



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, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

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22 March 2016

Clerk to Panel

Legislative Council Panel on Education

Legislative Council Complex

1 Legislative Council Road, Central

Hong Kong

(Attn: Miss Polly YEUNG)

Dear Miss Yeung,

**Panel on Education**  
**Meeting to be held on 22 March 2016**

**Special Home-School Co-operation Grant and Student-to-Teacher Ratio**

Your letter of 22 March refers. In response to the request of the Panel for supplementary information regarding the special Home-School Co-operation (HSC) Grant and the student-to-teacher ratio of schools, please find the information at the **Annex I** and **II** attached. Please note that special HSC Grant is part and parcel of the enhanced measures for promotion of home-school co-operation to support students' development in mental health.

For further enquiries, please contact Ms. YY SO at 2863 4600.

Your sincerely,

(Mrs HONG CHAN Tsui-wah)  
for Secretary for Education

Enhanced Measures for Promotion of Home-school Co-operation to  
Support Students' Development in Mental Health

Objective

- Both parents and schools have a role to play in supporting students' healthy mental development. The Education Bureau (EDB) hopes to further strengthen home-school cooperation to foster communication, understanding and mutual support between teachers and parents so as to help students cope with the challenges encountered in their studies, further education and social life, in particular stress and emotional problems.

Measures

- Regional Level: The Committee on Home School Co-operation (CHSC) will organise parent seminars in collaboration with the Federations of Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) of different districts and the regional School Heads Associations. These seminars aim at providing useful information for parents to support students' physical and mental development, to identify and support students with emotional or stress problems and to learn parenting skills.
- School Level: Given the different school circumstances and diverse student needs, it is considered most appropriate to have schools and PTAs working in collaboration to organise activities on a school-based basis. To enable schools to have extra resources to carry out measures for promoting home-school co-operation in supporting students' development in mental health, as a special measure, the EDB has reserved some \$5 million for disbursement of a special Home-School Co-operation (HSC) Grant of \$5,000 to all public sector secondary and primary schools and schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme shortly, so as to subsidize their PTAs in organising parent talks or activities which will facilitate parents to support the healthy mental development of children, and/or activities for enhancing communication with children. Where necessary, schools may engage external professionals to support parents in schools in respect of the above or related activities.

Implementation Details

*Regional Parent Talk*

- The CHSC will organise parent seminars in collaboration with the Federations of Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) of different districts and the regional School Heads Associations. The parent seminars on

healthy physical and mental development of students will be organised for regions in Hong Kong, Kowloon, New Territories East and New Territories West.

### *Special Grant*

- We encourage schools to take the opportunity to rethink about students' needs together with the teachers and parents, and discussed with them how to make optimal use of this special grant for organising suitable talks or activities for parents so as to address students' emotional and stress problems, as well as other concerns about development and studies.
- Unlike the annual application for the Subsidy for Home-School Co-operation Activities by schools (with a maximum amount of \$5000 for each activity), the special grant is a one-off grant which will be paid to the school account direct. It is not necessary for schools to submit applications, thus reducing the administrative work of schools.
- To allow flexibility in using the special grant, the EDB will not prescribe the form of activities in detail. Schools may invite professionals to deliver talks on how to help children reduce pressure and brief parents on the skills for nurturing the mental health of children. The parents may also learn how to identify and support children with emotional and stress problems. Schools may also organise activities for enhancing parent-child communication, or distribute publications, etc.
- The special grant is a facilitating measure. Whether or not to use the special grant for organising parent seminars or activities is purely a school-based decision. When using the grant to carry out activities, schools should be mindful that they do not pose undue workload to teachers. We understand that schools may organise some activities at no cost. If the schools have not used the grant or have unspent fund on or before 31 August 2017, the remaining balance should be returned to the EDB according to the existing funding mechanism. If the schools wish to organise large-scale events and do not have sufficient funding, they may use other school funds for the purpose.
- The EDB will announce the implementation details of the special Home-School Co-operation Grant to schools as soon as possible.

**Supplementary Information on Student-to-Teacher Ratio**

The student-to-teacher ratio (11.9) of the secondary schools quoted by the Secretary for Education in the meeting of 21 March 2016 is based on the relevant information provided in the 2016-17 Controlling Officer's Report, which is extracted as follows:

	2014/15 School Year	2015/16 School Year	2016/17 School Year
	(Actual)	(Revised Estimate)	(Estimate)
Public Sector Secondary Schools	13.0 : 1	12.4 : 1	11.9 : 1
Public Sector Primary Schools	14.0 : 1	14.1 : 1	14.1 : 1

Public sector schools include government, aided and caput schools but not Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) Schools.

As regards the student-to-teacher ratios of DSS Schools, the information is as follows:

	2014/15 School Year	2015/16 School Year
	(Actual)	(Revised Estimate)
DSS Secondary Schools	11.9 : 1	11.7 : 1
DSS Primary Schools	12.0:1	12.2:1

As we are unable to estimate the enrolment situation of DSS schools in the coming year, the estimated student-to-teacher ratio for the 2016/17 school year cannot be provided.

**Education Bureau**  
**March 2016**