

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1361/06-07(02)

Ref : CB2/HS/2/04

**Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of
Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment
Opportunities for Children with Special Educational Needs**

Updated work plan of the Subcommittee

Purpose

This paper updates the work plan of the Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment Opportunities for Children with Special Educational Needs and the time frame for completion of work.

Terms of reference of the Subcommittee

2. The terms of reference of the Subcommittee are "To study issues relating to the provision of boarding places, senior secondary education and employment opportunities for children with special educational needs (SEN)".

The Subcommittee's updated work plan

3. The Subcommittee was set up on 14 January 2005 and has agreed to study the following subjects:

- (a) new senior secondary academic structure for special schools;
- (b) post-secondary education for students with SEN under the new senior secondary academic structure;
- (c) implementation of integrated education in primary and secondary schools;
- (d) education for students with specific learning disabilities;

- (e) boarding service for students with SEN; and
- (f) employment opportunities for students with SEN.

4. At the end of the 2005-2006 session, the Subcommittee reviewed the progress of its work and endorsed a work plan to study the outstanding issues in relation to each of the above subjects. The plan of the Subcommittee then was to complete its study and submit a report to the House Committee before the end of the 2006-2007 session.

Updated time frame for completion of outstanding work

5. Having reviewed the progress of its work and in the light of the discussion in the past few months, the Subcommittee considers it necessary to adjust its work plan. The updated work plan and time frame for completing the outstanding work are set out below.

(a) **Study on post-secondary education for students with SEN under the new senior secondary academic structure** : to be completed by April 2007

6. The Subcommittee has scheduled a meeting on 23 April 2007 to examine opportunities provided to students with SEN to pursue tertiary education and measures to enhance their access to university education under the new senior secondary academic structure to be implemented in the 2009-2010 school year.

(b) **Study on the implementation of integrated education in primary and secondary schools** : to be completed by May 2007

7. At the meeting of the Subcommittee on 22 January 2007, members passed a motion urging the Administration to introduce with effect from the 2007-2008 school year a series of measures to overcome the difficulties encountered by schools in implementing integrated education. These measures include, among others, encouraging professional division of labour in schools to develop expertise in handling students with one to two types of SEN, adopting the principle of "funding following the student" for autistic and hyperactive children, and extending the new funding model for primary schools to secondary schools in implementing integrated education. The Administration has been requested to provide a written response on the motion. The Subcommittee will discuss the Administration's response in May 2007.

- (c) **Study on boarding service for students with SEN** : to be completed by June/July 2007

8. At the Subcommittee's meeting on 26 February 2007, members expressed grave concern about the absence of residential respite service for children with SEN aged under 15. Since members had reiterated their concern to the Administration on many occasions but to no avail, members decided to take up the matter with the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Secretary for Education and Manpower and the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food. On behalf of the Subcommittee, the Chairman wrote to the officials concerned on 28 February 2007, requesting a response in three months' time. The Subcommittee will discuss the Administration's response once available.

- (d) **Study on new senior secondary academic structure for special schools** : to be completed by October 2007

9. The major outstanding issue to be tackled is the number of year of basic education for students with intellectual disability. Under the new senior secondary academic structure, students with physical disability or hearing impairment will continue to be provided with 10-year basic education, i.e. six-year primary education and four-year junior secondary education. However, basic education for students with intellectual disability will be reduced from 10 to nine years. Members consider such an arrangement discriminating against students with intellectual disability and are pursuing the matter with the Administration.

- (e) **Subcommittee's report** : to be completed by November/December 2007

10. After the completion of the study on the various subjects, the Subcommittee will submit its report to the House Committee before the end of 2007.

Advice sought

11. Subject to members' agreement to the above updated time frame, the Subcommittee will provide its work plan and the time frame for completion of work to the House Committee for information.