



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

本局檔號 Our Ref: (112) in LM (4) to EDB(SRC)ADM/55/1/1R(7)

電話 Telephone: 3509 8521

來函檔號 Your Ref.: CB4/PL/ED

傳真 Fax Line: 2186 8245

25 May 2017

Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Panel on Education
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Angel WONG)

Dear Ms WONG,

**Panel on Education
Registration requirement
for institutions offering educational courses to the public**

I refer to your letter dated 8 May 2017. In regard to the concerns raised by Hon SHIU Ka-chun, please find our reply at Annex for your follow-up action.

For enquiries, please contact Ms Katie LEUNG at 3904 1350.

Yours sincerely,


(Ms Jenny CHAN)
for Secretary of Education

Encl.

**Registration requirement
for institutions offering educational courses to the public**

The Education Ordinance (Cap 279) (“EO”) regulates the operation of schools and their teaching activities. According to Section 3 of the EO, a “school” means an institution, organization or establishment which provides for 20 or more persons during any one day or 8 or more persons at any one time, any nursery, kindergarten, primary, secondary or post secondary education or any other educational course by any means, including correspondence delivered by hand or through the postal services. Any institution, organization or establishment which provides educational courses with the number(s) of students attending these courses meeting the number(s) stipulated in the above definition of “school” is required to be registered/provisionally registered in accordance with Section 10 of the EO, and regulated by the relevant provisions of the EO.

2. All schools are required to comply with the safety and health requirements, such as building safety, fire safety, sanitation and the number of students in each classroom, as well as the requirements on registration of teachers and collection of fees, etc. under the EO. Such requirements are to protect students’ safety and safeguard their interests, ensuring that students learn in premises which are safe and hygienic.

3. In deciding whether a course is an “educational course” as stipulated in the EO, the EDB gives consideration to the purpose, contents and nature of the operation of the courses. Courses which simply aim at mastering skills and techniques or developing a hobby or an interest, e.g. painting, dancing, drama etc., are not providing any educational activities, and do not fall under the EO. No school registration is required.

4. Non-governmental organization falling within the definition of “school” and meeting the conditions stipulated in Section 9(5) of the EO, i.e. it provides education consisting only of a series of lectures, or a course of instruction in a particular subject or topic, or provides less than 10 hours of academic instruction each week, may apply to the EDB for exemption from registration as a school. The EDB takes into account whether the application meets the conditions stipulated in Section 9(5) of the EO and the circumstances of each application before granting a time-limited exemption order.