

Public Accounts Committee

**Director of Audit's Report No. 70, Chapter 3 – Integrated
Education**

**21 May 2018
Public Hearing**

Opening Remarks by Secretary for Education

- The Education Bureau (EDB) is grateful for the Director of Audit's Report No. 70 for the review and recommendations on integrated education (IE) implemented by the EDB. We accept the recommendations in the Report and will gradually implement related items so as to further enhance the support for students with special educational needs (SEN) and provide them with appropriate education.
- The EDB has implemented a number of improvement measures in recent years so as to facilitate schools in supporting students with SEN, including (i) to regularise the Enhanced Speech Therapy Grant for public sector primary schools; (ii) to increase the amount and ceiling of the Learning Support Grant (LSG); (iii) to extend the School-based Educational Psychology Service (SBEPS) to all public sector schools in Hong Kong; (iv) to provide each public sector ordinary school with one additional teaching post by phases in three years to allow schools to arrange a designated teacher to serve as the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO); and (v) to include students with mental illness under LSG so that schools can have additional resources to enhance the care for these students.
- The EDB has been launching a series of review of the implementation of tasks on IE to explore the feasibility of enhancing the IE measures in the following directions. The directions of our work are in line with the recommendations in the Audit Report, including:

- (a) To consider re-structuring the additional resources provided for the public sector schools under LSG, Intensive Remedial Teaching Programme and IE Programme in order to strengthen the stability of the teaching force of schools and allow schools to have flexibility in utilizing the resources to support the students with SEN;
- (b) To revamp the mode of basic provision for tier-3 support under the LSG to ensure that schools with more students identified with more challenging problems can receive appropriate support; and
- (c) To further enhance the SBEPS.

We have introduced the directions of our review and enhancement to the Panel on Education in March this year.

- ☐ In sum, the EDB will actively follow up on the recommendations in the Audit Report, listen to different opinions, and work with relevant policy bureaux, government departments and different stakeholders to further refine the IE policy and measures, so as to facilitate schools in supporting students with SEN more effectively.
- ☐ We will now answer in details questions raised by the Public Accounts Committee. Thank you Chairman.

Education Bureau
May 2018