



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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8 June 2015

Miss Polly YEUNG
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Panel on Education
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Yeung,

**Panel on Education
Subcommittee to Study the Implementation of
Free Kindergarten Education**

Follow-up to meeting on 28 April 2015

I refer to your letter dated 29 April 2015 on the captioned matter. The Education Bureau's response to the motion passed at the meeting is enclosed for Members' reference.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Conny LI)
for Secretary for Education

**Panel on Education
Subcommittee to Study the Implementation of
Free Kindergarten Education**

**Motion passed under the agenda item
“Planning for the provision of kindergarten places, in particular
whole-day / long whole-day kindergarten places, and the admission
arrangements for kindergartens” at the meeting on 28 April 2015**

Wording of the motion

(Translation)

That this Subcommittee requests the Education Bureau to expeditiously review the planning standard for kindergarten places, so as to significantly increase whole-day and long whole-day kindergarten places to tie in with the population policy and the demand for unleashing the potential of female labour force.

Mover: Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

Education Bureau’s response:

Our response to Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan’s motion is set out below.

2. According to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, the prevailing planning standards for kindergartens (KGs) are 730 half-day (HD) and 250 full-day places for every 1 000 children in the age group of three to under six.

3. KG education in Hong Kong has all along been provided by the private sector and is characterised by its flexibility and responsiveness to parents' needs, which include increasing whole-day (WD) services possibly by making use of vacant classrooms or expanding the premises according to demand. The percentage of students attending WD sessions among the total enrolment under all sessions is 31% in the 2014/15 school year, which has already exceeded the existing planning standard of 250 WD places for every 1 000 children in the relevant age group.

4. The Report of the Committee on Free KG Education (Report) was released on 28 May 2015. Among others, the Committee recommends that the existing planning standard for provision of KG should be reviewed so as to increase the provision of WD KG places, with a view to providing more support for working parents to tie in with the population policy which aims to unleash the potential of the local labour force. The Committee finds that the planning standards could be revised progressively to 500 HD and 500 WD places for every 1 000 children in the age group of three to six. The demand and supply situation should be monitored and reviewed to cater for the changing needs for WD places.

5. The Education Bureau is studying the recommendations in the Report and will further gauge views from the KG sector and the public. We will take into account these views in formulating policies and specific measures as appropriate to foster the sustainable development of quality KG education.

Education Bureau
June 2015