

**Panel on Education**  
**List of follow-up actions**  
(position as at 6 October 2003)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
<p>1. <u>Loans to non-profit-making international schools</u></p> <p>1.1 Review of the policy on financial assistance to schools operated by the English Schools Foundation (ESF)</p>	<p>26.11.99 (Finance Committee)</p>	<p>The Administration agreed to report the outcome of the review to the Panel in due course.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p><u>Latest position</u> Current per class subsidy has already been frozen at the 1999-2000 school year price level. The Administration is reviewing the subsidy policy on ESF taking into account the prevailing financial stringency of Government, cost-effectiveness of ESF's operation and the interests of parents and students.</p>
<p>2. <u>Further expansion of the Non-means Tested Loan Scheme (NLS)</u></p> <p>2.1 Risk-adjusted factor and repayment period</p>	<p>19.6.00</p>	<p>The Panel requested the Administration to review the risk-adjusted factor and the repayment period of NLS in the light of members' comments at the meeting.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p><u>Latest position</u> The Administration is considering the possibility of outsourcing NLS to the private sector.</p>

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<p>3. <u>Briefing on the Higher Education Review</u></p> <p>3.1 Institutional governance and staff grievances</p>	<p>2.12.02</p>	<p>The University Grants Committee (UGC) agreed to provide an update on the development of an internal grievances and complaint mechanism in UGC-funded tertiary institutions at an appropriate time.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p><u>Latest position</u> The institutions are at various stages of reviewing their governance and management structures, including their internal grievances and complaint mechanisms, and will provide an update in due course.</p>
<p>4. <u>Follow-up discussion on the review and appeal mechanism for non-renewal of contract of the City University of Hong Kong (CityU)</u></p> <p>4.1 Performance evaluation process and appeal mechanism of CityU</p>	<p>16.12.02</p>	<p>The Chairman of the CityU Council undertook to provide the Panel through UGC information on the follow-up measures to be taken to improve the performance evaluation process and the effectiveness of the appeal mechanism.</p>	<p>A report provided by CityU through UGC was circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2726/02-03 on 30 June 2003.</p>

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Follow-up action required</b>	<b>Administration's response</b>
<p>5. <u>Education expenditure in the draft Estimates for 2003-04</u></p> <p>5.1 List of village schools to be closed down</p>	<p>17.3.03</p>	<p>The Administration undertook to inform the Panel after consulting the village schools concerned.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p><u>Latest position</u> The following village schools were closed down in September 2003:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. King Lam School</li><li>2. Tung Chung Public School</li><li>3. Wing Chor School</li><li>4. Fong Yuen School</li><li>5. Shek Wu School</li></ol> <p>The list of village schools to be closed down in September 2004 is yet to be finalized.</p>

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<p>6. <u>Enhanced School Development and Accountability</u></p> <p>6.1 Implementation of the enhanced school development and accountability (SDA) framework</p>	<p>28.4.03</p>	<p>The Administration agreed to provide an interim report on the results of implementation by the end of the 2003-04 school year.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p><u>Latest position</u> Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) will conduct External School Review to 100 schools from February to June 2004. An interim report on the results of implementation of the SDA framework will be prepared by the end of the 2003-04 school year.</p>
<p>7. <u>Matching Fund for University Grants Committee-funded Institutions</u></p> <p>7.1 Review of the operation of the Matching Grant Scheme</p>	<p>19.5.03</p>	<p>The Administration undertook to provide a report on the review of the first phase of the Matching Grant Scheme.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p><u>Latest Position</u> The first phase of the Scheme was open for application in July 2003. A review will be conducted at the end of the first phase.</p>

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<p>8. <u>Operating expenses of aided schools</u></p> <p>8.1 Electricity tariffs of aided schools</p>	<p>3.6.03 (Finance Committee)</p>	<p>The Administration undertook to report to the Panel on the outcome of its negotiations with the two electricity companies on the feasibility of concessionary arrangements for electricity tariffs of schools, as well as any other proposals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A meeting was held with Hong Kong Electric Co Ltd on 24 July 2003 and another with CLP Power Co Ltd on 29 July 2003. Both companies indicated that they had no plans to offer any further concession rates while pointing out that they had been involved in promoting awareness of energy saving in schools. They further agreed to provide EMB with some general statistics of electricity consumption in schools for reference.</li> <li>• Pending relevant statistics from the two electricity companies, EMB will request the electricity companies to conduct visits to selected schools upon consent from the latter with a view to advising them what further improvement they can make to cut down the use of power.</li> <li>• The current EMB website on effective use of resources will be enriched with more good practices of energy saving and a list of DON'Ts for easy reference by schools.</li> </ul>

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<p>9. <u>Study on teaching in small classes</u></p> <p>9.1 Strategies and practices of variable group teaching</p>	<p>16.6.03</p>	<p>The Administration undertook to provide details of the good strategies and practices, the particulars of the schools practising variable group teaching and the interim review on the proposed study on effective group strategies of small class and other variable group teaching in primary schools.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p><u>Latest Position</u> A questionnaire survey was conducted in July 2003, and the data is being analysed. We will revert to the LegCo Panel on the findings by January 2004 (tentative).</p>
<p>10. <u>Results of the 2003 Language Proficiency Assessment for teachers</u></p> <p>10.1 Options for upgrading the quality of English teachers</p>	<p>23.6.03</p>	<p>The Panel requested the Administration to explore workable options for upgrading the quality of English teachers and provide a paper in October 2003.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p><u>Latest Position</u> The Hong Kong Institute of Education has introduced preparation courses for Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers since August 2003. More would be organized from September 2003 to January 2004. A paper to report details will be prepared soon.</p>

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<p>11. <u>Future provision of associate degree programmes in the City University of Hong Kong</u></p> <p>11.1 Working Group of CityU Council on future provision of associate degree programmes in CityU</p>	<p>30.6.03</p>	<p>The Administration and UGC agreed to provide the Panel with the report of the Working Group of the CityU Council in due course.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p><u>Remark</u> According to the press statement issued by CityU on 2 October 2003, the Working Group is ready to publish a draft report for university-wide consultation in mid-October and the deliberation of the CityU Senate in late October 2003. The final report will be submitted to CityU Council in November 2003.</p>
<p>12. <u>Arrangements for surplus laboratory technicians (LTs) of aided secondary schools and related issues</u></p> <p>12.1 Surveys on laboratory accidents</p>	<p>20.8.03</p>	<p>The Administration undertook to confirm the schedule for conducting surveys on laboratory accidents in aided secondary schools.</p>	<p>The last survey on laboratory accidents was conducted for 1999-2000 school year. An annual survey is considered not necessary as adequate information on common laboratory accidents has already been obtained, and any serious accidents occurred in schools are required to be reported to EMB for follow-up actions. In order to reduce</p>

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12.2 Schools with surplus LTs	20.8.03	The Administration undertook to provide an update on the number of schools with surplus LTs in the 2002-03 school year which had the problem remained in the 2003-04 school year.	<p>teachers' non-teaching workload, the survey will be conducted once every three years. The coming survey for 2002-03 school year will be conducted by the end of 2003 to collect more up-to-date information on the standard of laboratory safety in schools.</p> <p>} } } } } An information note on items 12.2 } and 12.3 will be submitted in early } October.</p>
12.3 Job opportunities and "job-sharing" arrangements for surplus LTs	20.8.03	The Administration undertook to provide an information paper on the results of its efforts in assisting the remaining 12 surplus LTs to find an employment and the execution of "job-sharing" arrangements in the affected schools.	<p>} } } } } }</p>