



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

25 July 2014

Dear Miss YEUNG,

Panel on Education
Issues related to the Hong Kong Academy of School Managers' Letter
to its Members regarding the "Occupy Central"

I refer to your letter dated 8 July 2014. Education Bureau's (EDB) response to the concern raised by Ms Hon Claudia MO arising from a letter recently issued by Hong Kong Academy of School Managers to its members regarding the "Occupy Central" movement is as follows:

As always, the EDB attaches importance to instilling in students a respect for different viewpoints, developing their ability to think independently from multiple perspectives and cultivating their positive values. In fact, the aims of our school curriculum include developing our students into knowledgeable, responsible and law-abiding citizens who respect pluralism of cultures and views, as well as critical, reflective and independent thinkers who are able to understand the background and development of an issue from different perspectives, and present their points clearly. They should also respect evidence and adopt an open, fair and accommodating attitude towards other people's views and values.

Regarding the discussion of current affairs that involve social and political participation (such as the "Occupy Central" movement), schools are also required to follow the aforesaid basic principles. Students should be provided with diversified learning materials to ensure that they have access to resources and views of varying stances. The EDB believes that schools and their teaching force shall uphold professionalism and make use of their professional knowledge as well as the learning and teaching resources and activities selected in light of the curriculum objectives and teaching goals to engage their students in relevant discussions and shall not teach or guide students to engage in any illegal activities.

The EDB has issued guidelines to schools for different situations, and the varying natures and needs of student activities. On the basis of the relevant guidelines and according to students' stages of growth, schools shall make their professional judgment on conducting activities which are beneficial to students' learning and suitable to their needs, and on adopting measures to safeguard their safety.

According to the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279), every school shall be managed by its management committee. As to whether management committees, school managers and teachers may incur legal liabilities for their acts, it is impracticable to make any specific statement since this depends on the facts of the cases. However, broadly speaking they should act lawfully in the conduct of school activities, and should discharge their duty of care to students.

Freedom of speech is the core value of Hong Kong. The EDB respects the freedom of people with different views on political and social issues to express their views.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms LI Mei-fun)
for Secretary for Education