of preventive, supportive and remedial welfare services to individuals and their family members in need, including Hong Kong residents' family members who were holding TWPs.

Residence requirement for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") Scheme

11. The Court of Final Appeal held on 17 December 2013 that the seven-year residence requirement should be lowered to one year, i.e. restoring the "one-year residence requirement" implemented before 1 January 2004. Persons under the age of 18 would continue to be exempted from the residence requirement under the CSSA Scheme.

12. According to the Administration, from the date of judgment up to 27 June 2014, SWD had received 5 567 applications for CSSA from persons having resided in Hong Kong for less than seven years. The number of applications had fallen sharply from 170 per working day in late December 2013 to 20-30 per working day in mid-2014. It was pointed out that a longer time would be required to observe the trend in order to ascertain the financial implications more accurately. The CSSA Scheme had built in flexibility for the Director of Social Welfare to exercise discretion to grant CSSA to persons not meeting the residence requirement in cases of genuine hardship. The discretion would normally be exercised when a new arrival worked to support his/her family members, in recognition of his/her efforts to become self-reliant. Some Members were of the view that the Administration should explain clearly the CSSA Scheme and disseminate statistics on different categories of CSSA cases to minimize misunderstanding and negative impressions of the general public about CSSA recipients.

Cross-boundary students

13. Having regard to the increasing number of cross-boundary students, Members considered that the Administration should improve the transport arrangements such as increasing the special quotas granted to the coach operators for operating cross-boundary school bus services and extending the "on-board clearance" services to all cross-boundary school buses such that cross-boundary students did not need to get off the coaches when crossing the control points. The

Administration should also study the profiles of cross-boundary students with a view to formulating long-term measures to cope with the increasing service demand of cross-boundary students for various services, such as cross-boundary transportation services, school places and other support services, in a holistic manner.

14. The Administration advised that prior to the beginning of each school year, various bureaux including EDB, the Transport Department, the Police and ImmD would coordinate the transport and immigration arrangements for students travelling across the border to attend schools in Hong Kong. A range of support services, including learning support programmes, counselling services and parental education programmes were also offered to cross-boundary students / their parents.

15. At the special meeting of the Panel on Education on 28 October 2013, Members expressed concern about the keen competition for kindergarten and primary school places, particularly in the North District, brought about by cross-boundary students as well as the "Year of the Dragon" effect. According to the Administration, there were sufficient kindergarten places in various districts throughout Hong Kong on the whole to meet the demand of school-age children albeit the demand in the North District was relatively close to the supply. With a view to improving kindergarten admission procedure and better utilizing school places within the district, six special temporary measures were implemented in Tai Po and the North District. In addition, each primary school in the eight school nets that were close to the boundary was requested to set aside a minimum of two places per Primary One ("P1") class for cross-boundary students. The Administration would continue to monitor the trend and needs of cross-boundary students coming to Hong Kong for education at different class levels. Some members of the Panel on Education expressed grave concern that the temporary arrangement of allocating more students to each P1 class of public sector schools implementing small class teaching ("SCT") in five school nets of three districts to meet the anticipated demand in the 2014-2015 school year had deviated from the Government's policy on SCT. The Administration assured Members that the temporary arrangement would not deviate from the existing policy on SCT, the arrangement to be implemented had been adopted after examining all other options such as borrowing school places from neighbouring school nets and making use of vacant classrooms. Provision of additional resources to schools concerned would follow the established practice of providing additional teaching posts for schools maintaining 30 students per class under the implementation of SCT.

16. At the Council meeting of 26 March 2014, Members passed a motion on "Properly dealing with problems arising from cross-boundary students". The stance and follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the carried motion are set out in its progress report in **Appendix II**.

Relevant papers

17. A list of the relevant papers on the LegCo website is in **Appendix III**.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
12 February 2016

**Statistics on the age and educational attainment of One Way Permit ("OWP")
holders arriving in Hong Kong from the Mainland
in the past 10 years (2005 – 2014)**

OWP holders from the Mainland by age group

Age group	Year									
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
0-4	4 632 (8%)	3 520 (6%)	2 682 (8%)	3 042 (7%)	3 278 (7%)	3 344 (8%)	2 830 (7%)	2 749 (5%)	3 275 (7%)	3 982 (10%)
5-14	9 906 (18%)	12 871 (24%)	6 385 (19%)	7 133 (17%)	6 455 (13%)	5 209 (12%)	4 633 (11%)	4 176 (8%)	3 959 (9%)	3 887 (10%)
15-24	5 164 (9%)	7 573 (14%)	4 514 (13%)	6 117 (15%)	6 324 (13%)	5 821 (14%)	5 714 (13%)	4 803 (9%)	4 352 (10%)	4 407 (11%)
25-34	20 892 (38%)	14 854 (27%)	10 689 (32%)	13 214 (32%)	17 939 (37%)	14 592 (34%)	13 487 (31%)	13 970 (26%)	12 801 (28%)	11 365 (28%)
35-44	10 494 (19%)	11 290 (21%)	6 372 (19%)	8 188 (20%)	10 171 (21%)	9 211 (22%)	11 214 (26%)	17 777 (33%)	12 545 (28%)	10 831 (27%)
45-54	2 685 (5%)	2 812 (5%)	1 991 (6%)	2 628 (6%)	3 183 (7%)	3 172 (7%)	4 075 (9%)	7 341 (13%)	4 890 (11%)	3 711 (9%)
55-64	862 (2%)	814 (2%)	790 (2%)	868 (2%)	852 (2%)	910 (2%)	1 077 (2%)	3 244 (6%)	2 622 (6%)	1 790 (4%)
65+	471 (1%)	436 (1%)	442 (1%)	420 (1%)	385 (1%)	365 (1%)	349 (1%)	586 (1%)	587 (1%)	523 (1%)
Total	55 106 (100%)	54 170 (100%)	33 865 (100%)	41 610 (100%)	48 587 (100%)	42 624 (100%)	43 379 (100%)	54 646 (100%)	45 031 (100%)	40 496 (100%)

Note : Percentages in brackets may not add up to respective total due to rounding.

OWP holders from the Mainland (aged 15 or above) by educational attainment

Educational attainment	Year									
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
No schooling/ kindergarten	665 (2%)	538 (1%)	442 (2%)	488 (2%)	513 (1%)	445 (1%)	511 (1%)	802 (2%)	586 (2%)	452 (1%)
Primary	4 382 (11%)	3 749 (10%)	2 520 (10%)	3 359 (11%)	4 055 (10%)	3 562 (10%)	3 636 (10%)	5 988 (13%)	3 975 (11%)	2 882 (9%)
Secondary	31 216 (77%)	28 933 (77%)	18 662 (75%)	23 342 (74%)	28 845 (74%)	25 138 (74%)	26 348 (73%)	34 108 (71%)	26 612 (70%)	22 740 (70%)
University/ post- secondary	4 305 (11%)	4 559 (12%)	3 174 (13%)	4 246 (14%)	5 441 (14%)	4 926 (14%)	5 421 (15%)	6 823 (14%)	6 624 (18%)	6 553 (20%)
Total	40 568 (100%)	37 779 (100%)	24 798 (100%)	31 435 (100%)	38 854 (100%)	34 071 (100%)	35 916 (100%)	47 721 (100%)	37 797 (100%)	32 627 (100%)

Note : Percentages in brackets may not add up to respective total due to rounding.

These statistics are published in the relevant quarterly report of the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") and disseminated to relevant government departments and local non-governmental organisations for service planning, and is uploaded onto the HAD website.

Legislative Council Meeting of 26 March 2014
Motion on “Properly dealing with problems arising from
cross-boundary students”

Progress Report

The motion on “Properly dealing with problems arising from cross-boundary students” (**Annex**) was passed at the Legislative Council meeting of 26 March 2014. This paper reports the stance and follow-up actions taken by the Administration with regard to the motion.

2. The number of cross-boundary students (CBS) has been on the rise in recent years. However, following the implementation of the “zero delivery quota” for Mainland expectant mothers in early 2013, the number of CBS is expected to decrease gradually in the coming few years. In other words, the drastic surge of CBS is only a transient phenomenon. Since the issues relating to CBS are multi-faceted, the Administration will deliberate on effective strategies through the coordination of work among bureaux and departments concerned. Inter-departmental working groups will be set up to tackle the various issues as and when necessary. At present, an inter-departmental steering committee has been set up to handle issues relating to the transportation arrangements and clearance procedures for CBS.

3. To cater for the transportation needs of tender age CBS, the Administration has put in place a number of facilitating measures where practicable to ensure safe and speedy commuting of CBS. The Government will continue to enhance as far as possible facilitating border crossing measures for CBS to attend schools in Hong Kong. That notwithstanding, there are limits to the handling capacities of the boundary control points (BCPs). As the facilitating measures implemented at various BCPs may not be able to meet the needs of all CBS, parents are requested to consider carefully their own arrangements for their children to attend schools in Hong Kong. In fact, all along, a number of parents have been sending their children to schools by their own means.

4. It is difficult to predict accurately whether babies born to Mainland women in Hong Kong would return to Hong Kong to attend Primary 1 (P1) education, not to mention the actual number and date of them settling in Hong Kong. Some of them will choose to attend school in Hong Kong as CBS. Their number and choice of BCPs through which they access Hong Kong are subject to significant year-on-year changes due to family factors, distribution of places of residence and adjustment of relevant policies, etc. Hence, premised on the children applicants' demand for P1 places and the long-term development of existing schools, the Education Bureau (EDB) will adopt flexible arrangements which include borrowing school places from neighbouring school nets, making use of remaining classrooms and changing other rooms into additional classrooms and where necessary, temporarily allocating more students to each P1 class to flexibly increase school places in individual school nets/districts to cope with the transient demand. The EDB will also adopt a pragmatic and proactive approach in exploring the feasibility of recycling vacant school premises and building more classrooms in individual schools. To cope with the transient increase in demand for school places in individual school nets/districts, the EDB will liaise closely with the schools concerned.

5. On the other hand, the propensity of CBS for choosing schools in the North District has led to a shortfall of P1 places in the North District in recent years. Starting from the 2014/15 school year, the EDB provides applicant children residing in the Mainland with a separate Choice of Schools List for Central Allocation under the Primary One Admission (POA) System. Under this arrangement, a "dedicated school net" is provided for the CBS with a view to diverting them to other districts, hence alleviating the excessive demand for P1 places in the North District. This will help meet the demand from applicant children residing in Hong Kong while ensuring the right of CBS for allocating a public sector school place. As for the supply of school places in the North District, a new primary school premises in Area 36 of Fanling in the North District has been allocated to an existing primary school in the District for reprovisioning. Since there will be 36 classrooms in the new school premises, the school concerned may expand its total number of operating classes if necessary. It is originally anticipated that the new school premises will be completed in 2016 the earliest. However, the

completion date may be delayed as the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council was unable to vet the related funding application in this legislative year.

6. Regarding public sector Secondary 1 (S1) places, based on the population projections compiled by the Census and Statistics Department, it is expected that the number of S1 students will rebound steadily on a year-on-year basis from the 2017/18 school year onwards, and there will be sufficient S1 places to meet the demand as a whole.

7. The EDB will continue to liaise with major stakeholders to formulate pragmatic measures having balanced their different concerns with a view to minimising the impact of changes in student population, and collaborating with the sector to embrace the challenges in the transitional period.

8. The EDB announced in late April 2014 the admission arrangements for K1 in kindergartens (KGs) for the 2015/16 school year (hereafter referred as “2015/16 K1 Admission Arrangements”). The objectives of the “2015/16 K1 Admission Arrangements” are to avoid hoarding of more than one place by a child at any one time so as to enable the KGs to confirm enrolment for manpower planning, and to facilitate parents in securing a place for their children in a timely manner, and thus benefit all students concerned. The EDB has arranged briefings for both KGs and parents in May and June 2014 to enable them to have a better understanding about the “2015/16 K1 Admission Arrangements”.

9. The Government has been providing needy students (including CBS) with subsidy, disbursed on a non-accountable basis, through the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme (STSS) to cover the fares on public transport for travelling to and from schools within the boundaries of Hong Kong. We shall continue to review from time to time the operation of STSS to ensure the proper use of public money and the provision of appropriate assistance for needy students. For public sector and Direct Subsidy Scheme schools admitting newly arrived children, including children newly arrived from the Mainland as well as CBS, they can use School-based Support Scheme Grant to organise school-based support programmes to help these students integrate into the

local education system.

10. The EDB has been promoting a harmonious school culture under which all are equal. Schools are requested to comply with all the anti-discrimination ordinances. Besides, when formulating school policies including curriculum design and teaching, they should observe the principle of equal opportunities and avoid any form of discrimination. The EDB also encourages schools to cultivate an atmosphere of harmony and equality on the school campus.

11. Furthermore, 65 Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) and two Integrated Services Centres (ISCs) operated by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) or non-governmental organisations over the territory will continue to provide needy individuals and families (including CBS and their families) with a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial welfare services, including counselling, family life education, parent-child activities, support/mutual help groups and referral services, etc. Social workers of these centres will thoroughly assess and take care of the specific needs of service users and provide them with appropriate services including different community orientation programmes to enhance their social skills and positive psychology. In 2013-14, IFSCs conducted 268 groups and programmes specifically for new arrivals (including CBS). SWD will continue to keep in view the demand for the relevant services.

12. With the extension of student admission to include Type II children to the classes of minban schools in Shenzhen since last November, the number of minban schools in the Scheme will increase to nine in the 2014/15 school year. The EDB has paired up minban schools operating Classes for Hong Kong Students with local primary schools and through various exchange activities enhancing minban schools teachers' understanding of the local curriculum as well as the transition of Hong Kong students to local education system. We are arranging local secondary schools to pair up with these minban schools as sister schools as well. We will continue to collaborate with Shenzhen Municipal Education Bureau and explore different means to further enhance the professional support for teachers of minban schools.

13. The idea of establishing schools subsidized by the Hong Kong Government in Shenzhen to provide Hong Kong children with free education involves complicated issues and far-reaching implications, including school management and compliance issues, curriculum, welfare portability, etc. The Administration needs to obtain more information in order to have objective and thorough analyses of the proposed idea. Besides, a feasible option for the sustainable operation of these schools is also required.

14. We would also like to remind parents that commuting daily from the Mainland to schools in Hong Kong will impose pressure on children both mentally and physically. This is not conducive to students' learning and home-school cooperation. Parents should consider carefully and understand thoroughly the situation of the BCPs before deciding to arrange their children residing in the Mainland to commute daily to schools in Hong Kong. The Administration will continue to refine policies and measures so as to create conditions conducive to learning.

Education Bureau
July 2014

(Translation)

Motion on
“Properly dealing with problems arising from cross-boundary students”
moved by Hon TAM Yiu-chung
at the Council meeting of 26 March 2014

Motion as amended by Hon IP Kin-yuen, Hon James TIEN, Hon Michael TIEN and Hon TANG Ka-piu

That, given the continuously increasing number of cross-boundary students in recent years, the Administration has nonetheless made poor planning, and has never grasped the basic data on cross-boundary students (such as the ratio of ‘singly non-permanent resident students’ to ‘doubly non-permanent resident students’) and properly formulated any long-, medium- and short-term forecasts based on existing data, thus giving rise to quite a number of problems; a large number of cross-boundary students travelling to the districts near various immigration control points for attending school lead to keen competition for school places in New Territories districts, thereby affecting local students’ opportunities for admission to school in the vicinity of their residence and increasing the pressure on various land immigration control points; furthermore, cross-boundary students need to shuttle between two places and leave early and return late on school days, rendering them physically and mentally exhausted and posing danger to their personal safety, and long coach journeys also affect their studies in school; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to:

- (1) immediately set up an inter-departmental task force, which comprises representatives from the Education Bureau, the Social Welfare Department, the Immigration Department and the Transport and Housing Bureau, etc., to study the problems arising from cross-boundary students, including the demand for and supply of kindergarten places as well as primary and secondary school places in Hong Kong, and the impacts of cross-boundary students on education, transport, healthcare, social welfare, housing and the development of manpower resources in Hong Kong, so as to formulate more effective and comprehensive support strategies;
- (2) in dealing with the education problems arising from cross-boundary students, firmly uphold the principles of ‘simultaneously meeting the education needs of both local and cross-boundary students’ and ‘admission to school in the vicinity of residence’; having regard to cross-boundary students’ demand for school places, expeditiously make good planning for kindergarten places as well as primary and secondary

school places in various districts, and consult various stakeholders as early as possible, so as to avoid the dissatisfaction of schools and parents arising from inappropriate school place planning; and while increasing the number of places in the school net exclusively for cross-boundary primary students, also ensure local students' opportunities for admission to school in the vicinity of their residence, so as to avoid affecting local students' opportunities for attending school; at the same time, ensure that cross-boundary students can attend schools within reasonable coach journey distances;

- (3) alleviate the additional burden on schools arising from the need to cope with cross-boundary students, and provide schools with appropriate assistance and resources, such as offering a recurrent grant for admission of additional number of cross-boundary students and a one-off grant for the additional ancillary services arranged for cross-boundary students, so as to ensure that the existing quality of education will not be significantly affected, and that schools will have sufficient resources to meet the education needs of cross-boundary students;
- (4) having regard to the actual situation of families with Hong Kong-citizen children living in the Mainland, pursue with Mainland authorities the opportunities for providing compulsory education to Hong Kong-citizen children, specifically the conduct of studies in conjunction with Mainland authorities under the educational co-operation framework between two places on establishing Hong Kong-style schools in Shenzhen and setting up more schools and classes exclusively for Hong Kong-citizen children, so as to alleviate the education demand of Hong Kong-citizen children in Hong Kong;
- (5) commence collation and evaluation of data and information in a systematic and continuous manner, including the population characteristics of families with cross-boundary students and the intentions of cross-boundary students to study and work in Hong Kong in the future, so as to make more comprehensive and accurate planning for manpower resources;
- (6) allocate additional resources to social welfare organizations to enhance the services and support for cross-boundary students and their families, especially cross-boundary students with special education needs, and increase the opportunities for cross-boundary students to participate in and experience community activities in Hong Kong;

- (7) perfect the immigration arrangements and transportation support for cross-boundary students, including reviewing the quotas of Closed Area Permits for cross-boundary students and cross-boundary school coaches based on actual demand, and permitting more cross-boundary students to undergo on-board clearance, so that they can cross the boundary safely for attending school;
- (8) conduct a study on enacting legislation to regulate private hostels for cross-boundary students, so as to ensure the safety of cross-boundary students in Hong Kong; and
- (9) conduct publicity among the public to disseminate a positive message on accepting cross-boundary students, enabling cross-boundary students to be free from discrimination, grow up healthily and happily, and develop a sense of belonging to Hong Kong; and
- (10) introduce concessionary measures to attract more Hong Kong teachers to teach in the Mainland, so as to assist Hong Kong-citizen children living in the Mainland in familiarizing themselves with the teaching mode adopted in Hong Kong, making parents let their Hong Kong-citizen children stay in the Mainland for attending schools without any worry, thereby alleviating the problems of cross-boundary students; this can also alleviate the problem of surplus teachers in Hong Kong and provide Hong Kong teachers with opportunities to acquire teaching experience in the Mainland; the proposed concessionary measures should include allowing Hong Kong teachers with provident fund accounts to keep their accounts during their periods of teaching in the Mainland, providing special living and transport allowances, and encouraging schools in Hong Kong to give priority consideration to recruit teachers who had been teaching in the Mainland for certain years, etc.; and
- (11) conduct studies in conjunction with Mainland authorities on establishing schools subsidized by Hong Kong Government in Shenzhen to provide Hong Kong-citizen children with free education, and the schools concerned must operate in accordance with the requirements of the Education Bureau of Hong Kong, recruit qualified Hong Kong teachers and adopt Hong Kong's teaching modes and curriculum, thus facilitating these children to come to Hong Kong to sit for public examinations and pursue further education in the future;
- (12) conduct a longitudinal study on the social life and psychological development of cross-boundary students;

- (13) increase the number of places in the school net exclusively for districts with the largest number of cross-boundary primary students such as Tai Po and the North District, etc., so as to alleviate the pressure faced by parents when applying for school admission for local students;
- (14) allocate additional resources to non-governmental organizations for cultivating cross-boundary students' social skills and positive psychology; and
- (15) provide school coach fee subsidy to families with cross-boundary students having financial difficulties.

**Relevant papers on
Policies and measures adopted by the Administration relating to
Mainland-HKSAR families**

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
House Committee	29.6.2012	Report of the Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Mainland-HKSAR Families
Legislative Council	27.3.2013	Official Records of Proceedings Pages 18 to 28
	24.4.2013	Official Records of Proceedings Pages 96 to 106
	29.5.2013	Official Records of Proceedings Pages 8 to 18
	9.10.2013	Official Records of Proceedings Pages 105 to 113
	23.10.2013	Official Records of Proceedings Pages 51 to 67 and Pages 104 to 107
Panel on Education	28.10.2013 (Item I)	Agenda Minutes
Legislative Council	8.1.2014	Official Records of Proceedings Pages 70 to 81
	22.1.2014	Official Records of Proceedings Pages 46 to 55
Legislative Council	26.2.2014	Official Records of Proceedings Pages 99 to 102
	26.3.2014 and 27.3.2014	Official Records of Proceedings Pages 314 to 361 and Official Records of Proceedings Pages 6 to 76

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Subcommittee on Poverty	7.7.2014 (Item I)	Agenda Minutes
Legislative Council	29.10.2014	Official Records of Proceedings Pages 48 to 61 and Page 315
House Committee	16.1.2015 (Item VIII)	Agenda Minutes
	23.1.2015 (Item VIII)	Agenda Minutes
Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Mainland-HKSAR Families	23.11.2015 (Item III)	Agenda Minutes
	23.12.2015 (Item I)	Agenda Minutes

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