

**Panel on Education**  
**List of follow-up actions**  
(position as at 8 November 2004)

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Follow-up action required</b>	<b>Administration's response</b>
<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 was frozen at the 1999-2000 school year price level. In line with Government-wide retrenchment policy, for 2004-2005, overall subvention to ESF is further subject to an efficiency saving of 6.44%. The number of subvented classes has also been frozen at the 2003-04 level with effect from 2004-05. 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>

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<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>
<p>3. <u>Briefing on the Higher Education Review</u></p> <p>3.1 Institutional governance and staff grievances</p>	<p>2.12.02 and 21.6.04</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. The Administration will provide an update in due course.</p>
<p>4. <u>Enhanced School Development and Accountability</u></p> <p>4.1 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>The Administration has proposed to present an interim report on 13 December 2004.</p>

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			<p><u>Latest position</u>            Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) has conducted 106 External School Reviews (ESR) (including 7 pilot ESRs) since early February 2004. Refinement on SDA has been made in June 2004 (including reporting on Key Performance Measures) to facilitate implementation. From September to December 2004, a series of scholars forums, seminars and workshops on dissemination of good practices have been / will be organized to enhance understanding of SDA. 2004 ESR will resume in January 2005.</p>
<p>5. <u>Results of the 2003 Language Proficiency Assessment for teachers</u></p> <p>5.1 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>            Teacher Education Institutions have introduced preparation courses for potential candidates for the Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers.</p>

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6. <u>Information Technology in Education - way forward</u>  6.1 Comparison with other jurisdictions in the use of IT in education	19.4.04	The Panel requested the Administration to provide relevant information on the use of IT in education in Hong Kong in comparison with the figures in other jurisdictions.	Response awaited.  <u>Latest Position</u> An information note will be prepared in due course taking account of the "Overall Study on Reviewing the Progress and Evaluating the IT in Education Projects 1998/2003" which is targeted for completion by end 2004.
7. <u>Consolidation of high cost and low utilization primary schools</u>  7.1 Policy and follow-up measures	19.4.04	The Panel requested the Administration to provide an information paper on its long-term policy and follow-up measures to resolve the problems arising from consolidation of under-utilized primary schools and provide an estimate of the number of primary schools which would be affected by the policy in the future.	Response awaited.  <u>Latest Position</u> The information paper will be prepared in due course taking into account the outcome of the legal implications of the various reviews in progress.