

School Sponsoring Bodies

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on how schools are allocated to school sponsoring bodies (SSBs) at present.

Background

2. The Education Ordinance defines a SSB as a society or body corporate that the Director of Education approves to be the sponsoring body for a school specified by her. As at September 1999, there are around 520 SSBs operating about 1 800 aided primary, aided secondary and Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools, and kindergartens. The number of schools operated by SSBs varies. Of these some 520 SSBs, the vast majority (around 500) run 10 schools / kindergartens or less.

School Allocation Exercise

3. The process of selecting SSBs to run schools is conducted in an open, fair and competitive manner. Starting from 1999, the Education Department (ED) invites prospective non-profit-making SSBs to apply, through the annual school allocation exercise (SAE), for –

- (a) Government-built school premises for operation of aided schools, DSS schools and estate kindergartens. SSBs for aided and DSS schools may also apply to build school premises themselves using Government's capital grant ^(Note1); and
- (b) land and capital grant ^(Note 1) for construction and operation of Private Independent Schools (PISs).

4. To ensure that prospective SSBs fully understand the allocation process, SAEs are publicized widely through the media and ED's homepage. Briefing sessions are also held for interested SSBs to explain to them the allocation procedures and criteria.

5. Each applicant is required to submit a detailed proposal which should set out, inter alia, the vision, mission, performance targets of the school, as well as evaluation criteria for target attainment. These proposals will be considered by a School Allocation Committee (SAC) chaired by the Director of Education with members from ED and the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB). To enhance transparency and to tap outside expertise, the SAC also includes members from the

^(Note 1) The capital grant is provided for the construction of school premises. The amount should not be more than the cost for constructing a standard design public sector school accommodating the same number of students.

education sector and the community. The existing membership of SAC is at Annex.

6. The SAC has adopted a set of assessment criteria against which SSBs' proposals are evaluated. These criteria include, for example, the proposed schools' vision, mission and curriculum, and the SSBs' organization structure, commitment to provide quality education, financial soundness and relevant experience in education and related social services. The criteria are clearly set out in the application forms for school allocation.

7. Shortlisted SSBs will be invited to present their proposals to the SAC. During the presentation, the SSBs will be given opportunities to elaborate on the work of their organizations and their proposals, and to answer questions from the SAC.

Performance-based school management

8. To enhance schools' accountability in delivering education and to facilitate the development of performance-based school management, ED will, starting from the 2000/ 01 school year, enter into service agreements with SSBs of new aided schools and DSS schools. The same arrangement will apply to PISs which receive land/capital grants from Government for construction of school premises. Renewal of the

service agreement on its expiry will be subject to evaluation with reference to the performance targets and evaluation criteria stated in the agreement. ED will also review periodically the performance of the school during the term of the agreement. In exceptional cases, e.g. the school repeatedly refuses to accept ED's advice to make improvements, Government may terminate the service agreement before its expiry.

9. On termination of the service agreement, Government will either allocate the school to a new SSB or temporarily take over the management of the school, pending the selection of a new SSB. In either case, all students of the school may stay put.

Education Department

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**Membership of
School Allocation Committee**

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| Mrs Fanny LAW (Chairperson) | Director of Education |
| Mr KWOK Kwok-chuen | Member, Board of Education |
| Mr Howie NG | Member, Advisory Committee on Quality Assurance Inspection |
| Professor Y P CHUNG | Dean, Faculty of Education, Chinese University of Hong Kong |
| Dr CHUI Hong-sheung | Principal, Hang Seng School of Commerce |
| Mr PANG Yiu-kai | Chairman, School Based Management Advisory Committee |
| Mr Patrick LI | Principal Assistant Secretary (Education & Manpower) ² |
| Mr H F LEE | Senior Assistant Director of Education (Support) |
| Mr M Y CHENG | Assistant Director of Education (Schools) |
| Mr K C TAM | Assistant Director of Education (Chief Inspector of Schools) |