



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局  
Education Bureau

Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

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29 April 2011

Ms Amy Yu  
Clerk to Education Panel  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road, Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Yu,

**Panel on Education**  
**Follow-up to Meeting on 11 April 2011**

Thank you for your letter dated 13 April 2011 to the Secretary for Education. I am authorized to reply on his behalf.

We understand Members' concern about the progress of school net review, in particular the school net arrangements for Islands District. Provision of public sector secondary school places is planned on a territory-wide basis to achieve a balance in the overall supply and demand in Hong Kong. Given the uneven distribution of secondary schools in some school nets and demographic movement, netting arrangements are conducted each year to ensure a stable supply of school places and to provide parents with more school choices in each school net. Places are netted from nearby districts having regard to the past patterns. Factors to be considered include the demand and supply of school places in each district, the location of schools as well as the availability and accessibility of transportation means between school nets.

The school net arrangements for Islands District had been put up for consideration by the Working Group (WG) on Review of School Nets set up in 2006. The WG comprises representatives of major school councils, parents and the Committee on Home-School Co-operation and lay members. The WG would undertake a review of the existing demarcation of the 18 school nets with a view to recommending feasible options to the Education Bureau.

Given that 200 schools joining the Voluntary Optimisation of Class Structure Scheme will reduce S1 classes in the 2011/12 school year, we will examine the changes in the demand and supply of school places and the choice patterns adopted by the parents for each of the districts after completion of the allocation procedures this year. We will also collect the projected school-age student population in the coming years and the information on the transportation network and community development, etc. so as to enable the WG to continue with the work on school net review. Since the impact brought about by various factors mentioned above on the demand and supply of school places in each of the districts in the long run has yet to be assessed and the results of the review involve long-term arrangements, we expect it will take time to conduct the review. The WG will widely consult the stakeholders on the proposals arrived in the school net review in due course.

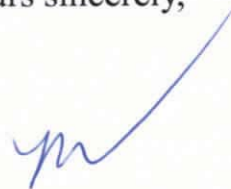
Before completion of the school net review, the existing demarcation of the 18 school nets should remain unchanged. That said, the WG had suggested that the Bureau should continue to adopt the present netting arrangements of including more school choices from other districts, a more flexible and balanced approach to cater for the different educational needs of students in Islands District.

By making reference to the patterns of students in Islands District choosing and being admitted to schools in other districts last year, we compiled the list of school choices in Islands School Net at the Central Allocation (CA) stage for this allocation cycle in accordance with the present netting arrangements. For the 2011 cycle, a total of 56 (as compared to 43 last year) school choices have been provided for selection by all Primary 6 (P6) students in Islands School Net. In addition to the 7 participating secondary schools physically located in Islands District, 49 (as compared to 36 last year) schools are in the nearby districts of which 40 (as compared to 27 last year) are in Hong Kong Region so as to better meet the needs of students residing in different parts of Islands District.

The list of school choices of each school net at the CA stage for the 2011 cycle was distributed to parents of P6 students on 14 April this year.

We will continue with the work related to school net arrangements, including the school net review and the netting arrangements conducted each year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'YH Fok', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

(Mrs Y H Fok)  
for Secretary for Education