

LegCo Panel on Education

**List of issues to be considered
(as at 21 October 1998)**

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

The item was originally proposed by Hon NG Ching-fai for discussion at the Panel meeting on 21 September 1998. As the Administration was still examining the impact of the freeze of tuition fees on the resources of the tertiary educational institutions, discussion of this item has been deferred to a future meeting.

2. Information technology (IT) in education

The Administration published a consultation document on Information Technology for Quality Education in June 1998 to invite public views on its proposed five-year strategy for the use of IT in education. The consultation ended on 31 August 1998.

The Panel has discussed the consultation document at its meeting on 28 July 1998. The Administration will propose a Finance Committee Agenda Item on the financial arrangements on implementation and has suggested to brief the Panel at a special meeting on **2 November 1998**.

3. Furniture and Equipment Grant to aided schools

The Administration has proposed to provide all aided schools with a special Furniture and Equipment Grant on a recurrent basis from the 1998/99 school year. At the Finance Committee meeting on 16.10.98, members sought further information from the Administration on the basis for arriving at the rates of grants proposed in FCR (98-99) 34. The Finance Committee (FC) Chairman suggested that the item be further discussed by the Panel before re-submission to FC. The Administration plans to discuss with the Panel at the **November** meeting.

4. Improvements to practical schools

Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong proposes to discuss the problems faced by practical schools and the resources and support given to these schools. He will provide a paper to the Panel for discussion in **November/December 1998**.

5. Teaching of English language in schools

Hon Mrs Selina CHOW proposed to review the progress of the measures to enhance the teaching of English language in schools. In the 1998 Policy Objective, the Secretary for Education and Manpower pledged to develop language benchmarks for all new and serving teachers, explore the development of language attainment targets for students; and provide additional native English-speaking teachers (NET) for public sector secondary schools (up to two NET posts for Chinese medium schools).

6. Training and development programmes for school principals

Item proposed by Hon Mrs Selina CHOW. The 1998 Policy Objective and the Review of the Education Department propose that schools will be asked to introduce proper performance appraisal for principals to ensure the quality of leadership in schools. In line with the implementation of school-based management, the Administration is considering enhancing training of school principals to facilitate the transition.

7. Improving the student-teacher ratio in primary and secondary schools

Hon Emily LAU proposed to discuss the student-teacher ratio in primary and secondary schools. She would like the Administration to prepare a paper on plans to improve the ratio, with reference to the situation in Asian and western countries.

8. 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. The Panel may wish to be briefed on the outcome of the review.

9. 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.

10. Policy on university hostels

When discussing a Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) paper (PWSC(98-99)9) about the new student hostel in City University on 4.9.1998, 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

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