

Legislative Council Panel on Education
Special Meeting on 21 July 2006
Supplementary Note on Revision of Senior Secondary School Fees

PURPOSE

This paper provides additional information in response to the discussion at the Panel Meeting on 10 July 2006 on the revision of senior secondary school fees.

BACKGROUND

2. At the Panel Meeting on 10 July 2006, Members requested the Administration to provide a timetable on the planned increases of secondary school fees before and after the implementation of the new academic structure in the 2009/10 school year, and advise on any plan to improve the financial assistance for needy students.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

3. Based on the established policy to recover 18% of the recurrent cost, we review the school fees for senior secondary classes every year. The levels of school fees mainly depend on the unit costs of the senior secondary places in government and aided schools, which are determined by the total recurrent costs

for these places in the previous year. Variable factors such as staff costs, costs of new measures and inflation rates also affect the total recurrent costs. We also take into account the prevailing economic situation when determining the level of fee increase each year. Hence, it is not possible to provide a timetable on the planned increases of secondary school fees before and after the implementation of the new academic structure in the 2009/10 school year. Our plan is to achieve 18% cost recovery by phases, in a gradual and smooth manner, over a period of time.

4. It is a stated policy of the government that no students would be deprived of education for lack of means. We will give due regard to affordability when we revise the fees for senior secondary classes each year. Needy students will be assisted under the Fee Remission Scheme. Following school fees revision, the level of maximum assistance provided under the Fee Remission Scheme administered by Student Financial Assistance Agency will be increased by the same amount such that students in need of help would not be affected. In April 2006, we sounded out parents and the public on the proposed fee increases for the 2006/07 school year. They generally accepted the proposed increases.

WAY FORWARD

5. The Administration does not see any sound reason for withholding the very mild increase in school fees for senior secondary classes as proposed in LC Paper No. CB(2)2276/05-06(09).

Education and Manpower Bureau
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