



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.: (20) in EDB(SB) 436/B/396/80 Pt. 12

電話 Telephone: 3509 8504

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

傳真 Fax Line: 2573 3467

6 July 2021

Clerk to Public Works Subcommittee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Connie HO)

Dear Ms HO,

Public Works Subcommittee
356EP – A 30-classroom primary school in Tsuen Wan West Station
(TW7) Development, Tsuen Wan
Supplementary Information

At the Public Works Subcommittee meeting held on 16 June 2021, a Member requested the Government to provide supplementary information on projections of school-age population in Tsuen Wan District in relation to the captioned works project for the proposed construction of a primary school. The Administration's reply is set out below.

The Education Bureau (EDB) has all along been prudent in its development of public sector school building projects so as to commensurate with overall and district-specific needs, the steady development of the school sector, and at the same time enhancing schools' learning and teaching environment. According to the prevailing mechanism, the EDB will consider factors such as the latest school-age population projections, other factors that

may affect the demand for school places in certain districts, different options to increase the supply of school places in particular districts, the prevailing education policies (including those on enhancing teaching and learning environment through reprovisioning), before deciding whether it is necessary to allocate school premises for setting up new school(s) or reprovisioning of existing school(s). In estimating the future demand for public sector primary school places, the EDB will take into account factors including the number of students studying in kindergartens and public sector primary schools in Hong Kong, school-age population projections (compiled based on the population projections updated by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) from time to time and the latest projections of population changes by district released by the Planning Department (PlanD)), the age-specific enrolment ratio and its latest trend for entry grades of kindergartens and public sector primary schools (i.e. K1 and Primary One (P1)), and the estimated number of cross-boundary students (CBS) and newly arrived children who have not been enrolled to schools in Hong Kong.

Generally speaking, it takes six to seven years to take forward a school building project from planning to construction and completion. The EDB initiated preliminary preparatory work for the captioned school building project in 2014 based on the estimation of the future demand for public sector primary school places at that time. The proposed primary school belongs to School Net 62 of Tsuen Wan District, and will be deployed for reprovisioning of a school in the same district, namely The Church of Christ in China Chuen Yuen First Primary School which does not have sufficient facilities. Since the 2012/13 school year, this School Net has borrowed places from the neighbouring school nets in Kwai Tsing District every year to meet the demand for P1 school places. To meet the transient increase in demand from the 2017/18 to 2020/21 school years, schools implementing small class teaching in the School Net concerned have been temporarily allocated more students (i.e. temporarily allocating more students to each P1 class). In the 2021/22 school year, following the established arrangements, School Net 62 of Tsuen Wan District will also be required to make use of vacant classrooms for operation of additional P1 classes and borrow places from the neighbouring school nets in Kwai Tsing District to reserve adequate P1 places for applicant children in the school net. In addition, one of the conditions for implementation of small class teaching is sufficient provision of classrooms in the School Net concerned. There are 356 public sector primary schools in

Hong Kong implementing small class teaching in the 2021/22 school year, representing around 80% of the total number of public sector primary schools in Hong Kong. Among them, only 10 schools in School Net 62 of Tsuen Wan District have implemented small class teaching, representing 55.6% in the School Net concerned (with a total of 18 public sector primary schools). The proposed school can increase the number of classrooms in Tsuen Wan District, which will be conducive to the further rollout of small class teaching, subject to favorable conditions and availability of resources in future.

As regards the latest projections of school-age population in Tsuen Wan District, with reference to the 2019-based Population Projections released by the C&SD in September 2020 and the “Projections of Population Distribution 2021 – 2029” released by the PlanD in March 2021, EDB has compiled the latest projections of school-age population aged 6 residing in Tsuen Wan District in 2021 – 2029 (rounded to the nearest hundred) as follows:

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Projected mid-year populations	2 600	2 400	2 200	2 000	1 900	1 800	1 800	2 000	1 900

It has, however, to be emphasized that population projections have taken into account a number of factors and assumptions. Any deviations in the assumptions from the eventual situation may naturally render the projected figures different from the actual turnout figures. EDB will continue to compile new projections based on updates provided by the C&SD and the PlanD. The figures tabulated above only refer to the projected number of local children (i.e. Hong Kong usual residents) aged 6 residing in Tsuen Wan District. The figures should not be taken as the projected number of P1 students attending schools in the district concerned. The major reasons are students under or over the age of 6 may also enroll in P1, and the projected number of P1 students would be affected by the prevailing distribution of school places, demand for school places and parental choices. Moreover, there are some uncertainties in the projections of school-age population over the past few years, including the development of the COVID-19 epidemic which has affected the number of newly-arrived students and cross-boundary students joining local schools, the birth rate (i.e. the school age population in a

few years' time), etc. Yet, the school age population may rebound as the epidemic fades away. EDB will continue to closely monitor the changes in school-age population projections.

To conclude, the captioned school building project serves the purpose of reprovisioning The Church of Christ in China Chuen Yuen First Primary School to bring about significant improvement to the School's learning and teaching environment, provides flexibility to accommodate future demand for school places in the School Net concerned, and create favourable conditions for further rollout of small class teaching.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'O' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

(Philip HAR)
for Secretary for Education

c.c.

Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
(Attn: Ms HSIA Mai Chi, Margaret)