



CONCORDIA
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

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To: The Panel on Education
Legislative Council

(email: mmskwok@legco.gov.hk)

January 31, 2012

Re: Submission to the Panel on Education

Each international school in Hong Kong is very unique by itself in providing a special non-local curriculum and in organizing its teaching/learning activities to suit the selected student mix. Concordia International School offers an American-based curriculum, where programs are designed based on the College Board's requirements for SAT & AP. The school offers Grade 7 to Grade 12 levels, providing a total of 100 school places. It is mandatory for all of its students to write the PSAT, TOEFL, SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests and the AP Examinations before graduating. Our overall occupancy rate is usually about 85 – 95%, frequently with full enrollment at the senior grade levels.

Observations in recent years

In recent years, we have received more and more applicants from Mainland China. These include families which have obtained the Hong Kong residence status by immigration as well as visitors from China. Unfortunately, the school cannot admit applicants of the latter, because they would not be able to obtain a student visa from the Hong Kong Immigration Department.

The school also has received an increasing number of local applicants who prefer to study in an English environment and where examination pressure is much alleviated. Such applicants usually belong to the senior grades. Escape from studying compulsory subjects such as Liberal Studies and Chinese in the NSS curriculum could be another reason for these students to change to international schools. Preparation for overseas university study is also a major reason.



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Recommendations

Concordia International School only occupies a small campus in Yau Yat Chuen. In order for us to improve our campus facilities and to accommodate the increasing number in applicants, a larger campus is necessary. I do hope the Education Bureau would continue to seek suitable vacant school premises or school sites for allocation to existing international schools like ours to help improve service quality in the international school sector.

I would also like the government to review its prevalent policy on issuing student visas for students from Mainland China. Secondary students staying with their guardians should be granted with the visa to study in international schools.

S. F. C.



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