

Panel on Education
List of outstanding items for discussion

(Position as at 8 November 2012)

Proposed timing
for discussion

(A) Items scheduled for discussion at Panel meetings

1. Review of Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320) and Post Secondary Colleges Regulations (Cap. 320A)

Item proposed by the Administration. It will consult the Panel on the review of Cap. 320 and its subsidiary legislation with a view to providing a more up-to-date and streamlined legal framework to facilitate the development of self-financing post secondary education institutions.

Dec 2012

2. Education (Amendment) Bill 2013

Item proposed by the Administration. It will consult the Panel regarding amendments to the relevant section of Education Ordinance to prevent the accrued provident fund benefits of Grant Schools Provident Fund and Subsidized Schools Provident Fund teacher contributors being vested in a trustee in bankruptcy in case of bankruptcy.

Dec 2012

3. Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong Students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions

Item proposed by the Administration. It will report the progress on the implementation of the Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong Students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions, whereby the Mainland institutions will admit Hong Kong students based on their results in Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examinations, thus exempting them from taking the Joint Entrance Examination for Universities in the Mainland, as well as the implementation of the scheme in 2013.

Dec 2012

Proposed timing
for discussion

4. Development of International Cuisine College of Vocational Training Council

Item proposed by the Administration. It will consult the Panel on the proposed development of International Cuisine College by the Vocational Training Council at Pokfulam before submitting the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee.

Jan 2013

5. Self-financing post-secondary education

Arising from the recent over-enrolment by the Community College at Lingnan University and the Lingnan Institute of Further Education, members agreed at the meeting on 16 October 2012 that the policy on self-financing post-secondary education in Hong Kong and the measures to safeguard students' interests should be discussed.

Jan 2013

There was also concern about the provision of sub-degree programmes and the pathway for further study by sub-degree holders. It was suggested that the Panel's discussion of self-financing post-secondary education should cover the provision of degree and sub-degree programmes.

The Administration will brief the Panel on the financial aspects, the regulation of the self-financing post-secondary education sector in Hong Kong, as well as the prospect for the graduates of self-financing post-secondary programmes.

6. 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.

Q1 2013
(month to be confirmed)

Proposed timing
for discussion

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

7. "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.

8. Provision of international school places

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

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

To be
confirmed

Proposed timing
for discussion

10. 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

11. 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

12. 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

13. 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.

To be
confirmed

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.

14. 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 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.

To be
confirmed

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.

15. 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 Panel meeting to be held on 12 November 2012, the Panel will be consulted on the

To be
confirmed

Administration's proposal to extend the Examination Fee Remission Scheme for Needy NCS students.

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

16. 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

17. Matters relating to sex education in schools and sex crime committed by teachers

The subject on sex education in schools was proposed in the 2009-2010 session. It was proposed that schools should include sex education in the curriculum so as to provide correct information on sex to students.

The Hong Kong Federation of Education Workers (HKFEW) wrote to EDB on 20 Oct 2010 on the issue of sex crime committed by teachers. A copy of the letter was sent to the Panel on Education. A reply has been issued by the Administration to HKFEW with a copy to the Panel in November 2010 (issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)336/10-11(01)). The Administration has advised that it has also stepped up its effort in protecting children from sex crimes by the implementation of the Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme in December 2011 which enables employers to check whether prospective employees have any sexual conviction record before employment for work related to children or mentally-incapacitated persons.