

Legislative Council Panel on Education

**Information Note on
Conversion Works of Special Schools for
Implementation of the New Senior Secondary Academic Structure**

Purpose

At the meeting on 12 June 2008, Members requested the Administration to provide information on the agreed provision of additional rooms for special schools. This note aims to provide the required information for Members' reference.

Background

2. The New Senior Secondary (NSS) Academic Structure will be implemented in the 2009/10 school year. At present, most special schools provide education up to Secondary Three. When the NSS academic structure is implemented, special schools will provide education up to Secondary Six. Taking into account the existing facilities of individual special schools, additional facilities such as additional classrooms and special rooms may be required.

Scope of Works

3. We have identified 21 special schools which would require conversion works for implementing the NSS academic structure. We plan to provide a total of 26 additional classrooms and 17 additional special rooms through re-partition of existing rooms, construction of new annexes or roof-top extensions.

Current Position

4. We are working closely with Architectural Services Department and other relevant departments in taking forward the conversion works. Among the 21 special schools:

- (a) conversion works of 2 special schools have been completed, providing one classroom and one special room;
- (b) conversion works of 5 special schools, which will provide 9 classrooms and 1 special room, are expected to be completed before September 2009; and
- (c) for the remaining 14 schools for which we plan to provide 16 classrooms and 15 special rooms, they would require construction works of more extensive scale. We have already visited the schools concerned and formulated preliminary conversion/design proposals for undertaking technical feasibility studies. We will strive to complete the works before full implementation of the NSS academic structure by 2011/12 school year.

5. On teaching space issue, we have communicated with schools concerned on the necessary measures in the preparation for the NSS academic structure. In this regard, we have recently engaged the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to provide technical advisory services to mainstream schools and special schools that intend to undertake minor alteration works to increase flexibility in the provision of teaching space for implementing the NSS academic structure. The Department has prepared relevant guidelines for schools' reference and will provide specific comments on individual minor alteration proposals submitted by schools.