



Ian Petersen

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To panel_e <panel_e@legco.gov.hk>

cc

Subject Re: ESF Subvention Review

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

Dear Ms Lee and Panel Members,

Among the reasons that I love Hong Kong and have lived here for so long are that it is a welcoming, pluralistic, international and open society with good law and order that strives to avoid corruption and discrimination, provides a level playing field and recognizes and rewards success.

The ESF is a pluralistic school open to all races and ethnic backgrounds and abilities and is delivering excellent results, as evidenced by the IB results published today.

This deserves recognition and pride rather than criticism by the Government.

What the ESF wants is simply to be restored to its former equal subvention status and level to other government aided schools, so that a child going to an ESF school and whose parents pay taxes to the Government receives the same amount of Government funding support as a child going to any other grant aided or Government school.

So I am both flabbergasted and extremely disappointed to learn that the Government is contemplating punishing ESF by increasing its discrimination against the ESF by reducing its subvention and thereby giving less funding support to children going to ESF schools than it does to children going to any other grant aided or Government school.

The ESF is an excellent institution that has served Hong Kong well for 40 to 50 years.

What the Government should do is hold true what makes Hong Kong great and recognize, reward and encourage ESF for producing such good results by increasing back to its former level the subvention that the ESF and the more than 12,000 children whom it educates receive.

Ian Petersen