

LegCo Panel on Education

List of issues suggested for discussion (as at 12 May 1999)

1. Benchmark qualification for English language teachers

Item proposed by Hon Emily LAU. Education Commission Report No. 6 has recommended that minimum language proficiency standards for all language teachers be specified. Members are concerned about the teaching of English language in schools and would like to receive an update on the issue.

2. Integrated education

Item proposed by Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong who is concerned about the policy and resources for integrating children with learning difficulties or adjustment problems into the mainstream schools. He would also like to know the outcome of the two-year pilot scheme on integrated education, such as the difficulties encountered and the possible solutions.

3. Provision of library facilities in primary schools

Item proposed by Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong. Education Commission Report No. 5 has recommended provision of a library in each primary school. Mr CHEUNG is concerned about the policy and resources allocated for this purpose.

4. Native-speaking English Teachers Scheme

Item proposed by Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung at the meeting on 30 March 1999. Mr LEUNG would like to receive a briefing on the progress and effectiveness of the Scheme. Since the Scheme has been implemented for only half a year, the Administration suggested and members agreed to discuss the issue in **September 1999**.

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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

The EC Chairman has briefed the Panel on the Consultation Paper on Aims of Education at a meeting on 1 February 1999. The Panel may wish to follow up on future developments.

8. Quality indicators for measuring value-added improvement in student performance

At the meeting on 19 April 1999, members noted that ED was developing a set of quality indicators for measuring and monitoring school performance and value-added improvement in student performance in major domains of education. The Panel agreed to discuss the issue at a future meeting.

9. Information technology training for teachers

At the LegCo Members' meeting with Tsuen Wan Provisional District Board (TWPDB) on 6 May 1999, members of TWPDB considered that the Administration should formulate a clear strategy for defining the training needs of teachers in information technology so as to avoid wasting teachers' time.

Members attending the meeting also considered that implementation of the new arrangements for acquisition of computers and IT training for teachers as detailed in the Finance Committee paper [FCR(98-99)71] should be examined by the Panel on Education. A list of concerns raised by TWPDB members is given in the Appendix.

The Panel had previously discussed IT education on 28 July and 26 October 1998. The Panel may wish to consider following up the issues raised at the meeting with TWPDB members.

Legislative Council Secretariat

12 May 1999

(Translation)

**List of concerns raised by Tsuen Wan PDB members
at a meeting with LegCo members on 6 May 1999**

1. The Hong Kong Institute of Education or any university should be commissioned to design a comprehensive programme on information technology (“IT”) education and to define, amongst other things, the levels of IT competency required of teachers of primary and secondary schools. Relevant courses should be organized by either the Education Department (“ED”) or other training suppliers.
2. Teachers should be required to keep an intact record of the courses completed and the relevant certificates obtained. Irrelevant basic courses should not be organized so as to avoid disruption to teachers’ normal teaching or wastage of resources.
3. Schools should be given a free hand in allocating resources for implementing IT education and acquiring IT training for their teachers. Central coordination of such resources by District Education Offices or the Information Systems Division is not preferred as delays in implementation may arise as a result of bureaucracy. A list of relevant courses or training suppliers (such as Government contractors) should be provided to schools for selection.
4. Divisions and sections within ED should liaise and work in collaboration with the Information Systems Division in helping schools to accommodate computers rooms, language laboratories, IT rooms, etc. so that they can deliver IT lessons in such rooms.
5. For those primary and secondary schools where there is not sufficient space for implementing IT education and where works under the School Improvement Programme cannot be arranged, resources should be provided to them for acquiring more portable computers or to adopt other alternatives.