

**Subcommittee on
District Councils Ordinance
(Amendment of Schedules 1 and 3) Order 2013**

**Response to Issues Raised by the Subcommittee
at the Meeting on 10 December 2013**

Purpose

This paper sets out the Administration's response to the issues raised by Members at the meeting of the Subcommittee on District Councils Ordinance (Amendment of Schedules 1 and 3) Order 2013 ("the Subcommittee") held on 10 December 2013.

School net arrangement

2. At present, admission of students to Primary One and Secondary One in public sector schools is administered through the Primary One Admission ("POA") System and the Secondary School Places Allocation ("SSPA") System respectively, upon the advice of the POA Committee and the SSPA Committee, each comprising representatives of School Councils and Associations as well as schools in 18 districts (with the latter for the SSPA Committee only).

3. Both the POA and SSPA are divided into two stages, i.e., the Discretionary Places stage and the Central Allocation stage. Parents are free to choose any participating school in Hong Kong during the Discretionary Places stage and Part A "Unrestricted School Choices" of the Central Allocation stage (i.e., without any restriction by virtue of school net), while they will choose schools of their children's own school net under Part B "Restricted School Choices" of the Central Allocation stage.

4. Under the POA, discretionary places take up 50% of a school's Primary One places. Children who have not been offered a discretionary place will participate in the Central Allocation. Each primary school should earmark its remaining Primary One places, i.e. 50%, for the Central Allocation stage, of which 10% are for "Unrestricted School Choices" and the remaining 90% are for "Restricted School Choices".

5. Under the SSPA, a school has to reserve not more than 30% of its Secondary One places as discretionary places; while 10% of the remaining places (excluding the repeater quota) are for “Unrestricted School Choices” and the other 90% are for “Restricted School Choices”. In addition, it is an established practice for the Education Bureau to arrange, in consultation with the SSPA Committee, the netting of Secondary One places among school nets under the Restricted School Choices at the Central Allocation stage, to ensure an adequate supply of school places and to provide parents with more school choices in each school net.

6. Subject to the passage of the District Councils Ordinance (Amendment of Schedules 1 and 3) Order 2013 (“the Order”), three public sector schools including two secondary schools (i.e., the TWGH Lee Ching Dea Memorial College and the Concordia Lutheran School (North Point)) and the North Point Government Primary School (Cloud View Road) will become located in the Wan Chai District instead of the Eastern District when the Order takes effect from 1 January 2016. As the administration of schools, including student admission, normally follows the school year¹ instead of the calendar year, any implication that the Order may bring about to the schools concerned should take effect from the 2016/17 school year, i.e., 1 September 2016.

7. Student admission for Primary One and Secondary One through the POA System and the SSPA System respectively starts one year in advance of the relevant school year. In other words, the school nets of the schools / students concerned should be announced by mid-August 2015 for the 2016 POA and mid-November 2015 for the 2016 SSPA. The Education Bureau has started consulting the POA Committee on 3 December 2013 and the SSPA Committee on 28 November 2013, including presentation of views from the secondary schools concerned to the SSPA Committee.

Primary One admission

8. The POA Committee has advised that the practice of demarcation of school nets based on the district administration boundary should in principle be adhered to, in consultation with relevant stakeholders through the kindergartens on the proposed transfer of the North Point Government Primary School (Cloud View Road) from Net 14 to Net 12 under the POA. In this connection, the POA Committee has also reconfirmed that the established arrangement of avoiding disruption to students already in the concerned primary school should in principle be adopted. Specifically, by applying the established arrangement to the present case, students studying in

¹ From 1 September of a calendar year to 31 August of the following year.

the North Point Government Primary School (Cloud View Road) who will participate in the SSPA² from 2016 to 2020 will be provided with the option to choose from participating secondary schools in either the Eastern District or Wan Chai under the SSPA Central Allocation of Restricted School Choices³.

9. Other operational details under the POA would remain unchanged. For instance, at the Discretionary Places Admission stage, the North Point Government Primary School (Cloud View Road) will continue to admit applicants with sibling(s) studying or parent(s) working in the school, and to select applicants according to the Points System when the number of these applicants exceeds the number of discretionary places quota of the school.

Secondary One admission

10. As regards the two secondary schools concerned, the SSPA Committee has remarked that there is still some time to prepare for the cycle of 2016 (i.e., admission to Secondary One in the 2016/17 school year with invitation for application in December 2015); the relevant discussion will continue at the SSPA Committee's next meeting in March 2014 to be followed by consultation of stakeholders by the Education Bureau.

11. In line with the administrative districts, the whole territory is divided into 18 school nets and the secondary school net to which a student belongs is determined by the physical location of the primary school the student attends. When the Order takes effect, the two secondary schools will be transferred to the Wan Chai District following the transfer of the population, including students, in the two District Council constituency areas ("DCCAs") from Eastern District to Wan Chai District, and the Secondary One places reserved for Part B "Restricted School Choices" of the Central Allocation stage by these two schools should likewise go to Wan Chai as well. This notwithstanding, given that the two schools concerned and students studying in primary schools participating in the SSPA in the Eastern District including the 2014 cohort of Primary One students³ may be used to having the two schools concerned in the school choice list of the Eastern District, the Education Bureau is prepared to follow the established practice to allow these two schools to net some school places to the Eastern District for the Central Allocation, subject to the views of stakeholders on the number of places to be netted / provided in each SSPA cycle.

² The secondary school net to which a Primary Six student belongs under the SSPA is determined by the physical location of the primary school the student attends.

³ On the assumption that the Order is passed before mid-August 2014.

12. In other words, the two secondary schools concerned would virtually remain a choice for primary students studying in schools in the Eastern District during the Central Allocation stage until the 2014 Primary One cohort³ progresses to Primary Six in the 2019/20 school year for Secondary One admission in the 2020/21 school year. The number of Secondary One places to be netted / provided to the Eastern District and other districts (if any) for the Central Allocation will be worked out subject to consultation with schools.

Provision of public services

Hospital and fire/ambulance services

13. At the Subcommittee meeting on 10 December 2013, the Administration re-confirmed that the implementation of the “two-DCCA proposal” will not affect the provision of services to the public by various bureaux and departments in the two Districts concerned. A Member asked the Administration to further elaborate on the hospital and fire/ambulance services provided to the residents of the two DCCAs before and after the transfer.

14. Medical treatment and rehabilitation services are currently provided to the public through hospitals and clinics organized into seven hospital clusters according to their physical locations. The C16 (Tin Hau) and C18 (Victoria Park) DCCAs both fall into the catchment area of the Hong Kong East Cluster. The two DCCAs will remain in the same Cluster after the implementation of the “two-DCCA proposal”.

15. As for fire/ambulance services, the C16 (Tin Hau) DCCA falls into the catchment area of Tung Lo Wan Fire Station, Braemar Hill Fire Station and Braemar Hill Ambulance Depot, while the C18 (Victoria Park) DCCA falls into the catchment area of Tung Lo Wan Fire Station, Kong Wan Fire Station and the Ambulance out-station in Tung Lo Wan Fire Station. The same facilities will continue to provide emergency services to these two DCCAs after the implementation of the “two-DCCA proposal”.

Planning of provision of facilities

16. Members also asked for the specific comments raised by the two District Councils concerned on the planning of provision of facilities with the implementation of the “two-DCCA proposal”. According to record, a few Members of the Eastern District Council asked for an increase in the

provision of soccer pitches and swimming pool in view of the proposed transfer of the C18 (Victoria Park) DCCA to the Wan Chai District.

17. In planning the leisure facilities to be provided for individual districts, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”) takes into account a host of factors including the Hong Kong Planning and Standard Guidelines, the planned population of the districts, the utilization, geographical locations and distribution of the existing facilities, the resources available and the view of the District Councils concerned.

18. Upon implementation of the “two-DCCA proposal”, there will be a greater shortfall in 7-a-side soccer pitches for the Eastern District but a significant surplus in the Wan Chai District with the transfer of the six 7-a-side soccer pitches in the Victoria Park from the former to the latter. There is no shortfall in swimming pools in the Eastern District before or after the transfer. Given the close proximity of the two districts which are well-served by public transport services, residents in the Eastern District can continue to use these facilities conveniently. LCSD will continue to explore with the Eastern District Council the possibility of providing more leisure facilities that are in shortfall in the district.

Statistical data

19. A Member asked whether Census and Statistics Department (“C&SD”) could provide statistical data, on a need basis, down to DCCA level for the two DCCAs concerned, to facilitate academic analysis after the transfer. According to the established arrangement of C&SD, statistical data down to DCCA level have been available for statistical surveys which are designed for such purpose. For the other statistical surveys which are designed for release of statistics at district level, the sample size so determined may not be able to support additional data requirements for DCCA-based statistics due to data limitation. This arrangement will remain the same before and after the implementation of the “two-DCCA proposal”. After the implementation of the Order, if there are requests for statistics down to DCCA level, C&SD will entertain the requests by providing available DCCA statistics as far as practicable.