



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: L/M(1) to EDB(SDCT)3/PRO/10/1/1

電話 Telephone: 3509 8519

來函檔號 Your Ref: CB4/PL/ED

傳真 Fax Line: 2117 9241

24 June 2020

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

Ms Wong,

**Legislative Council Panel on Education  
Follow-up Issue of Meeting on 8 May 2020**

The letter from the Panel on Education dated 11 May 2020 has been received. In response to the motion passed under the agenda item "Arrangements for School Resumption" in the meeting on 8 May, the Education Bureau's response is set out at the Annex.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K K Lee', written over a horizontal line.

(K K Lee)  
for Secretary for Education

**Education Bureau's Response to the Motion Passed under the Agenda Item  
"Arrangements for School Resumption" at the Panel on Education Meeting on 8  
May 2020**

**Wording of the Motion**

This Panel urges the Government to allow tutorial schools to resume operation as soon as possible.

(Moved by Hon IP Kin-yuen, Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung and Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai)

**Responses**

In light of the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), all schools (including kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools, special schools and private schools offering non-formal curriculum (commonly referred to as "tutorial schools")) could not resume classes since the Chinese New Year holidays. As advised by health experts, social distancing and avoidance of mass movement of people are key strategies for preventing and controlling the epidemic to safeguard the health and well-being of students.

Subsequently, the epidemic situation had shown signs of easing. Having regard to the advice of health experts and views of the school sector, the Education Bureau (EDB) decided that schools could resume classes by phases from 27 May onwards. Nevertheless, as the epidemic has not subsided, the anti-epidemic preventive measures should remain stringent and class resumption has to be implemented in a gradual and orderly manner. The EDB and various sectors have agreed that class resumption should place the health and safety of teachers and students as the prime consideration. Stringent rather than lax measures should be put in place. As such, classes in secondary schools, primary schools and kindergartens would be resumed by class level, in order to prevent students of all levels from returning to schools at the same time, as well as avoiding a sudden and massive increase in the movement of people using the other supporting services, such as public transportation and school buses. This could minimise the associated health risks during the early stage of class resumption, and allow schools to gradually adapt and adjust to the relevant arrangements.

Based on the above principle, tutorial schools have followed the respective sequence and order of secondary schools, primary schools and kindergartens, to resume classes starting from 27 May, in order to minimise the risk of disease transmission and protect the safety of students. Compared with primary and secondary schools, in tutorial schools, the size is generally smaller, the density of students is higher, and the physical distance among students is smaller as well. Besides, it may not be feasible to arrange seating in a “face-to-back” setting with all seats facing the same direction. While small group tutoring is a common practice, the risk of disease transmission in tutorial schools is by no means lower than that of primary and secondary schools. Hence, we consider that the above schedule of class resumption for tutorial schools is the most suitable arrangement.

The EDB has all along been providing support for schools amid the epidemic, including the issuance of “Guidelines to Schools on Class Resumption” on 13 May, to assist schools to prepare themselves properly for class resumption. Furthermore, to relieve the financial difficulties of tutorial schools due to class suspension, the Government, on top of the employment support measures, has provided a one-off relief grant to tutorial schools under the Anti-epidemic Fund.

The classes of Secondary 3 to Secondary 5 were resumed smoothly on 27 May, which were followed by the classes of Primary 4 to Secondary 2 on 8 June and the classes of Kindergarten 3 to Primary 3 on 15 June as scheduled. The overall operation of schools is generally smooth. The EDB will continue to maintain liaison with the school sector to provide assistance where necessary.