



Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council

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Response on the “Reforming the Academic Structure for Senior Secondary and Higher Education”

I. Introduction

1. The Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council (the Council) has a membership of 354 schools, representing about 70% of all secondary schools in Hong Kong. All member schools are represented by their principals.
2. The views presented in this paper are based on what the Executive Committee of the Council has gathered from members (a) present at our Annual General Meeting (19-11-2004) and (b) using a questionnaire.

II. Views

A. Overall

3. We support the “Reform of 3+3+4”. To ensure the success of the Reform, sufficient resources should be provided and adequate supporting measures be in place.
4. There are worries on how the Reform is to be implemented and the following views are presented.
5. Almost half of our members prefer 2008 to be the starting year for SS1 while slightly less than half (40%) prefer 2009.
6. We agree that the reform of structure and curriculum should be implemented at the same time.
7. University admission criteria should be the 4 core subjects plus one elective only.

B. Liberal Studies (LS)

8. LS should consist of two parts: compulsory and elective, the former to be publicly examined, the latter be assessed by school-based assessment (SBA).
9. The compulsory part should be graded as outstanding, satisfactory and unsatisfactory while the SBA part as satisfactory and unsatisfactory only.
10. The teaching time allocated to LS should be the same as an elective subject (X) i.e. 8-12%, whilst English and Chinese Languages should be 12-15% each, and Mathematics 10-15%.
11. The class size of LS should be half of a normal class. Cash grants should be given to schools for employment of teachers to support split class teaching and for

subject development.

12. Sufficient teacher training together with cash grants for employment of supply teachers should be provided to schools starting from the year 2005-06.
13. Depending on the needs of individual teachers, the adequate teacher training hours for LS should be 90 or more.
14. Provided that the above conditions (Para. 8-13) are satisfied, LS should be one of the core subjects and be publicly examined.

C. Elective Subjects (X)

15. The majority of our members plan to offer 2 or 3 elective subjects depending on pupils' abilities.
16. Slightly more than half of our members consider offering Career Oriented Curriculum (COC) as an elective.

D. Assessment

17. We agree with the introduction of a "standards-referenced" system with five clearly identifiable levels of performance in the public examination.
18. SBA should not be applied to ALL subjects and might be spread over SS2 and SS3.
19. The weighting of SBA should be 10-30%.

E. Supporting Measures

20. More than half of our members will have redundant teachers based on the "1.7 per class for JS1-3 and 1.9 per class for SS1-3" ratio, assuming there is no change in the number of junior and senior classes.
21. 20% of the above (Para. 20) will have 5 or more redundant teachers as a result of the proposed class-teacher ratio of the reform.
22. We agree with a five-year toleration for the redundant teachers starting from the year of implementation.
23. The Early Retirement Scheme is a good suggestion as one of the ways to solve the problem of teacher redundancy

III. Concluding Remarks

24. This Reform is an investment for the future. It has profound effects on the generations to come. Financial restraints should not come first in our consideration. All the necessary resources should be provided.
25. Redundant teachers arising from the reform of academic structure due to "3+3+4" cannot be accepted. The Government should implement all possible measures to help schools solve the problem.