

Follow-up to Finance Committee Meeting on 28 April 2017

Item FCR(2017-18)7

During the discussion on the proposal of constructing a special school for students with mild, moderate and severe intellectual disabilities (ID) in Area 108, Tung Chung at the Finance Committee meeting on 28 April 2017, Members requested the Government to provide supplementary information. The requested information is set out below.

(a) How could the proposed new special school with boarding facilities for students with mild, moderate and severe ID cater for the special educational needs of ethnic minority students and reduce their dropout rate? (by Hon Claudia MO at 16:15:46 hour)

It is the Government's prevailing policy to cater for the needs of all eligible students, including Non-Chinese speaking (NCS) ethnic minority students with special educational needs (SEN), through public sector schools (including both ordinary schools and special schools). To properly cater for the educational needs of their students, including NCS ethnic minority students, special schools have a smaller class size and are provided with additional teachers, specialist staff and other non-teaching staff in the light of the types of disabilities of their students. To support Chinese learning and create an inclusive environment in schools, additional funding is allocated according to the number of NCS students admitted. Special schools also adopt flexible groupings across grade levels and individualised education programmes to support the learning of their students. In sum, NCS ethnic minority students in special schools can benefit from support measures both for NCS students and students with SEN. With appropriate enhanced support in place, their confidence and effectiveness in learning can be strengthened.

(b) Will air-conditioning systems be installed at classrooms of the proposed new special school? (by Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung at 16:26:51 hour)

Currently, the Education Bureau provides air-conditioning systems in classrooms, special rooms and student activity centre of schools for children with severe ID and schools for children with physical disability, irrespective of the noise levels these schools are exposed to. Since the proposed new special school in Tung Chung will admit students with severe ID, its classrooms, special rooms and student activity centre will be fitted with air-conditioning.