

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

**Information on services provided by the Vocational Training Council
for students with SEN**

Background

At the meeting of the Legislative Council's *Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment Opportunities for Children with Special Educational Needs* on 23 April 2007, the Vocational Training Council (VTC) was requested to provide information on the following aspects (paragraphs 5(a) – (c) of the Minutes):

- The programme capacity of IVE and student enrollment in individual programmes in the past 10 years. The information should include the number of applications received, applicants shortlist for interview, successful applications, students enrolled, students withdrawn from the programmes and students graduated;
 - Resources allocated to the Skills Centres for running programmes and the programme fees for the past 10 years; and
 - Support provided to students with SEN before and after the establishment of the Task Force on Provision of Services for SEN Group in 2006.
2. The information requested is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Admission of SEN Students

3. VTC administers a Special Admission Scheme (SAS) for students with SEN. Under SAS, students with SEN applying for VTC courses are given preference and they will not be required to go through the usual entry process on a competitive basis with other applicants. Instead, they will be invited to attend an interview and given an offer if they meet the entry requirements for the course applied for and satisfy the interview panel that they are likely to complete the course successfully.

4. The Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) of VTC offers a wide range of full-time and part-time vocational education and training programmes at levels ranging from post Secondary 3 courses to Higher Diploma courses for school leavers and working adults. **Table 1** below presents a summary of IVE full-time course admission statistics for students with SEN from the 2002/03 to 2006/07 academic years. (Records of the earlier years are not available.) It can be seen that unless the applicants with SEN do not make course choices, do not meet the entry requirements of the courses concerned, or do not show up for the interviews, they enjoy a reasonable chance of being admitted to IVE courses under SAS.

Table 1: Summary of IVE Full-time Courses Admission Statistics for Students with SEN

Academic Year	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
No. of applications from SEN students	172	189	162	188	151
No. of SEN applicants invited for interview (Note 1)	147	166	150	163	134
No. of SEN applicants given an offer (Note 2)	119	137	119	143	101
No. of SEN applicants who accepted their offers	79	91	81	98	84
No. of new students with SEN enrolled	79	91	81	98	84
No. of SEN students of the cohort dropped out before graduation	15	16	9	15	11
No. of SEN students graduated in the year (Note 3)	34	46	53	33	43
Overall IVE full-time new student enrollment	16 266	16 001	18 008	18 776	17 399

Notes:

1. *Some SEN applicants applying for post-secondary 5 courses did not make course choices and so were not invited for the interview. Unqualified applicants were also not invited for interview.*
2. *Some SEN applicants did not turn up for the interviews.*
3. *Depending on the level of courses attended by SEN students, they may take one, two, three or more years to complete a course. The numbers shown represent the number of SEN students who graduated in that specific academic year.*
5. About 38% of SEN students admitted to IVE were enrolled onto Diploma or Higher Diploma programmes (with a minimum entry requirement of 5 passes in HKCEE, including English Language) and some 50% on Foundation Diploma or equivalent programmes (with a minimum entry requirement of completion of S.5).

Courses Offered in the Skills Centres

6. The Kwun Tong Skills Centre, Tuen Mun Skills Centre and Pokfulam Skills Centre operated by VTC provide vocational training for people with disabilities who are aged 15 or above to enhance their employability. Full-time, part-time and short courses are offered. **Table 2** below shows the enrolment of these Skills Centres in the past 10 years.

Table 2: Capacity and Enrolment of Skills Centres operated by VTC

Academic Year	Full-time		Part-time Evening		Short Course	
	Training Capacity	Enrolment	Training Capacity	Enrolment	Training Capacity	Enrolment
1997/98	665	671	60	49	300	359
1998/99	725	741	60	46	300	318
1999/00	833	866	60	55	300	310
2000/01	833	912	60	57	300	361
2001/02	900	877	60	72	300	395
2002/03	900	915	60	76	300	317
2003/04	769	705	60	89	300	416 + (95 VEP*)
2004/05	712	655	60	68	300	340 + (211 VEP)
2005/06	630	595	60	66	300	316 + (250 VEP)
2006/07	660	621	60	60	300	307 + (209 VEP)

* *The VEP (Vocational Exposure Programme) enables students of special schools to experience the practical training and services provided by the Skills Centres.*

7. The levels of tuition fee of courses offered by these Skills Centres in the 2006/07 academic year are as follows:

- Full-time courses Free
- Part-time evening courses \$380 per annum
- Short courses \$187 per course (duration up to 20 weeks)
\$380 per course (duration: 21 to 40 weeks)
- Vocational Exposure Programme Free

8. Government subventions for these Skills Centres during the same period are summarised in **Table 3** below:

Table 3: Government Subventions Allocated to Skills Centres

Financial Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Government Subvention (\$M)	93.4	104.6	120.2	117.7	114.6	120.9

Financial Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Revised Estimate)
Government Subvention (\$M)	109.2	97.0	81.1	84.7

Support Provided to SEN Students

9. To provide more support to SEN students, a Task Force was set up in IVE in 2003 to undertake the following tasks:

- Arranging orientation programmes for the students, their parents and the teaching staff;
- Co-ordinating resources for technical aid support;
- Co-ordinating and monitoring the counseling services provided for the students; and
- Co-ordinating support on special examination arrangements for the students.

10. In February 2007 the Task Force extended its services to include course offering units of the VTC School of Business and Information Systems, Youth College and Training and Development Centres. Starting from the 2007/08 academic year, additional support has also been rolled out:

- A tracking mechanism has been established to better monitor the progress and needs of students throughout their studies in the VTC;
- A support network system with parents has been set up to better support the students;
- Training courses and reference materials have been organized and prepared to facilitate staff to better understand and acquire the skills in supporting SEN students; and
- Planning has started for organizing seminars for students under the whole person development programme to enhance their appreciation of diversity in community.

Vocational Training Council
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