

LegCo Panel on Education

**List of issues to be considered
(as at 13 January 1999)**

1. Facilities for physical development and sports education in primary and secondary schools

Item proposed by Hon Emily LAU who is concerned about the facilities for physical development of students in primary and secondary schools. She would like to discuss plans to improve the school design to provide more space and facilities for physical development and sports, and other enhancement measures including teacher training and sports activities.

2. Training and development programmes for school principals

Item proposed by Hon Selina CHOW. The report on the Review of the Education Department has recommended introducing a performance appraisal system for school principals to ensure the quality of leadership in schools. The Government will also consider enhancing the training and development of school principals to facilitate their transition to school-based management.

3. Freeze of tuition fees for government-funded tertiary educational programmes in the 1998-99 academic year

Item proposed by Hon NG Ching-fai. The Administration is still examining the impact of the freeze of tuition fees on the resources of tertiary educational institutions. Discussion of the item has been deferred to a future meeting.

4. Private school policy

At the policy briefing on 12 October 1998, the Administration responded to a question raised by Hon TSANG Yok-shing on the measures to facilitate the development of a vibrant private school sector. The Administration has undertaken to further discuss with the Panel the details with regard to land grant to non-profit-making private schools and allocation of government-built premises to new private schools joining the Direct Subsidy Scheme.

5. Subsidy to kindergartens

At the policy briefing on 12 October 1998, Hon CHOY So-yuk asked the Administration to consider increasing the subsidy to kindergartens so that more kindergartens could achieve the target of having 60% of teachers to be Qualified Kindergarten Teachers without having to increase the tuition fees. The Administration has undertaken to consult the Panel on improvement proposals in this respect.

6. Provision of physiotherapists and allied health personnel in special schools

Item proposed by Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung who is concerned about the provision of physiotherapists, speech therapists and allied health personnel in special schools for handicapped children. A joint meeting may be held with the Welfare Panel to discuss the current staffing ratio, recruitment and retention problems of physiotherapists and allied health personnel in special schools.

7. Review of the education-related executive and advisory bodies

In accordance with the recommendation of the Education Commission Report No. 7 (ECR7), the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) has conducted a review on the education-related executive and advisory system. A consultation document on the Review of the Education-related Executive and Advisory Bodies was published in May 1998. The consultation period ended on 27 May 1998 and some of the recommendations have been implemented. The Panel may wish to consider whether this item should be discussed or deleted.

8. Review of academic structure

The Education Commission (EC) has been tasked to review the structure of pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary education which will cover, among others, the age at which students should begin each stage of education, the duration of each stage, the curriculum and assessment methods, and the interface between the different stages. On 20 April 1998, two working groups, namely, the Working Group on Pre-primary and Universal Basic Education and the Working Group on Post-Secondary 3 Education, were set up under the EC to conduct the review. The Working Groups will consult the various advisory bodies and education community.

9. Policy on university hostels

When discussing a Public Works Subcommittee paper (PWSC(98-99)9) about the new student hostel in City University on 4 September 1998, PWSC members had urged for a more generous provision for publicly-funded student hostel places at UGC - funded institutions. The PWSC Chairman has advised that issues related to the policy on university hostels be further considered by the Panel on Education.

Legislative Council Secretariat
13 January 1999