

立法會

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Panel on Education

Meeting on 12 June 2017

Background brief on issues related to parent education

Purpose

This paper summarizes the major views and concerns of the Panel on Education ("the Panel") on issues related to parent education.

Background

2. Parent education measures of the Education Bureau ("EDB") mainly centre on kindergartens, primary and secondary schools to better equip parents with knowledge in supporting their children's personal growth and educational development.

3. The Committee on Home-School Co-operation ("CHSC")¹ was set up in 1993 pursuant to Education Commission Report No. 5 (1992) to support schools in promoting parent education. CHSC has been actively encouraging schools to set up Parent-Teacher Associations ("PTAs") to promote parental involvement in a wide range of school activities. According to CHSC, the number of PTAs has increased from some 70 in 1992 to 1 393 in the 2015-2016 school year.

4. To encourage schools to set up PTAs and to organize home-school co-operation activities, Home-School Co-operation Grants were available for application by schools. These included, in the 2016-2017 school year, a grant of \$5,000 for setting up PTA, an annual grant of \$5,267 for subsidizing the recurrent expenditure of existing PTAs, project grants for a maximum of two home-school co-operation activities (capped at \$5,000 for each activity), and a grant for joint home-school co-operation projects (capped at \$10,000 for each project).

¹ CHSC comprises the chairperson, ex-officio member from EDB, educators (drawn from kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools and special schools), parents of children in local schools and professionals.

5. To enhance the awareness of good practices in parenting, EDB have organized from time to time different types of parent education publicity programmes and activities. Parent education pamphlets and resource materials covering topics such as fostering good parent-children relationship, promoting children's self-esteem, etc. have also been produced for parents of pre-school and school age children.

Major views and concerns

6. During the fifth Legislative Council, the Administration briefed the Panel on the policy framework, objectives and measures to promote parent education by EDB at its meeting on 8 December 2014. The major concerns raised by members are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

7. A member enquired about the measures to provide parent education to cater for different types of parents as well as the mechanism, if any, to provide support to them. In reply, the Administration emphasized that it would endeavor to provide information for all parents through different channels. CHSC which had been set up as a platform to promote home-school interface as parent-school co-operation had significant contributions towards the whole-person development of students. With the support by CHSC and EDB, Federations of Parent-Teacher Associations ("FPTAs") had been established in 18 districts of Hong Kong to promote parent education through various district-based activities.

8. Noting that only \$23 million were provided to PTAs and FPTAs in the 2013-2014 school year for organizing home-school and parent education activities and an annual grant of \$4,989 to PTAs for subsidizing recurrent expenditure in the 2014-2015 school year, certain members were concerned about the inadequacy of financial resources allocated for parent education. In addition, a member was of the view that teachers were too overloaded with their duties to take care of students who had family or personal problems. The Administration explained that PTAs were set up as a bridge between parents and teachers to foster communication and mutual support in promoting the educational well-being of students. For students requiring individual support, school social workers and student guidance teachers would follow up, and where necessary through case management.

9. There was a suggestion that instead of relying on PTAs to promote parent education at the school level, the Administration should provide parents with an integrated basic training course lasting for not

more than 10 hours. To provide an incentive for parents, the Administration should consider allocating additional points to those children applying for Primary One Admission if their parents had satisfactorily completed the training course. The Administration took note of the member's suggestion and would convey it to CHSC.

Latest position

10. At the Panel meeting on 12 June 2017, the Administration will brief the Panel on its measures to help promote parent education.

Relevant papers

11. A list of relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in the **Appendix**.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
6 June 2017

Appendix

List of relevant papers

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Education	8.12.2014	Agenda Minutes

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