



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育統籌局
Education and Manpower Bureau
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

本局檔號 Our Ref. : EMB (EC) CR 1/2041/06
來函檔號 Your Ref. : CP/C 439/2006

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1 November 2006

Miss Odelia Leung,
Legislative Council Secretariat,
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Central,
Hong Kong
(Fax: 2509 9055)

Dear Miss Leung,

Panel on Education
Designated schools for non-Chinese speaking students

Thank you for your letter of 17 October 2006. Our response to the concerns raised by the Hong Kong Christian Service is summarized in the following paragraphs.

Subsequent to the Panel meeting on 10 July 2006, we met with the representatives of fifteen non-government organizations including the Hong Kong Christian Service and ethnic minority concern groups to update them on the package of our enhanced education support for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students on 17 October 2006.

When designating 10 primary and 5 secondary schools for our intensive on-site support through centralizing of expertise and focused use of resources in the 2006/07 school year, we have taken into consideration the geographical spread as well as experience and performance of these schools in handling the learning diversity brought about by the NCS students admitted.

We have also taken into account the readiness of schools which have the potential to be so designated to partner with EMB in this worthy cause. While starting with 15 schools, we will review the location and number of designated schools to meet the needs of NCS students, including the possibility of designating schools in Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai.

Our intensive on-site support to the designated schools includes regular visits by our professional officers to conduct collaborative lesson planning with teachers to develop the school-based Chinese Language curriculum which is adapted from the Chinese Language curriculum framework developed by the Curriculum Development Council (CDC, 2002), learning and teaching strategies, school-based teaching resources / materials, learning activities and assessment designs, etc. School-based and inter-school professional development activities in the form of lesson demonstration, co-teaching, study groups, workshops, sharing etc. will also be provided to enhance the effectiveness of learning and teaching of the designated schools and to promote cross-fertilization of experiences among them.

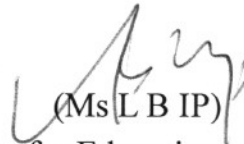
To further enhance the learning and teaching of the Chinese Language, action is in hand to commission tertiary institutions to run a Chinese Learning Support Centre. The Centre will participate in the development of related teaching resources and provide professional advice. From the professional perspective of curriculum design, the curriculum materials so developed by EMB in conjunction with the tertiary institution(s) and the designated schools would essentially be a curriculum blueprint of Chinese Language for NCS students. To support NCS students who are less proficient in Chinese, in particular the late starters, we also plan to commission the Centre to offer remedial programmes for these students after school hours or during holidays, borrowing premises of relevant designated schools.

As regards the suggestion that the Summer Bridging Programme should be extended to one year, we believe that the right balance should be struck between familiarization through “bridging”, which is meant to be short term, and early immersion in the school environment. We think with proper school-based support, early immersion would be in the interest of the students.

On the suggestion about an alternative public examination in Chinese for the NCS students, we are of the view that the standards-referenced Chinese language paper under Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination and the future Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education which will illustrate different proficiency levels better are suitable for both native and non-native speakers aspiring to getting a qualification in Chinese Language. That said, knowing that individual NCS students would like to be provided with the avenue to attain alternative qualifications in Chinese, we have made necessary arrangements for interested NCS students to participate in the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) (Chinese) examination in Hong Kong starting from 2007. In the longer term, we will continue to explore the need for bringing in additional qualifications and deploying a local-based examination for non-native speakers.

For enquiries, please contact the undersigned at 2892 6621.

Yours sincerely



(Ms L B IP)
for Secretary for Education and Manpower