

Panel on Education
List of outstanding items for discussion

(Position as at 11 January 2013)

Proposed timing
for discussion

(A) Items scheduled for discussion at Panel meetings

1. Progress of Implementing the E-Textbook Market Development Scheme ("EMADS")

Item proposed by the Administration. It will brief the Panel on the progress of implementing the EMADS including the assessment criteria, vetting process, formation of assessment panels, arrangements for trial teaching in partner schools and the information of selected applicants.

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(B) Items proposed but not yet scheduled for discussion at Panel meetings

2. "Free" Kindergarten Education and 15-year free education

In connection with the discussion on the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme at the Panel meetings on 17 December 2010 and 13 June 2011, some members reiterated their call on the Administration to consider the implementation of 15-year free education (i.e. extending the free education from primary and secondary education to kindergarten education). At the meeting on 16 October 2012, the Panel agreed that the subject of 15-year free education should be discussed.

To be
confirmed

The Administration will brief the Panel on its plan for the implementation of the initiative of "free" kindergarten education.

3. Provision of international school places

The subject was last discussed on 13 February 2012. Members are concerned about the supply of international

To be
confirmed

Proposed timing
for discussion

school places and the availability of sites for building school premises. The Administration will report to the Panel the progress of the provision of International School places.

4. Review on the subvention arrangements for the English Schools Foundation ("ESF")

In June 2012, the Administration provided information on the progress of the review on the subvention arrangements for ESF [LC Paper No. CB(2)2332/11-12(01)]. According to the Administration, discussion with ESF was on-going and the Administration will report the progress of the review to the Panel.

To be
confirmed

5. Native-speaking English Teacher Scheme

Hon Mrs Regina IP wrote to the Panel Chairman on 20 February 2012 [LC Paper No. CB(2)1170/11-12(01)] proposing that the Panel should discuss the Native-speaking English Teacher Scheme for primary schools. At the meeting on 12 March 2012, members agreed that the subject matter be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

To be
confirmed

6. Issues related to English proficiency of students and the policies on the teaching and learning of English

At the meeting on 16 October 2012, it was agreed that the Panel would discuss matters related to English proficiency of students and the policies on the teaching and learning of English.

To be
confirmed

7. Grievance procedures of the University Grants Committee ("UGC")-funded institutions

At the meeting on 12 July 2010, UGC briefed members on the guidelines of best practices in redress mechanisms

To be
confirmed

developed by UGC having regard to the findings of the research on grievance procedures of 10 reputable overseas institutions and the responses of local institutions to these best practices. Members requested UGC to provide updated complaint/grievance handling flow charts of individual institutions and the institutions' responses to the UGC's recommendations for the Panel to follow up.

The research report entitled "Complaint handling mechanism in higher education sector in selected places" prepared by the Research Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat was circulated to members on 13 October 2010 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)32/10-11.

UGC provided an update of the UGC-funded institutions' response to the UGC's recommendations on the grievance/complaint handling procedures and the updated grievances/complaint handling flow charts of individual institutions, which was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2407/10-11(01) on 18 July 2011.

8. Implementation of education support measures for non-Chinese speaking students

At the meeting on 16 October 2012, members suggested that the Administration should be requested to update the Panel on the progress of the implementation of education support measures for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students. At the meeting on 12 November 2012, members had requested the Administration to report to the Panel by mid 2013 on its comprehensive review on the implementation of education support measures for NCS students.

To be
confirmed

9. Moral and national education

Members agreed that the Panel should discuss the matter notwithstanding the Administration's announcement of the change of policy in early October 2012. The Administration will brief the Panel about on the latest

To be
confirmed

developments subsequent to the announcement of the revised Moral and National Education policy in early October 2012.

10. Academic freedom and public policy research funding

Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN wrote to the Panel Chairman on 7 December 2012 [LC Paper No. CB(4)240/12-13(01)] suggesting that the Panel should discuss the possible impacts on academic freedom arising from the change of approving authority for public policy research funding from the Research Grant Council to the Central Policy Unit.

To be
confirmed

(C) Items that members may wish to re-visit if there are new developments

11. Issues relating to the relocation of the centres of the Christian Zheng Sheng Association and development of rehabilitation centre-cum-schools

The Administration provided an information paper on the matter which was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2322/09-10(01) on 30 September 2010.

At the meeting on 12 July 2010, members agreed that the Panel should discuss the matter depending on the progress of the Administration's discussion with Christian Zheng Sheng Association ("CZSA").

At the meeting on 14 February 2011, the Panel passed a motion requesting the Administration to solve in the near future the problem concerning the relocation of the drug treatment and rehabilitation centres of CZSA. In its written response to the motion which was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1413/10-11(01) on 31 March 2011, the Administration advised that the Security Bureau was taking the lead in coordinating matters relating to the relocation of the drug treatment and rehabilitation centers of CZSA. The Administration also provided in its response a brief update on the Christian

Zheng Sheng College's application for operating New Senior Secondary courses at its existing school premises in Ha Keng. In late April 2011, the Administration provided further information on the latest development of the matter (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1636/10-11(01) and (02)).

(D) Items that may be removed from the List

12. Issues related to special education and integrated education

The subject of integrated education was last discussed at the Panel meeting on 10 July 2012 when the Administration briefed the Panel on the progress of implementing integrated education in ordinary schools and the way forward.

At the Panel meeting on 16 October 2012, members agreed that the implementation of special education and integrated education should be discussed. Members were concerned about the policy and support measures, such as school facilities and training for teachers, for special education and integrated education. At the Panel meeting on 11 December 2012, members agreed to Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG's proposal to set up a subcommittee under the Panel to study issues related to integrated education.