



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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9 January 2019

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

Dear Ms WONG,

**Follow-up on the meeting of  
Panel on Education on 7 December 2018**

I refer to your letter dated 14 December 2018. Regarding the two motions passed under the agenda item of "Proposed non-recurrent funding support to the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority" at the Panel on Education meeting on 7 December 2018, our response is at the Annex.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jenny Chan', written over a horizontal line.

(Jenny CHAN)  
for Secretary for Education

Encl.

**Education Bureau's response to  
motions passed under the agenda item of  
"Proposed non-recurrent funding support to the  
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority" at  
Panel on Education meeting on 7 December 2018**

Wording of motions

This Panel urges the Government to pay the examination fees comparable to the cost of the examination for every school candidate so as to alleviate students' financial burden, and to subsume the payment under Government's free education.

(Moved by Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan, amended by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan and Hon LAU Kwok-fan)

Given that the Government is planning to provide a funding of 360 million to support the operation of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority ("HKEAA") from 2018 to 2022, and that HKEAA may not be able to operate on a self-financing basis in the long run due to the persistent low birth rate, this Panel requests the Administration to proactively consider providing annual direct subsidies for school candidates in the form of recurrent funding based on the cost of HKDSE per school candidate, so as to alleviate the burden of HKDSE fees on school candidates and to ensure the sustainable operation of HKEAA in an independent manner.

(Moved by Hon CHAN Chi-chuen)

Response

The HKEAA is an independent statutory body set up in accordance with the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority Ordinance (Cap 261) (HKEAAO). Its major functions are to administer public examinations (currently refers to the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE)) to cater for the needs of the local education system and society, and to conduct various international and professional examinations.

The HKDSE fees charged according to the HKEAAO is a major source of income of the HKEAA. In 2017/18, the income related to the HKDSE accounted for about 52% of HKEAA's income, while that related to international and professional examinations as well as other local examinations (including Territory-wide System Assessment and Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers) contributed to the remaining share of the income. According to the HKEAAO, public examination fees have to be approved by the Government. Before making



a decision, the Government will take into account a basket of factors, such as the user-pay principle, inflation rate, local economic situation, affordability of families in general and the HKEAA's overall financial position. Currently, there are a number of measures in place to alleviate the financial burden of examination fees on needy students. For example, the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency administers the Examination Fee Remission Scheme which offers examination fee remission to eligible needy school candidates sitting public examinations conducted by the HKEAA. The Social Welfare Department also provides financial assistance to students from families receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance to cover public examination fees. Therefore, eligible needy school candidates will not be denied access to public examinations because of financial difficulties.

The current mode of operation and cost structure of the HKEAA could not support the long-term operation of HKDSE, resulting in financial difficulties faced by the HKEAA. It will be difficult for the HKEAA to maintain effective operation and continue to conduct the HKDSE, and the problem is expected to aggravate in the future. The HKEAA is working out a proposal to ensure its long-term financial sustainability in consultation with the Government. A concrete plan is yet to be formulated.

As a tide-over measure pending the comprehensive review, the Government proposed to provide the HKEAA with a non-recurrent funding of \$360.8 million in four years to support its effective operation during the period.

It is envisaged that the planned detailed study will take time to complete. Views of members of relevant LegCo committees and stakeholders will be sought and carefully considered in the process to ensure that the recommended way forward can ensure HKEAA's long-term financial sustainability and provide continuous support for needy students at the same time for the long-term interest of society.