

LegCo Panel on Education

**List of issues to be considered
(as at 10 November 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. Improvements to practical schools

Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong proposed 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 December 1998.

3. 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. The Panel may wish to discuss this at the December meeting.

4. School-based assessment in the public examination system of the Hong Kong Examinations Authority (HKEA)

Item proposed by Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung. HKEA has appointed the Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) to conduct a review of the public examination system which covers six specific issues including the development of school-based assessment in the HKCEE and HKALE in May 1998. The first part of the review report, principally on school-based assessment, should be completed by 30 September 1998. The Panel may wish to discuss this at the December meeting.

5. Training and development programmes for school principals

Item proposed by Hon Mrs Selina CHOW. It is proposed in the 1998 Policy Objective and the Review of the Education Department 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.

6. Facilities for physical development/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 on 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.

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

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 4.9.1998, 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.