



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局  
Education Bureau

Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

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5 December 2013

Clerk to Panel  
(Attn: Miss Polly YEUNG)  
Legislative Council Panel on Education  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms YEUNG

**Panel on Education**  
**Follow-up to Special Meeting on 28 October 2013**

I refer to your letter dated 29 October 2013 on the captioned matter. The supplementary information requested by the special meeting is enclosed for Members' reference please.

Yours sincerely

(Ms Hera CHUM)  
for Secretary for Education

Enclosure

**Panel on Education**  
**Issues Arising from Special Meeting on 28 October 2013**

**Issues Related to the Supply and Demand of Kindergarten Places**

With reference to the projected supply of about 241 000 kindergarten places in the 2014/15 school year stated in paragraph 2 of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)80/13-14(01)], the Education Bureau is asked to provide the following information –

- (a) the number of places in vacant classrooms of kindergartens; and
- (b) the projected supply of kindergarten places net of the number of places in (a) above.

**Education Bureau's Response:**

The projected supply of 241 000 kindergarten places in the 2014/15 school year as mentioned in paragraph 2 of the paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)80/13-14(01)] is based on data collected in the Student Enrolment Survey for the 2012/13 school year. The projection has also taken into account the number of kindergarten places from those kindergartens which will commence or cease operation, as far as we know at the time of the survey. The figure includes about 197 600 places from operating registered classrooms and about 43 700 places that may be provided by vacant registered classrooms in kindergartens (including kindergarten-cum-child care centres) across the territory. The number of places of a classroom is calculated on the basis of its permitted accommodation.

It is worth noting that there are uncertainties about the projection of kindergarten places. For example, the figures have not reflected the possible effects brought about by the utilisation of registered classroom in the 2013/14 school year as well as the changes at the beginning of the 2014/15 school year, including additional classrooms in the existing kindergartens and change in class size of whole-day and half-day classes. Later this year, we will get hold of the information on classroom utilisation for the 2013/14 school year. The information will help us make a more accurate estimation on the overall supply of kindergarten places in the 2014/15 school year.

As a matter of fact, kindergarten education in Hong Kong has all along been provided by the private sector and is characterised by great flexibility, diversity, adaptability, vibrancy and responsiveness to parents' needs. Operating within the parameters of various relevant requirements, kindergartens may optimise their campus capacities for providing more classrooms, expand/reduce their scale of operation or make alternative use of their registered classrooms to meet the fluctuating demands of school places. As shown in the table below, although the number of kindergartens had no significant year-on-year change in the past six years, the supply of kindergarten places was adjusted considerably to cope with demands.

| School Year          | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| No. of Kindergartens | 989     | 964     | 950     | 951     | 946     | 957     |
| No. of Places        | 192 437 | 188 396 | 186 636 | 189 728 | 193 363 | 197 553 |
| No. of Pupils        | 138 393 | 137 630 | 140 502 | 148 940 | 157 433 | 164 764 |

(1) Figures reflect the position as at mid-September of the respective year.

(2) Figures for places exclude vacant classrooms and vacant parts of child care centres.