



Ian Petersen

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To panel\_e@legco.gov.hk

cc

Subject ESF Subvention Review

To Starry Lee, Chairman and all Members of LegCo's Panel on Education,

Dear Ms Lee and Panel Members,

I've lived in HK and paid taxes for over 30 years and both of my children were born and are being educated here in ESF schools and we are all permanent residents here.

I was very upset by the unjustified freeze by the Government, during the tenure of Arthur Lee as Secretary for Education, when he froze the fees of and was, to say the least unhelpful and damaging to its reputation.

I believe that students attending ESF schools, the majority of whom are locals of different backgrounds who were born here or have lived for most of their lives, should be entitled to the same level of subvention as those attending local government-subsidised schools.

To continue to squeeze ESF by freezing its fees is unfair and discriminatory as well as being damaging to HK's international reputation.

I therefore wish to call on the Legislative Council and the Government to lift the current freeze forthwith and return the level of subvention to the same level of subvention as those attending local government-subsidised schools with effect from the start of the coming 2011-12 academic.

The ESF is an institution of which Hong Kong should be proud and treat as a valuable asset.

I therefore also call on the Government to support and encourage the ESF to expand to enable Hong Kong to offer more sorely needed places to non-Chinese speaking children for the sake of Hong Kong's economy as a whole.

Otherwise Hong Kong will lose out to its regional neighbours and competitors by becoming steadily more unattractive as a place to live and work to talented people with families.

yours sincerley

Ian Petersen

Parent of two children being educated in ESF schools..