

For information on  
9 July 2013

**Legislative Council Panel on Education**

**Progress of Work of the  
Committee on Free Kindergarten Education**

**Purpose**

This paper informs Members of the progress of work of the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education.

**Background**

2. Providing 15-year free education and better quality kindergarten (KG) education is one of the priorities of the current-term Government. As set out in LegCo Paper No. CB(4)486/12-13(01) dated 19 March 2013, the Education Bureau (EDB) would set up a committee to study and make specific proposals on how to practicably implement free KG education.

**Committee on Free Kindergarten Education and its five Sub-committees**

3. In April 2013, the EDB set up the Committee on Free KG Education to examine the various issues relating to the provision of free KG education and make specific and practicable proposals to the Government. It comprises 20 members including the Chairman, representatives from the KG sector, school sponsoring bodies, teacher education institutions, primary school principals, parents and the Education Commission, as well as members from other professions and an EDB representative. The membership and terms of reference of the Committee are at Appendix 1.

4. Five Sub-committees have also been formed under the Committee as follows:

- (i) Sub-committee on Objectives, Teacher Professionalism and Research
- (ii) Sub-committee on Operation and Governance
- (iii) Sub-committee on Funding Modes

- (iv) Sub-committee on Catering for Student Diversity
- (v) Sub-committee on Communication Strategy

5. The issues to be studied by the Sub-committees include the objective of KG education and teacher qualifications, funding modes, the different needs of whole-day and half-day kindergartens, teacher qualification and salary framework, teacher-to-student ratio, monitoring and governance framework, catering for student diversity, home-school cooperation, and public engagement strategies, etc. Details about the membership and the terms of reference of the Sub-committees are set out at Appendix 2.

6. The Committee has held three meetings since its establishment in April 2013. The five Sub-committees have also held their first one or two meetings during the period from May to early July 2013. With reference to their terms of reference, the Committee and Sub-committees have embarked on discussion on various issues such as the objectives of KG education, the operational needs and staff establishment of KGs of different operating modes and scales, and measures to address the more imminent needs of the KG sector.

7. With a view to drawing reference from overseas practices and experiences, the Chairman of the Committee joined a visit organized by the EDB to Korea in late May 2013 to learn about their latest developments in KG education which would be conducive to the planning of free KG education in Hong Kong. The Committee has also decided to organize an international forum later this year and invite overseas experts in early childhood education to give talks and share their experiences. It is hoped that, through the forum, members of the Committee and its Sub-committees, local and overseas experts as well as education workers will engage in a professional dialogue on the vision and mission of KG education in Hong Kong, thereby providing a wider perspective for further study on free KG education.

8. In view of the intricacies of the issues involved and the far-reaching implications of the new policy on free KG education, the Committee will take about two years to complete its tasks and make recommendations to the Government. During this period, the Committee will maintain communication with the KG sector to listen to their views, and explore short- and medium-term measures which could help KGs meet the challenges they would be facing. The Government will actively consider providing support

accordingly.

### **Views Sought**

9. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Education Bureau

July 2013

Membership

Chair:	Dr Moses Cheng Mo-chi	
Members:	Ms Liu Fung-heung	(Kindergarten Principal)
	Ms Ho Lan-sang	(Kindergarten Principal)
	Dr Maggie Koong May-kay	(Kindergarten Principal)
	Ms Shek Lai-yee	(Kindergarten Teacher)
	Dr Sanly Kam Shau-wan	(School Sponsoring Body)
	Ms Lam Lai-ping	(School Sponsoring Body)
	Ms Ng Yin-kam	(School Sponsoring Body)
	Mr Sin Kim-wai	(Primary School Principal)
	Prof Nirmala Rao	(Teacher Education Institution)
	Dr Gordon Tsui Luen-on	(Parent)
	Mr Wong Chun-kit	(Parent)
	Ms Chiu Nga-sze	(Parent)
	Mr Walter Chan Kar-lok	(Education Commission Member)
	Mr Tim Lui Tim-leung	(Education Commission Member)
	Ms Dilys Chau Suet-fung	(Education Commission Member)
	Ms Chitty Cheung Fung-ting	(Lay Member)
	Ms Susanna Hui	(Lay Member)
	Mr Addy Wong Wai-hung	(Lay Member)
	EDB Representative	

Terms of Reference

The Committee will make concrete recommendations to the Education Bureau on the practicable implementation of free kindergarten education in the context of 15-year free education. Specifically it will

- gauge the views of stakeholders on current practices and the future policy of free kindergarten education;
- identify, examine and assess, with reference to the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme, options of free kindergarten education, issues for possible improvements to kindergarten education and any related measures;
- advise on the setting up of and provide steer for the sub-committees to study certain specific issues in detail; and
- consider options, implications and implementation strategies developed by the sub-committees and conduct consultation with major stakeholders.

## **Five Sub-committees under the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education**

### **(i) Sub-committee on Objectives, Teacher Professionalism and Research**

#### Membership

Convenor :	Dr Maggie Koong May-kay	(Kindergarten Principal)
Members :	Ms Rosa Chow Wai-chun	(Kindergarten Principal)
	Mrs Mak Tse How-ling	(Kindergarten Principal)
	Ms Man Fung-ming	(Kindergarten Teacher)
	Mrs Sophia Chan Tsang Kin-lok	(School Sponsoring Body)
	Ms Gloria Leung Chi-kin	(School Sponsoring Body)
	Mr Tai Hay-lap	(Secondary School Principal)
	Mr Ho Hon-kuen	(Secondary School Assistant Principal)
	Prof Hau Kit-tai	(Teacher Education Institution)
	Prof Nirmala Rao	(Teacher Education Institution)
	Dr Gail Yuen Wai-kwan	(Teacher Education Institution)
	Ms Chiu Nga-sze	(Parent)
	Mr Wilfred Wong Kam-pui	(Lay Member)
	Mr Yeung Sai-man	(Lay Member)
	EDB Representative	

#### Terms of Reference

- To review the objectives of kindergarten education, and to study issues related to the kindergarten curriculum and the interface between kindergarten and primary education;
- To study the issues, options and constraints in detail regarding the professional development and training of kindergarten teachers;
- To study the strategies for promoting research on kindergarten education and related issues; and
- To make recommendations to the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education on feasible options to address the issues.

## **(ii) Sub-committee on Operation and Governance**

### **Membership**

Convenor :	Mr Walter Chan Kar-lok	(Education Commission Member)
Members :	Ms Ho Lan-sang	(Kindergarten Principal)
	Ms Mary Tong Siu-fun	(Kindergarten Principal)
	Ms Shek Lai-yee	(Kindergarten Teacher)
	Revd Peter Douglas Koon	(School Sponsoring Body)
	Ms Lam Lai-ping	(School Sponsoring Body)
	Mr Sin Kim-wai	(Primary School Principal)
	Dr Hazel Lam Mei-yung	(Teacher Education Institution)
	Mrs Lo Lee Tsui-mui	(Parent)
	Mr William Chan Fu-keung	(Lay Member)
	Ms Susanna Hui	(Lay Member)
	Mr Addy Wong Wai-hung	(Lay Member)
	Dr Kelvin Wong	(Lay Member)
	EDB Representative	
Co-opted Member :	Mrs Lorraine Pak Tang Siu-fan	(Teacher Education Institution)

### **Terms of Reference**

- To study the issues, options and constraints in detail regarding the operation of kindergartens as well as governance and accountability framework for kindergartens; and
- To make recommendations to the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education on feasible options to address the issues.

### **(iii) Sub-committee on Funding Modes**

#### **Membership**

Convenor :	Mr Tim Lui Tim-leung	(Education Commission Member)
Members :	Ms Nancy Lam Chui-ling	(Kindergarten Principal)
	Ms Liu Fung-heung	(Kindergarten Principal)
	Ms Chan Shuk-mui	(Kindergarten Teacher)
	Ms Amy Leung Lai-ching	(Kindergarten Supervisor)
	Mr James Chan	(School Sponsoring Body)
	Dr Sanly Kam Shau-wan	(School Sponsoring Body)
	Mr Cheung Yung-pong	(Primary School Principal)
	Mrs Sylvia Cheung	(Teacher Education Institution)
	Dr Li Hui	(Teacher Education Institution)
	Mr Ho Chu-ping	(Parent)
	Mr Wong Chun-kit	(Parent)
	Ms Dilys Chau Suet-fung	(Lay Member)
	Mr Lai Kam-tong	(Lay Member)
	Mr Stanley Lau	(Lay Member)
	Mr Jimmy Ng Wing-ka	(Lay Member)
	EDB Representative	

#### **Terms of Reference**

- To study the issues, options and constraints in detail regarding different feasible funding modes for kindergartens; and
- To make recommendations to the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education on feasible options to address the issues.

#### **(iv) Sub-committee on Catering for Student Diversity**

##### **Membership**

Convenor :	Dr Gordon Tsui Luen-on	(Parent)
Members :	Ms Chan Ka-mun	(Kindergarten Principal)
	Ms Wong Sau-han	(Kindergarten Principal)
	Ms Yip Siu-fun	(Kindergarten Principal)
	Ms Leung Oi-sim	(Kindergarten Teacher)
	Dr Jane C.Y. Lee	(School Sponsoring Body)
	Mrs Judy Mui	(School Sponsoring Body)
	Ms Nancy Tsang	(School Sponsoring Body)
	Prof Cheng Zi-juan	(Teacher Education Institution)
	Mr Cheng Chi-cheung	(Parent)
	Dr Ronnie Hui Ka-wah	(Lay Member)
	Mr Kwok Lit-tung	(Lay Member)
	Mr Dipo C. Sani	(Lay Member)
	Dr Shirley Leung	(Department of Health Representative)
	Mrs Anna Mak	(Social Welfare Department Representative)
	EDB Representative	

##### **Terms of Reference**

- To study the issues on additional support for specific groups of kindergarten students, such as non-Chinese-speaking children, children with special educational needs and children from needy families; and
- To make recommendations to the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education on feasible options to address the issues.



## **(v) Sub-committee on Communication Strategy**

### **Membership**

Convenor :	Ms Chitty Cheung Fung-ting	(Lay Member)
Members :	Ms Chu Nga-lai	(Kindergarten Principal)
	Ms Kwan Bick-kuen	(Kindergarten Principal)
	Ms Eppie Chan Mei-ho	(Kindergarten Teacher)
	Mr Lee Siu-hok	(School Sponsoring Body)
	Ms Ng Yin-kam	(School Sponsoring Body)
	Mr Kenneth Wu	(School Sponsoring Body)
	Mr Leung Siu-tong	(Primary School Principal)
	Ms Amelia N.Y. Lee	(Teacher Education Institution)
	Mr Jao Ming	(Parent)
	Mr Henry Tong Sau-chai	(Parent)
	Mrs Miranda Leung Chan Che-ming	(Lay Member)
	Mr Tai Keen-man	(Lay Member)
	Ms Amy Blanche Tang Oi-lam	(Lay Member)
	EDB Representative	

### **Terms of Reference**

- To study the strategies for promoting kindergarten education-related policies, including dissemination of relevant information, communication, lobbying, consultation and publicity strategies;
- To study the strategies for promoting parent education; and
- To make recommendations to the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education on feasible options to address the issues.