

For information

On 16 June 2003

LegCo Panel on Education
Implementation of Whole-day Primary Schooling

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the progress on the implementation of whole-day primary schooling (WDPS).

Background

2. The Government announced in the 1997 Policy Address that, as an interim target, we would provide 60% of primary school students with whole-day (WD) schooling by 2002, and in the 1998 Policy Address that our long-term aim is for virtually all school students to enjoy primary whole-day schooling. In setting this long-term goal, we have had regard to the constraints on the supply of school sites in individual districts and the possible changes in population growth and distribution.

3. The 2001 population projection shows that there would be a drop of 65,500 (13.3%) primary students from 493,200 in 2002 to 427,700 in 2007, and a further drop of 17,100 (3.5%) in 2010, giving rise to a total drop of 16.7%. Detailed analysis of the projection by district is at Appendix 1.

Progress

4. In the 2002/03 school year, we have achieved the interim target of 60% WDPS through (a) construction of 78 new schools between 1998 and 2002; (b) making use of vacant school premises; (c) building additional classrooms / extension blocks; (d) redeveloping the school's existing premises; and (e) merging the am and pm sessions of schools.

5. To pursue the long-term goal, we have planned, among other measures, to build another 51⁽¹⁾ new schools between 2002 and 2007. This has taken into account not only the population projection and distribution, but also factors such as parental choice, popularity of school and the physical condition of existing schools. Out of these 51 new schools, 40 have already been allocated.

6. To date, 170 school premises are still operating in bi-sessional mode (hereafter called schools). Of these 170 schools, 103 have already had agreed plans for conversion to WDPS through the following means:

| Means of Conversion | No. of Schools |
|--|-----------------------|
| (a) Allocation of new premises | 40 |
| (b) Making use of vacant school premises | 11 |
| (c) Building of additional classrooms / extension blocks | 7 |
| (d) In-situ redevelopment | 2 |
| (e) Merging the am and pm sessions | 43 |
| Total no. of schools with agreed plan | 103 |

¹ Excluding school redevelopment / extension projects

Way Forward

7. Of the remaining 67 schools, 11 schools will be allocated new school premises, and another 3 schools will be allocated vacant premises, through the coming school allocation exercises to turn WD. Another 26 schools have a classroom utilization rate, or enrolment rate, or both, at below 80%. A more cost-effective and practical means to convert these schools to WD would be to merge the am and pm sessions. The classroom utilization and enrolment rates of the 67 schools are at Appendix 2.

8. The possible means of conversion for the remaining 67 schools without any agreed plan are thus summarized as follows:

| Possible Means of Conversion | No. of Schools |
|--|-----------------------|
| (a) Allocation of new premises | 11 |
| (b) Making use of vacant school premises | 3 |
| (c) Merging the am and pm sessions | 26 |
| (d) Schools under further review | 27 |
| Total no. of remaining schools without any agreed plan | 67 |

9. For the 27 schools under further review, we shall monitor their enrolment situation regularly and explore possible means of conversion, including the possibility of building new schools should the overall demand change.

10. We are also considering the possibility of reprovisioning existing secondary schools with inadequate space, so that the existing school premises can be vacated for WDPS. To make full use of existing vacant classrooms, we shall encourage under-enrolled WD primary schools to collaborate with a more fully enrolled bi-sessional school in the vicinity, for example, by combining and developing into a more fully enrolled WD primary school. We are also revisiting the feasibility of in-situ redevelopment or extension of existing premises to facilitate conversion to WD operation.

Consultation

11. During the period from July to October 2002, we have briefed and consulted the sponsors of all bi-sessional schools on the possible impact of the population decline and constraints on the implementation of WDPS. In general, the schools concerned understand the situation and raised no objection to the broad direction in paragraphs 6 to 10 above. We aim to reach an agreed conversion plan with each remaining bi-sessional school by 2007 as far as practicable.

Advice Sought

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12. Members are requested to note the progress of WDPS and our aim to reach agreement with each of the remaining 67 bi-sessional schools, as far as practicable, on a plan to turn whole-day by 2007.

Education and Manpower Bureau

June 2003

Projected School Age Population Aged 6 - 11 by District, 2002 - 2010
(adjusted to September, WGPD 2001-based series)

| District | Population | | | | | | | | | Population Change | |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 9/2002 | 9/2003 | 9/2004 | 9/2005 | 9/2006 | 9/2007 | 9/2008 | 9/2009 | 9/2010 | (from 2002 to 2007) | (from 2002 to 2010) |
| Southern | 18 900 | 18 400 | 17 700 | 17 000 | 16 300 | 15 400 | 14 300 | 13 600 | 13 500 | -18.5% | -28.6% |
| Central and Western | 14 800 | 14 400 | 13 900 | 13 700 | 13 500 | 13 000 | 12 200 | 11 900 | 12 300 | -12.2% | -16.9% |
| Wan Chai | 7 800 | 7 500 | 7 200 | 6 900 | 6 700 | 6 500 | 6 300 | 6 300 | 6 600 | -16.7% | -15.4% |
| Eastern | 38 600 | 37 300 | 35 300 | 33 000 | 31 000 | 29 200 | 27 300 | 26 400 | 26 800 | -24.4% | -30.6% |
| Islands | 8 500 | 9 200 | 10 700 | 11 600 | 11 600 | 11 900 | 12 000 | 11 200 | 10 800 | 40.0% | 27.1% |
| Kowloon City | 23 800 | 23 300 | 22 700 | 21 700 | 20 700 | 20 400 | 21 200 | 22 900 | 23 700 | -14.3% | -0.4% |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 16 400 | 15 900 | 16 400 | 16 600 | 17 000 | 16 800 | 16 500 | 16 600 | 17 100 | 2.4% | 4.3% |
| Sham Shui Po | 23 100 | 22 400 | 22 200 | 22 400 | 22 800 | 22 400 | 23 100 | 24 600 | 25 000 | -3.0% | 8.2% |
| Wong Tai Sin | 32 000 | 31 100 | 29 700 | 27 700 | 26 000 | 24 900 | 24 100 | 23 900 | 24 000 | -22.2% | -25.0% |
| Kwun Tong | 38 800 | 39 400 | 38 400 | 37 400 | 36 100 | 35 000 | 36 300 | 38 400 | 38 700 | -9.8% | -0.3% |
| Sai Kung | 28 900 | 30 500 | 31 800 | 30 800 | 29 500 | 29 000 | 29 600 | 28 600 | 28 200 | 0.3% | -2.4% |
| Sha Tin | 43 600 | 42 800 | 40 500 | 38 000 | 36 500 | 35 700 | 35 100 | 34 800 | 35 800 | -18.1% | -17.9% |
| Tai Po | 24 300 | 22 800 | 21 100 | 19 400 | 17 700 | 16 400 | 15 000 | 14 300 | 14 600 | -32.5% | -39.9% |
| North | 27 500 | 26 700 | 25 600 | 25 100 | 25 000 | 23 700 | 22 300 | 21 500 | 21 300 | -13.8% | -22.5% |
| Kwai Tsing | 33 100 | 33 800 | 33 700 | 33 400 | 33 100 | 32 700 | 31 300 | 30 600 | 30 100 | -1.2% | -9.1% |
| Tsuen Wan | 19 100 | 18 700 | 18 400 | 18 500 | 17 800 | 17 000 | 15 800 | 15 000 | 14 900 | -11.0% | -22.0% |
| Yuen Long | 51 400 | 54 000 | 53 000 | 51 000 | 48 400 | 46 700 | 45 300 | 42 000 | 40 200 | -9.1% | -21.8% |
| Tuen Mun | 42 600 | 42 000 | 39 100 | 36 000 | 33 100 | 30 900 | 28 600 | 27 000 | 26 900 | -27.5% | -36.9% |
| Total | 493 200 | 490 400 | 477 500 | 460 100 | 442 900 | 427 700 | 416 200 | 409 500 | 410 600 | -13.3% | -16.7% |

Sources : (1) 2001-based Projected Population Distribution by District Council District in 2001 - 2011 (as at mid-year) provided by Working Group on Population Distribution (WGPD).

(2) The projected number of Cross boundary students derived based on the information from relevant Regional Education Offices, results of Cross boundary Travel Survey 2001 and records of Hong Kong Police Force.

District with a projected rise in population from 2002 to 2010.

**Classroom Utilization Rate and Enrolment Rate of the Remaining
67 Schools without Agreed Plan for Conversion to Whole-day**

| District | Population Change (from 2002 to 2010) | Both Classroom Utilization Rate and Enrolment Rate $\geq 80\%$ | Classroom Utilization Rate, Enrolment Rate or both $< 80\%$ | Sub-total |
|-----------------|--|--|--|------------------|
| SOU | -28.6% | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CW | -16.9% | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| WCH | -15.4% | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| HKE | -30.6% | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Is | 27.1% | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| KC | -0.4% | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| YTM | 4.3% | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| SSP | 8.2% | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| WTS | -25.0% | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| KT | -0.3% | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| SK | -2.4% | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ST | -17.9% | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| TP | -39.9% | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| N | -22.5% | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| KwT | -9.1% | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| TW | -22.0% | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| YL | -21.8% | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| TM | -36.9% | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| TOTAL | | 41 | 26 | 67 |

Note:

1. Calculation of the classroom utilization rate is based on the number of classes approved for the 2003/2004 school year.
2. The enrolment rate of a school refers to the percentage of student enrolment in the 2002/03 school year as compared with the standard capacity.