

NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

School-based Professional Support Programmes Financed by the Education Development Fund

PURPOSE

This paper informs Members of the Government's plan to continue providing schools with the School-based Professional Support (SBPS) Programmes till the 2018/19 school year (s.y.) using the remaining balance of the Education Development Fund (EDF) approved under FCR(2004-05)26 and FCR(2011-12)68.

BACKGROUND

2. In July 2004, the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) approved, vide FCR(2004-05)26, the setting up of the EDF with a grant of \$550 million to provide diversified SBPS Programmes to build up schools' capacity to take forward education reform measures starting from the 2004/05 s.y. for an initial period of five years. As part of the annual exercise of reporting progress of the EDF to the LegCo Panel on Education, we informed Members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2036/08-09(01) in June 2009 that the duration of the EDF would be extended to the 2012/13 s.y. In January 2012, the FC approved, vide FCR(2011-12)68, the injection of a sum of \$550 million into the EDF to continue with the provision of the SBPS Programmes for five years from the 2012/13 to 2016/17 s.y., thereby enabling schools to sustain their impetus for self-improvement in varied arenas of work, and for making necessary adjustments arising from education reform initiatives. In January 2016, we submitted an information paper to the LegCo Panel on Education to report on the progress of the SBPS Programmes financed by the EDF for the 2014/15 s.y. and its way forward after the 2016/17 s.y., including the extension of the EDF's operation until end of the 2018/19 s.y., vide LC Paper No. CB(4)529/15-16(01).

/EXTENDING

EXTENDING OPERATION OF EDF

Past achievements of EDF

3. Since its inception, the EDF has been supporting schools and teachers by way of the following five strands of the Programmes –

- (i) Principal Support Network;
- (ii) School Support Partners (SSP) (Seconded Teacher) Scheme;
- (iii) Professional Development Schools (PDS) Scheme;
- (iv) University-School Support Programmes (USP); and
- (v) Collegial Participation in External School Review.

4. In the past 11 years, the school sector had a keen demand for the above support services and the EDF allocated a total of about \$771 million for 6 694 school support services¹. The expenditure of the SBPS Programmes and cash balance of the EDF from the 2004/05 s.y. to 2014/15 s.y. as well as the estimated expenditure and cash balance from the 2015/16 s.y. to 2018/19 s.y. are set out at Enclosure. In the 2014/15 s.y., about 51% of secondary schools, 47% of primary schools, 68% of special schools and 15% of kindergartens benefitted from the SBPS Programmes.

Encl.

5. We conduct evaluation of the effectiveness of SBPS annually by means of questionnaire surveys and/or focus interviews. The results of the annual evaluation consistently affirmed that participating schools of the SBPS Programmes are satisfied with the school-based support provided and that the Programmes could meet the schools' expectations and needs. Specifically, the SBPS Programmes have brought about positive impact on school development in respect of –

- (i) strengthening the coherence between processes and initiatives at school level to sustain and maximise the impact of education reform on learning and teaching, in particular;
- (ii) stepping up teachers' professional capacity to lead and sustain the reform measures; and
- (iii) supporting student learning and developing their potential.

/Anticipated

¹ An annual circular memorandum is issued to invite schools to apply for school-based support services including SSP Scheme, PDS Scheme and USP under SBPS Programmes. Each school can apply for at most two of the services in each school year.

Anticipated outcome of extending the operation of EDF to maximise the impact of SBPS programmes

6. To build on the achievements of the EDF and to maximise the impact of the SBPS Programmes, we will use the remaining balance of EDF to extend its operation for two school years till the end of the 2018/19 s.y. so as to allow more time and space for –

- (i) further mobilising the critical mass of school/curriculum leaders and teachers nurtured as change agents in education/curriculum innovations and to deepen the sharing and collaborative culture among schools; and
- (ii) enabling schools to sustain and further their development on the initiatives launched while disseminating their experiences and effective practices so generated.

7. As some USP projects have been making significant contributions to the knowledge generation of the EDF, USP would constitute a major strand of support up to the end of the 2018/19 s.y. while the other strands of the SBPS Programmes would be provided in a similar or relatively reduced scale. Priority themes of support would include Catering for Learner Diversity, Teaching Chinese to Non-Chinese Speaking Students, Enhancing the Interface between Key Stages, notably between kindergarten and primary education, and providing schools with support to facilitate their development and implementation of education/curriculum initiatives recently advocated, such as Self-directed Learning, and enriching the curricula and learning activities of Science, Technology and Mathematics. It is expected that the knowledge and effective practices generated by the Programmes would eventually be incorporated into future teacher professional development programmes for wider dissemination and inform education/curriculum developments in the territory. The Education Bureau and the service providers of the SBPS Programmes will continue to foster leadership and a sharing and collaborative culture among schools, such that the inspired school/curriculum leaders could join hands to try out, implement and promote territory-wide educational initiatives/policies.

8. As usual, audited accounts of the EDF will be tabled before the LegCo each year after the closing of the accounts. We will submit annual progress report on the implementation of the SBPS Programmes to the LegCo Panel on Education by way of an information paper until the lapse of EDF by the end of the 2018/19 s.y.

/FINANCIAL

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. As at August 2015 (end of 2014/15 s.y.), the EDF has a balance of some \$419 million. It is anticipated that this is sufficient to support the provision of the SBPS Programmes to the end of the 2018/19 s.y., including \$138 million earmarked for the 2015/16 s.y. No additional funding is required.

10. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Education Bureau
April 2016

**The School-based Professional Support (SBPS) Programmes expenditure from 2004 to 2019
and cash balance of Education Development Fund (EDF) at the end of each school year**

Expenditure and Accumulated Expenditure for the SBPS Programmes

	(HK\$ Million)															
School Year (Sept – Aug)	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15 (Unaudited)	Accumulated Expenditure 2004/05 to 2014/15	2015/16 (Estimate)	2016/17 (Estimate)	2017/18 (Estimate)	2018/19 (Estimate)
Principal Support Network	2.29	0.99	0.75	0.86	1.42	1.46	0.32	0.86	0.52	0.08	0.08	9.63	0.32	0.3	0.3	0.3
School Support Partners (Seconded Teacher) Scheme	1.08	9.43	22.20	25.89	31.77	23.01	28.35	28.14	36.27	50.00	47.96	304.1	52.22	53.82	45	44.4
Professional Development Schools Scheme	1.60	1.56	4.68	2.37	4.99	7.58	6.22	6.08	5.55	13.46	8.82	62.91	21.21	14.24	12.51	9.31
University-School Support Programmes	20.20	24.16	37.10	63.70	30.75	55.49	30.15	23.83	29.72	29.08	42.33	386.51	63.11	38.6	45.77	26
Collegial Participation in External School Review	0.51	0.66	0.78	0.51	0.35	0.76	0.69	0.37	0.64	0.59	0.9	6.76	0.79	0.83	0.87	0.92
External Review of SBPS Programmes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.37	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	25.68	36.80	65.51	93.51	69.65	88.67	65.73	59.28	72.70	93.21	100.09	770.83	137.65	107.79	104.45	80.93

Cash Balance of EDF at the end of each School Year

	(HK\$ Million)															
School Year (Sept - Aug)	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08)	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15 (Unaudited)	2015/16 (Estimate)	2016/17 (Estimate)	2017/18 (Estimate)	2018/19 (Estimate)	
Opening Cash Balance	0.00	535.45	505.63	457.05	379.61	316.40	229.49	165.62	662.32	598.46	512.61	419.03	286.7	182.64	80.56	
Income																
Fund Injection	550.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	550.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Interests	11.13	6.98	16.93	16.07	6.44	1.76	1.86	5.98	8.84	7.36	6.51	5.32	3.73	2.37	1.05	
Expenditure																
SBPS Programmes Expenditure	(25.68)	(36.80)	(65.51)	(93.51)	(69.65)	(88.67)	(65.73)	(59.28)	(72.70)	(93.21)	(100.09)	(137.65)	(107.79)	(104.45)	(80.93)	
Cash Balance (by the end of Aug)	535.45	505.63	457.05	379.61	316.40	229.49	165.62	662.32	598.46	512.61	419.03	286.7	182.64	80.56	0.68	