

Education (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2003
Response to questions from Hon. CHEUNG Man Kwong
as listed in his letter

Purpose

This paper sets out the Administration's response to the questions on Education (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2003 from Hon. CHEUNG Man Kwong as listed in his letter [LC Paper No.CB(2) 2831/02-03(02)].

Total number of permitted teachers eligible for registration as registered teachers through accumulation of teaching experience

2. According to the figures available as at July 2003, there are a total of about 2230 permitted teachers (PTs) who are eligible for registration as registered teachers (RTs) under the R3 category (i.e. holders of a recognized degree plus at least 3 years of approved teaching experience). As with the R10 category, (i.e. holders of 5 HKCEE passes plus at least 10 years of approved teaching experience) the total number amounts about 50. The details are shown in **Table 1**:

Table 1

Qualification	Approximate No. of PTs
A recognized degree plus 3 or more years of approved teaching experience (R3)	2230
5 HKCEE passes plus 10 or more years of approved teaching experience (R10)	50

Details of PTs falling short of teaching experience to be registered teachers

(a) Degree plus 3 or more years of approved teaching experience (R3)

3. According to the figures available as at July 2003, a total of about 2520 PTs are found holding recognized degrees but falling short of teaching experience to be registered as RTs under the R3 category. The breakdown of the above PTs by years of teaching experience is at **Table 2**:

Table 2

No. of Years of Teaching Experience	Approximate No. of PTs
< 1	1040
1 to < 2	920
2 to < 3	560
Total	2520

4. The breakdown of the figures at paragraph 3 by level (namely primary and secondary) is at **Table 3:**

Table 3

Level	Approximate No. of PTs
Primary	770
Secondary	1710
Total	2480 *

* About 40 other PTs under this category are currently not teaching in primary/secondary schools.

(b) 5 HKCEE passes plus 10 or more years of approved teaching experience (R10)

5. According to the figures available as at July 2003, there are a total of about 1360 PTs who have obtained 5 HKCEE passes (including English Language (Syllabus B) or Chinese Language) but do not have adequate teaching experience to qualify themselves for registration as RTs under the R10 category. The breakdown of the above PTs by years of teaching experience is shown in **Table 4:**

Table 4

No. of Years of Teaching Experience	Approximate No. of PTs
< 1	250
1 to < 2	310
2 to < 3	290
3 to < 4	190
4 to < 5	120
5 to < 6	80
6 to < 7	70
7 to < 8	35
8 to < 9	10
9 to < 10	5
Total	1360

6. The breakdown of the PTs in paragraph 5 above by level (namely primary and secondary) is detailed in **Table 5:**

Table 5

Level	Approximate No. of PTs
Primary	360
Secondary	170
Total	530*

* Of the 1360 PTs in **Table 4**, about 830 PTs under this category are not currently teaching in primary/secondary schools.

7. The number of RTs registered under the R10 category in the past 5 years is shown in **Table 6** below:

Table 6

Year	No. of RTs registered under the R10 category
8.1997 - 7.1998	22
8.1998 - 7.1999	32
8.1999 - 7.2000	22
8.2000 - 7.2001	19

8.2001 - 7.2002	15
8.2002 - 6.2003 (11months)	32
Total	142

Permitted teachers who change schools after enactment of the Bill

8. In the past five years, it is noted that on average only 20 PTs a year have acquired their registered teacher status through merely accumulating the years of approved teaching experience. In fact, serving PTs who do not change schools can maintain their status quo and will not be affected by the enactment of the Bill. The Administration is aware that permitted teachers will need to acquire higher qualifications in renewing their teaching permit upon change of schools. However, for the benefit of students and in the wider interest of raising the professionalism of the teaching force, the Administration considers it necessary to introduce the amendment bill so as to give impetus to teachers in raising their basic training and qualifications. The Education and Manpower Bureau will liaise closely with various teacher education institutions to operate relevant upgrading courses on a self-funding basis and encourage these institutions to give priority to enrolling under-qualified permitted teachers onto such courses. In the event that a permitted teacher who has enrolled in these courses is obliged to change schools, the Bureau may exercise its discretion in granting special permission for the teacher in question to maintain his/ her permitted teacher status until he/ she has acquired the necessary qualifications to become a registered teacher.

Measures to encourage permitted teachers to undergo training

9. The Hong Kong Institute of Education, together with other tertiary institutions, have long been offering a wide range of self-funded in-service teacher education courses to enable serving permitted teachers to upgrade their academic or professional qualifications. These include part-time higher diploma courses, postgraduate diploma in education courses, Bachelor degree courses and Bachelor in Education courses. It is stipulated in the Codes of Aid for Secondary and Primary Schools that schools should give priority to appointing teachers with teacher training qualifications. A salary bar is also imposed on teachers who are without teacher training qualifications. In response to the keen community expectations on teachers' professionalism, the Administration has to introduce the amendment bill as a matter of urgency to provide impetus for permitted teachers to upgrade their qualifications.

Grace period

10. Under current legislations, permitted teachers can obtain registered teacher (RT) status by merely accumulating the years of approved teaching experience required: a degree holder can do so with 3 years of experience whereas a non-degree holder can achieve this with 10 years. Bearing in mind the benefit of students and the need for quality education, which are of paramount importance to the public at large, the Administration sees an urgent need to introduce the amendment bill to provide impetus for permitted teachers to upgrade their qualifications. Moreover, the small number of R10 applications per year suggests that the majority of teachers may be inclined to gain RT status through teacher training.

Education and Manpower Bureau
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