

For Information

Legislative Council Panel on Education

Provision of International School Places and Boarding Facilities for Non-local Students

Purpose

This note provides supplementary information on issues raised by Members at the Education Panel meeting held on 16 April 2009, covering the admission policy of non-local and local students and the admission percentage of local and non-local students in existing international schools as well as the regulations for the operation of boarding facilities.

Admission Policy of Non-local and Local Students in International Schools

2. The international school sector comprises private schools which have been in general operating on a self-financing basis and providing education primarily for non-local students. Under the prevailing policy for international schools, non-profit-making international schools applying for government assistance in the form of land grant or vacant school premises are required to serve mainly the target group(s) of students that they have publicly stated they would serve and that this level should be set at 50%. As such, “target students” refer to non-local children of families coming to Hong Kong for work or investment or non-local students holding student visas for entry into Hong Kong for studies. According to the annual survey conducted in early September 2008, the number of non-local students in the existing international schools accounts for 86% of the student population. In particular, it is worth noting that for the 13 schools which have been provided with government assistance in the form of allocation of school sites or vacant school premises, the number of non-local students accounts for more than 50% of its student population in each of the schools concerned. Details of the individual schools are shown in Annex A.

3. The Administration considers it appropriate to maintain the above student mix requirement of non-local students constituting no less than 50%

of the student population for international schools provided with government assistance in the form of allocation of school sites or vacant school premises for the following reasons:

- (a) Local students should not be deprived of the right to pursue non-local curriculum if they so wish and parental choice should be respected.
- (b) Taking into account the development of Hong Kong and the international outlook of the city, it is understandable that some local students may wish to pursue non-local curriculum. Moreover, it is reasonable to believe that some parents of local students are emigrants returning to Hong Kong and they may wish their children to pursue non-local curriculum as they cannot adapt to the local curriculum.
- (c) To facilitate the sustainability of those international schools which are operating on a self-financing mode, we should provide some flexibility in terms of student mix in view of their autonomous operations.

4. That said, we note that Members have suggested that we should give priority to schools admitting a higher percentage of non-local students in the allocation of greenfield sites for international school development in the light of the demand from non-local students in recent years. In this regard, Members may wish to note that in the recent School Allocation Exercise, the successful bidders for the sites in Kowloon Bay, Lai Chi Kok and Sai Kung Town are granted to the school sponsoring bodies of existing international schools to meet their expansion needs. They have agreed that priority will be given to non-local students as far as practicable. In addition, each of them has undertaken to recruit a higher percentage (at least 70%) of “target students” than that required under the prevailing policy. As for the overseas organization which has been allocated with the Tuen Mun site for the development of a new international boarding school on a pilot basis, it has undertaken that no less than 50% of its school places would be reserved for non-local students and that no less than 50% of its boarding places would be reserved for non-local students holding student visas for entry into Hong Kong for studies.

5. Details of the allocation results was announced on 6 August with details as follows:

Site locations	Successful organizations
(1) Kai Cheung Road/Wang Kwong Road, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon	Kellett School Association Limited
(2) King Lam Street, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon	The Trustees of the Kowloon Tong Church of the Chinese Christian and Missionary Alliance
(3) Junction of Wai Man Road and Mei Yuen Street, Area 4, Sai Kung Town, New Territories	The Hong Kong Academy Educational Foundation Limited
(4) Ex-military site at Area 48, Castle Peak Road, So Kwun Wat, Tuen Mun, New Territories	Harrow International School (Hong Kong) Limited

6. Separately, in response to Members' enquiry, according to the information provided by Civil Service Bureau, out of the 20 622 civil servants (civil servants on overseas terms included) who applied for local education allowances for their children, approximately 10.8 % (i.e. 2 223) of them arranged their children studying in international schools (including English Schools Foundation schools) in the 2008/09 school year.

Regulations of Boarding Facilities

7. As for the operation of boarding facilities at the Tuen Mun site, the successful bidder has to abide by the requirements as set out in Regulation 56 of the Education Regulations (Cap 279A)(extract of relevant regulation at **Annex B**) and comply with other relevant legislation in Hong Kong. Such requirements will be featured in the service agreement to be signed with the successful bidder.

Way Forward

8. We will continue to support the development of a vibrant international school sector in Hong Kong, and monitor the provision of international school places to meet the needs of the community.

Education Bureau
August 2009

**Admission of HK local students in international schools
(based on the enrolment survey conducted in September 2008⁺)**

Primary-cum-Secondary		
American International School	108 (598)	18%
Australian International School Hong Kong*	117 (1 061)	11%
Canadian International School*	260 (1 545)	17%
Carmel School	3 (205)	1%
Chinese International School	152 (1 338)	11%
Christian Alliance PC Lau Memorial International School*	124 (459)	27%
Delia School of Canada	179 (1 076)	17%
German Swiss International School (English)*	91 (771)	12%
German Swiss International School (German)*	0 (395)	0%
Hong Kong International School	199 (2 637)	8%
Hong Kong Japanese School	0 (945)	0%
Kiangsu & Chekiang Primary School and Kiangsu-Chekiang College	246 (612)	40%
Korean International School (English)	63 (285)	22%
Korean International School (Korean)	0 (156)	0%
Lyc'ee Francais International School (English)*	8 (482)	2%
Lyc'ee Francais International School (French)*	1 (1 173)	0%
Sear Rogers International School – Peninsula	33 (160)	21%
Singapore International School*	254 (837)	30%
Primary		
Beacon Hill School	161 (538)	30%
Bradbury School	71 (708)	10%
Clearwater Bay School	34 (721)	5%
Discovery Bay International School	21 (549)	4%
Glenealy Junior School	15 (357)	4%
Hong Kong Academy *	5 (215)	2%
Hong Kong Poinsettia	0 (61)	0%
Hong Lok Yuen International School*	70 (260)	27%
Japanese International School (English)*	28 (131)	21%
Japanese International School (Japanese)*	3 (578)	1%
Kellett School *	4 (402)	1%

Kennedy School	29 (889)	3%
Kingston International School	102 (174)	59%
Kowloon Junior School	194 (888)	22%
Lantau International School	10 (183)	5%
Norwegian School	0 (57)	0%
Peak School	9 (350)	3%
Quarry Bay School	46 (709)	6%
Shatin Junior School	247 (897)	28%
Starters School	8 (17)	47%
The International Montessori School	4 (50)	8%
The Woodland International School	0 (10)	0%
Think International School	64 (79)	81%
Umah International Primary School	8 (82)	10%
Yew Chung International School	285 (511)	56%
Secondary		
Concordia International School	38 (93)	41%
Island School	529 (1 207)	44%
King George V School	96 (1 665)	6%
Shatin College	132 (1 187)	11%
South Island School	97 (1 368)	7%
West Island School	78 (1 211)	6%
Total:	4 226 (30 882)	14%

Notes: + Hong Kong local students include students who are Hong Kong permanent residents (with the right of abode in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) and do not have any foreign passport (except British National (Overseas) Passport). The total number of students for each school is in bracket.

* Non-profit-making international schools which have been provided with government assistance in the form of allocation of school sites or vacant school premises.

Extract from Regulation 56 of the Education Regulations

Chapter: 279A	Title: Education Regulations
Regulation: 56	Heading: Boarding Schools

- (1) In the premises of every boarding school a superficial dormitory area of at least 3.25 m² shall be provided for each boarder. (L.N. 213 of 1980)
 - (1A) The ceiling of a dormitory in a boarding school shall be –
 - (a) in the case of a detached or semi-detached building, not less than 2.5 m above the floor; or
 - (b) in any other case, not less than 2.75 m above the floor:

Provided that there shall be not less than 2.3 m measured from the floor to the underside of any beam. (L.N. 213 of 1980)
- (2) In every boarding school, at least one suitable room shall be set aside to be used solely as a sanatorium or sick room.
- (3) No dormitory shall be in a tenement-house.
- (4) In the premises of every boarding school –
 - (a) the dormitory accommodation;
 - (b) the washing and bathing arrangements;
 - (c) the messing and kitchen accommodation;
 - (d) the latrine accommodation and sanitary arrangements; and
 - (e) the area provided for open-air recreation,shall be of adequate standard and properly maintained to the satisfaction of the Permanent Secretary. (3 of 2003 s. 14)

- (5) The latrine accommodation of every boarding school shall consist of water closets or of water closets and urinals connected to a flush system.
- (6) The management authority of every boarding school shall, if so required by the Permanent Secretary in writing, appoint a warden to be in charge of the boarders. (L.N. 268 of 1990; 3 of 2003 s. 14; 27 of 2004 s. 70)
- (7) The appointment of any person as a warden under paragraph (6) shall be subject to the approval of the Permanent Secretary. (L.N. 268 of 1990; 3 of 2003 s. 14)