

Reply to follow up questions at the Finance Committee meeting on 24 June 2016

- (a) the Administration's initiatives to develop gifted students with talent in sports, culture or art through the Quality Education Fund (QEF) (requested by Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip, time mark 15:54)

Quality Education Fund (QEF) has been supporting different projects to cater for the learning needs of different students including supporting the development of gifted students in the cultural and arts domains.

In the past five years, QEF has approved more than \$500,000 (\$548,200) to support two projects for gifted students in cultural and arts domains. The numbers of primary and secondary school students benefited from the two projects were 700 and 160 respectively.

- (b) the Administration's initiatives to help students (other than gifted students) improve on academic studies, if any, and the results achieved (requested by Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, time mark 16:10);

The Education Bureau has launched different projects and measures to help students improve on their academic studies. Details of these initiatives are as follows:

Name of Projects/Measures	Details
Support for Student Diversity in Primary and Secondary Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professional development programmes to empower teachers to cater for students with special educational needs and to help build an inclusive School culture ● Learning Support Grants to primary and secondary schools to support the special educational needs students and low-achieving students
Additional resources to support Academic Low Achievers in primary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provision of additional resources (teachers) to implement Intensive Remedial Teaching Programme (IRTP) in primary schools to provide more effective remedial support in learning for pupils with low academic achievements and learning difficulties
Additional teaching posts to support the S1 to 3 students of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Additional teachers are provided to schools with Band 3 and the bottom 10% students at S1-S3 to

Band 3 schools and the bottom 10% of students	support academically low achievers since 2006/07
"School-based After-school Learning and Support Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● has been implemented since 2005/06 ● support the disadvantaged students to participate in after-school activities with a view to facilitating their whole-person development and personal growth ● provide school-based grant to schools and community-based project grant to the public sector, including special, DSS and NGOs to organise school-based and district-based activities for the disadvantaged students ● target P1 to S 6 students in receipt of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and full grant under the Student Financial Assistance Scheme (SFAS)

(c) Distribution, by districts, of the students who have joined the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE) (requested by Hon LEE Cheuk-yan, time mark 16:15);

Primary and Secondary Student Members in HKAGE (Schools by district)

Schools by District	Primary 小學 (%)	Secondary 中學 (%)	Overall (%)	Income* HK\$
HK - CENTRAL & WESTERN	3.85%	6.44%	5.60%	35K
HK - HONG KONG EAST	6.09%	6.32%	6.24%	29K
HK - ISLANDS	1.98%	0.68%	1.10%	26K
HK - SOUTHERN	3.35%	4.24%	3.95%	29K
HK - WANCHAI	3.49%	5.58%	4.90%	40K
KL - KOWLOON CITY	11.74%	13.35%	12.83%	24K
KL - KWUN TONG	6.77%	6.84%	6.82%	20K
KL - SAI KUNG	5.62%	5.07%	5.25%	33K
KL - SHAMSHUIPO	5.98%	4.94%	5.27%	19K
KL - WONG TAI SIN	4.76%	4.02%	4.26%	21K
KL - YAU TSIM MONG	4.65%	5.94%	5.52%	25K
NTE - NORTH	3.85%	3.17%	3.39%	25K
NTE - SHATIN	9.33%	9.77%	9.62%	28K

NTE - TAI PO		4.18%	4.26%	4.23%	28K
NTW - KWAI CHUNG & TSING YI		4.68%	4.52%	4.57%	21K
NTW - TSUEN WAN	荃灣區	5.04%	3.24%	3.82%	28K
NTW - TUEN MUN	屯門區	5.26%	5.89%	5.68%	23K
NTW - YUEN LONG	元朗區	9.37%	5.75%	6.92%	23K

Note:

- (i) The table includes current student members (primary students: 2800, secondary students: 5800, and overall: 8600), who have joined the HKAGE on or before May, 2016.
- (ii) 'Schools by District' refers to the location of schools that the students belong to.
- (iii) *Median monthly household Income (All Household)" is provided by Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR in Population and Household Statistics Analysed by District Council District 2015.

(d) Details of HKAGE's plan to seek sponsorship from the business sector (requested by Hon WONG Yuk-man, time mark 16:22)

HKAGE will seek sponsorship for the following items:

- i. Direct sponsorship for the disadvantaged students to participate in local and overseas courses on Gifted Education
- ii. Sponsoring the HKAGE to train and organise a Hong Kong Delegation to participate in international competitions around the world

(e) Comparison between the Gifted Education Fund and the QEF (requested by Hon Claudia MO, time mark 16:26).

A. The Quality Education Fund (QEF) mainly caters for worthwhile non-profit making pilot initiatives and other independent projects within the ambit of basic education, i.e. kindergarten, primary, secondary and special education, with a view to enhancing the quality of school education. The key features are as follows:

- all applications are bottom-up initiatives by schools or educational bodies
- applications can be submitted throughout the year
- there is no quota for the number of applications submitted and no ceiling for the amount of grant sought
- schools, educational bodies and organisations registered under the laws of Hong Kong and individuals who are permanent residents in Hong Kong are eligible to apply
- the "QEF Steering Committee" comprises stakeholders from the society. It advises the Government on the policies and procedures governing the operation of the QEF;

the “Assessment and Monitoring Sub-committee” assesses applications for the Quality Education Fund (QEF) in accordance with approved guidelines; the “Dissemination and Promotion Sub-committee” formulates dissemination and promotion strategies for individual or groups of QEF projects as well as territory-wide strategies to enhance the image of QEF. The Permanent Secretary for Education is the trustee of the QEF and holds the authority to approve the grant.

B. The Gifted Education Fund is set up as an endowment fund for generating investment income to provide stable financial support to the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education, to enable more students to unleash their potential, enrich the talent pool and enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong.

Approval to set up the Gifted Education Fund has been obtained from the Finance Committee in its meeting on 28 Jun 2016, and the Education Bureau will set up an Advisory Committee to advise SED on the use and management of the GE Fund.

The Committee will be chaired by a non-official member and will comprise representatives from tertiary institutions, schools, the public sector, parents, experts with knowledge on local and overseas gifted education practices, professional/ youth bodies, and ex-officio members from EDB.

The GE Fund will be established as a trust fund under the Permanent Secretary for Education Incorporated as its trustee. It will be managed in accordance with a trust deed which will stipulate the framework and the salient features necessary for its proper management and administration.