



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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14 January 2016

Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP
Chairman
Panel on Education
Legislative Council
HKSAR

Dear Dr Lam,

Provision of School Laboratory Technicians

With regard to the letter dated 31.12.2015 in which Hon WONG Kwok-hing and Hon TANG Ka-piu expressed concerns about the provision of school laboratory technicians, our reply is as follows:

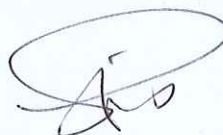
- (1) With the implementation of the New Academic System since 2009, the provision of school laboratory technicians has been frozen since the 2009/10 school year. Given that the frozen period will end by the 2015/16 school year, it is necessary to put forward a new way to calculate the provision. The Education Bureau (EDB) put forward an initial proposal for the calculation in June 2015 for discussion with different stakeholders.
- (2) The proposed way of calculating the provision of laboratory technicians follows the current practice, whereby the number of laboratory technicians for a school is determined by the actual number of practical periods for approved junior secondary classes and the number of senior secondary science subject groups (the actual workload). In this connection, the higher the number of total practical periods in a school,

the greater the workload for laboratory technicians, hence the greater the number of laboratory technician posts the school is entitled to. Therefore, the number of laboratory technicians per school is not limited to two. As with the current practice, if a school is entitled to have three laboratory technician posts and is equipped with four or more laboratories, a Laboratory Technician I can be established.

- (3) The EDB has also suggested adding extra practical periods in calculating the provision of laboratory technicians to allow more room for laboratory technicians to support students in conducting science-related activities.
- (4) In addition to updating the number of practical periods in science subjects in the new proposal for calculating the provision of laboratory technicians, the EDB has also proposed revising the "job descriptions" of laboratory technicians with a view to reflecting the latest development in science education and addressing the actual situations and needs of schools and their laboratory technicians.
- (5) After discussing with different stakeholders in more than 10 meetings, the EDB has updated the proposal based on the views collected. Initial agreement was reached with secondary school principals/school councils and laboratory technicians associations in the meetings held in December 2015 and early January 2016 respectively. The proposal for the provision of laboratory technicians is planned to be implemented in the 2016/17 school year.

For enquiries, please contact Ms Y C TSE, Chief Curriculum Development Officer of the Science Education Section, on 3698 3456.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stephen Y W YIP', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

(Stephen Y W YIP)
for Secretary for Education