

**Notes on suggestions and recommendations about  
the NET scheme for dissemination  
to the Education panel, Legislative Council on 16/4/2007  
by the Association of Heads of Secondary Schools of  
Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung & Tsing Yi District**

***Background:***

1. NETs can help create an authentic English environment in a school, and serve as a means of support for the EES scheme that focuses on the training of the trainers. It is expected that the NET and the EES schemes together can bring more fruitful results in raising students' standards of English in both CMI and EMI schools.
2. Our concern is the quality of NETs. There are two extreme ends: there are very effective and committed NETs and there are also NETs who can offer little in improving students' English or creating an authentic English environment. Good NETs should be prepared to teach students with poor English proficiency and low motivation to learn in the low-banding schools as well as those whose English proficiency and motivation to learn English are high in the high-banding schools.
3. The basic requirements for NETs are native English speaker proficiency, a Bachelor degree and a teaching qualification. There is insufficient supply of NETs to meet the great demand from Hong Kong Secondary and Primary schools so that now many schools have failed to employ NETs.

***Recommendations:***

4. The NET scheme should be operated alongside the EES scheme to bring more fruitful results.
5. To overcome the shortage of supply of NETs, EMB should consider
  - (a) Offering contracts to those who do not possess the necessary academic qualifications if they show effective skills and can pass some kind of quality assurance tests conducted by the EMB or HKEAA, or
  - (b) Providing schools, which cannot employ appropriate NETs, as a long-term measure a permanent GM post each with which to employ a local English teacher with native English speaker proficiency to undertake the tasks of creating an authentic English environment; and in the short term, when such a permanent post could not be provided, the EMB should provide schools yearly with a sum equivalent to the pay scale of a GM post for employing a local English teacher for the same purpose.