

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Education

**School-based Professional Support Programmes
Financed by the Education Development Fund**

Purpose

This paper reports on the progress of the School-based Professional Support (SBPS) Programmes financed by the Education Development Fund (EDF) in the 2011/12 school year.

Background

2. The EDF was set up in July 2004 with a grant of \$550 million as approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council to provide differentiated school-based professional support (SBPS) for building schools' capacity in taking forward the education reform initiatives. Since its inception, the EDF has been supporting schools and teachers by way of the following five strands of SBPS Programmes, namely (i) Principal Support Network; (ii) School Support Partners (Seconded Teacher Scheme); (iii) Professional Development Schools Scheme; (iv) University-School Support Programmes; and (v) Collegial Participation in External School Review. In January 2012, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the injection of a sum of \$550 million into the EDF to continue providing support to the school sector for five years from the 2012/13 school year for making necessary adjustments arising from the education reform initiatives through SBPS Programmes.

3. An Advisory Committee on the EDF comprising frontline teachers, principals, academics and community members has been set up since August 2004 to advise on the operation of the Fund and the implementation of the SBPS Programmes. A cross-divisional working group within Education Bureau (EDB) has also been set up to oversee and monitor the delivery of the Programmes on a regular basis.

4. EDB's annual report on the progress of the implementation of the SBPS Programmes for the 2010/11 school year was submitted vide Information Paper No. CB(2)2702/10-11(01) in October 2011.

Progress Update

5. The demand for the support services under the five strands of SBPS Programmes has remained high over the years. The number of schools supported by the SBPS Programmes since the 2004/05 school year is at Annex I. A brief account of the five Programmes involving 509 schools and a summary of their implementation in the 2011/12 school year are at Annex II.

6. Over the past eight years, the EDF has allocated a total of about \$505 million for some 4,400 school support services. As of August 2012, the Fund has a balance of some \$662 million. The SBPS Programmes expenditure and cash balance of EDF at the end of each school year are at Annex III.

Advice Sought

7. Members are invited to note the progress of the SBPS Programmes.

Education Bureau
January 2013

Number of Schools Supported by SBPS Programmes financed by EDF

	2004/05 School Year			2005/06 School Year			2006/07 School Year			2007/08 School Year				2008/09 School Year				2009/10 School Year				2010/11 School Year			
	Sec	Pri	Sp	Sec	Pri	Sp	Sec	Pri	Sp	Sec	Pri	Sp	KG*	Sec	Pri	Sp	KG*	Sec	Pri	Sp	KG*	Sec	Pri	Sp	KG*
Number of participating schools & its % share in respect of the respective school types	165 (35.7%)	108 (16.3%)	10 (16.1%)	228 (48.6%)	216 (35.2%)	20 (32.3%)	218 (46.1%)	246 (43.9%)	21 (34.4%)	170 (36.2%)	220 (41.0%)	15 (25.0%)	48 (4.9%)	170 (36.5%)	196 (38.1%)	14 (23.3%)	87 (8.7%)	204 (44.1%)	204 (41.4%)	19 (31.7%)	98 (10.2%)	168 (34.8%)	195 (42%)	31 (51.7%)	111 (11.7%)
Total	283			464			485			453				467				525				505			

	2011/12 School Year			
	Sec	Pri	Sp	KG*
Number of participating schools & its % share in respect of the respective school types	185 (38.7%)	222 (47.9%)	26 (43.3%)	76 (7.9%)
Total	509			

*KG stands for kindergartens and kindergarten-cum-child care centres

**Progress of Implementation of the
School-based Professional Support Programmes in the 2011/12 school year**

I. Principal Support Network (PSN)

Strategy	Secondment of experienced principals or recruitment of retired principals to provide collegial support for partner principals, and formation of network clusters for interactive professional sharing among principals, with a view to enhancing their leadership skills through various modes of professional exchange activities.
Progress of Implementation (2011/12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Six retired principals were invited to join the Collegial Principal Support Network (CPSN) to provide collegial support for newly appointed partner principals. ➤ 11 CPSNs, for the newly appointed partner principals in primary, secondary and special education sectors respectively, were set up. Network activities including workshops, school visits and professional sharing were conducted. ➤ A series of talks delivered by professionals and academics under the “Education Leadership Programme” were organized to provide new perspectives for principals to broaden their horizons and examine their work from different perspectives. ➤ 2 series of “Middle Managers Learning Community” workshops on enhancing deputy secondary school heads’ capacity in school development, professional leadership, team building as well as on problem-solving were successfully conducted.
No. of Beneficiaries/	52 principals from secondary, primary and special schools joined the collegial principal support networks. About 120 participants took part in support activities such as workshops, seminars and visits, under the Principal Support Network.
Accumulated Expenditure (from 2004/05 to 2011/12)	About \$9 million ^{Note}

^{Note} Rounded to nearest \$million.

II. School Support Partners (Seconded Teacher Scheme) (SSP)

Strategy	<p><u>SSP(Local)</u></p> <p>Secondment of experienced frontline teachers on a full-time or part-time basis to provide peer support to teachers in other schools on various theme-based or key learning area projects and to establish platforms for professional sharing.</p> <p><u>SSP(Mainland)</u></p> <p>Interflow programmes with Mainland expert teachers to enhance professional capacity.</p>
Progress of Implementation (2011/12)	<p><u>SSP(Local)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In the 2011/12 school year, 47 seconded teachers were recruited on a part-time basis to support the implementation of the partnership projects on topics which included theme-based learning networks, preparation for the New Senior Secondary Curriculum and catering for learner diversity and support on small class teaching, etc. <p><u>SSP(Mainland)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 41 Mainland expert teachers joined the “Mainland-Hong Kong Teachers Exchange & Collaboration Programme” to facilitate professional interflow and capacity building. They worked in partnership and shared their experiences with local primary and secondary school teachers in various areas relating to the learning and teaching of Chinese Language and Mathematics. In respect of kindergartens, the collaboration programmes included music, physical or arts integrated activities. ➤ Four district-based networks of primary schools were established to facilitate schools’ development in the learning and teaching of Mathematics.

	<p><u>SSP(Local) –“Pilot Scheme on Hong Kong Teachers’ Exchange Activities to the Mainland” (“The Pilot Scheme”)</u></p> <p>➤ Based on the successful experiences of the first and second phases of the programme, the Pilot Scheme recruited 22 local teachers to participate in a 5-week professional collaboration programme in the Mainland. Mainland teachers from schools participating in the Pilot Scheme were invited to visit Hong Kong schools and conduct interflow programmes for local teachers during their 1-week stay in Hong Kong.</p>
No. of Beneficiaries	<p><u>SSP(Local)</u></p> <p>In the 2011/12 school year, a total of 47 seconded teachers from local primary and secondary schools participated in various SSP projects.</p> <p><u>SSP(Mainland)</u></p> <p>A total of 41 Mainland teachers joined the Mainland-Hong Kong Teachers Exchange & Collaboration Programme. They provided intensive support to 2 secondary schools, 47 primary schools and 56 pre-primary institutions. More than 75 teachers from another 51 primary schools took part in the district-based network with focus on the learning and teaching of Mathematics.</p>
Accumulated Expenditure (from 2004/05 to 2011/12)	About \$170 million ^{Note}

III. Professional Development Schools (PDS) Scheme

Strategy	Designating schools with exemplary practices in learning and teaching and a good sharing culture as PDSs. Each PDS forms a network with two or three partner schools focusing on specific pedagogical themes to foster an interactive collaborative culture and enhance the effectiveness of learning and teaching through various exchange activities.
Progress of Implementation	➤ In the 2011/12 school year, there were 23 PDSs comprising 12 primary schools, 9 secondary schools

in 2011/12	and 2 special schools. ➤ The areas for professional sharing covered a wide range of subjects and themes, including Chinese, English, Mathematics, General Studies, Liberal Studies, and Integrated Education etc.
No. of Beneficiaries	62 partner schools comprising 28 secondary and 34 primary schools benefited from the scheme.
Accumulated Expenditure (from 2004/05 to 2011/12)	About \$35 million ^{Note}

IV. University-School Support Programmes (USP)

Strategy	Universities are commissioned to provide a diversified mode of support services to cater for schools' developmental needs through connecting research-based pedagogies with classroom practices.
Progress of Implementation (2011/12)	<p>Four projects were financed by the EDF in the 2011/12 school year:</p> <p>(1) Quality School Improvement Project : Support for Learning Diversity (2010-2013) <i>(Hong Kong Institute of Educational Research, Faculty of Education, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)</i></p> <p>(2) Partnership for Promoting Whole-Child Development Project (2010-2013) <i>(The Centre for University and School Partnership, Faculty of Education, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)</i></p> <p>(3) Exploratory Study in Enhancing the Pedagogical Practices in Hong Kong Special Schools (2010-2012) <i>(Centre for Special Needs and Studies in Inclusive Education, The Hong Kong Institute of Education)</i></p> <p>(4) Supporting Secondary Schools in the Teaching & Learning of Chinese for Non-native Learners</p>

	(2011-2013) <i>(Centre for Advancement of Chinese Language Education and Research, Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong)</i>
No. of Beneficiaries	➤ 47 secondary schools, 20 primary schools, 16 special schools and 20 pre-primary institutions benefited from the above-mentioned Programmes.
Accumulated Expenditure (from 2004/05 to 2011/12)	About \$285 million ^{Note}

V. Collegial Participation in External School Review (ESR)

Strategy	Experienced serving principals and teachers are invited to engage in the ESR of other schools as external reviewers to enhance their understanding of the school self-improvement processes and to enhance the professional competency of the ESR team.
Progress of Implementation (2011/12)	The second cycle of ESR for primary, secondary schools and special schools commenced in the 2009/10 school year.
No. of Beneficiaries	Between September 2011 and June 2012, 79 external reviewers from 8 secondary schools, 65 primary schools and 5 special schools joined EDB's ESR.
Accumulated Expenditure (from 2004/05 to 2011/12)	About \$5 million ^{Note}

SBPS Programme Expenditure

	(HK\$ Million)									
School Year (Sept – Aug)	2004/05 (Actual)	2005/06 (Actual)	2006/07 (Actual)	2007/08 (Actual)	2008/09 (Actual)	2009/10 (Actual)	2010/11 (Actual)	2011/12 (Unaudited)	Accumulated Total (2004/05 to 2011/12)	2012/13 (Estimate)
Principal Support Network (PSN)	2.29	0.99	0.75	0.86	1.42	1.46	0.32	0.86	8.95	1.84
School Support Partners (Seconded Teacher) Scheme (SSP)	1.08	9.43	22.20	25.89	31.77	23.01	28.35	28.14	169.87	40.38
Professional Development Schools (PDS) Scheme	1.60	1.56	4.68	2.37	4.99	7.58	6.22	6.08	35.08	11.10
University-School Support Programmes (USP)	20.20	24.16	37.10	63.70	30.75	55.49	30.15	23.83	285.38	33.71
Collegial Participation in External School Review (ESR)	0.51	0.66	0.78	0.51	0.35	0.76	0.69	0.37	4.63	0.65
External Review (ER) of SBPS/SBSS Programmes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.37	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.92	0.00
Total	25.68	36.80	65.51	93.51	69.65	88.67	65.73	59.28	504.83	87.68

Cash Balance of EDF at the end of each School Year

	(HK\$ Million)								
School Year (Sept - Aug)	2004/05 (Actual)	2005/06 (Actual)	2006/07 (Actual)	2007/08 (Actual)	2008/09 (Actual)	2009/10 (Actual)	2010/11 (Actual)	2011/12 (Unaudited)	2012/13 (Estimate)
Opening Cash Balance	0.00	535.45	505.63	457.05	379.61	316.40	229.49	165.62	662.32
Income									
Fund Injection	550.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	550.00	0.00
Interests	11.13	6.98	16.93	16.07	6.44	1.76	1.86	5.98	6.10
Expenditure									
SBPS Programme Expenditure	(25.68)	(36.80)	(65.51)	(93.51)	(69.65)	(88.67)	(65.73)	(59.28)	(87.68)
Cash Balance (by the end of Aug)	535.45	505.63	457.05	379.61	316.40	229.49	165.62	662.32	580.74