

Information paper  
on 8 May 2017

**Legislative Council Panel on Education**  
**Basic Competency Assessment Research Study**

**Purpose**

This paper provides Members with supplementary information on the Basic Competency Assessment Research Study (2017 Research Study).

**Background**

2. In 2000, the Education Commission proposed to introduce Basic Competency Assessments in its report entitled “Learning for Life. Learning through Life” to better enhance the effectiveness of learning and teaching. Being one of the components of Basic Competency Assessments, Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA) is an assessment on students’ Basic Competencies in the three subjects of Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics upon completion of the three key learning stages (i.e. Primary 3, Primary 6 and Secondary 3 levels). Basic Competencies form part of the curriculum and have been integrated in students’ daily learning and internal assessments made by schools. Students are expected to acquire the Basic Competencies in the three subjects in order to proceed effectively to the next key learning stage.

3. Implementation of TSA serves the function of promoting “assessment for learning” through the use of assessment data for provision of feedback to inform learning and teaching. The feedback includes information at the territory-wide and school levels. Details of the functions of the information at the territory-wide and school levels to enhance teaching arrangements and promote students’ learning are set out in LC Paper No. CB(4)262/16-17(02).

**Public Participation in the Review of TSA**

4. To address public concerns about TSA, the Secretary for Education announced in late October 2015 that the Coordinating Committee on Basic Competency Assessment and Assessment Literacy (the Committee) would conduct a comprehensive review on the operation and the various implementation arrangements of TSA. The review was premised on the three core values of “learning needs of students”, “professionalism” and

“mutual trust among stakeholders” to promote quality education.

5. The Education Bureau (EDB) and the Committee have attached great importance to the views of different stakeholders in the review process. In this connection, starting from 2015, the EDB has arranged more than 50 meetings or seminars to meet different stakeholders, including school heads, frontline teachers, parents and parent-teacher associations of various districts, parent concern groups, etc. In addition, the EDB has accepted invitations of a number of advisory bodies to introduce the review of TSA. The list of groups that the EDB has met is set out in **Annex I**.

### **2016 Tryout Study (Primary 3) and its Successful Experience**

6. In line with the Committee’s recommendations, the EDB introduced the 2016 Tryout Study (Primary 3) (2016 Tryout Study) in 2016 covering four major initiatives as below:

- (i) Improving assessment papers and question design;
- (ii) Enhancing school reports;
- (iii) Strengthening professional support measures; and
- (iv) Including a questionnaire survey on students’ learning attitude and motivation.

The above basket of initiatives was intended to eliminate the incentives for over-drilling induced by TSA; provide targeted service to enhance the overall effectiveness of the integral cycle of Learning-Teaching-Assessment to benefit students; and improve communication and deepen mutual trust between schools and parents.

7. The Committee conducted a review of the aforementioned four major initiatives under the 2016 Tryout Study and participating stakeholders’ responses were very positive. They believed that the new initiatives could eliminate the incentives for over-drilling, effectively help schools analyse students’ performance, provide appropriate support according to school-based needs and understand the factors that affect students’ learning with a view to enhancing learning and teaching. Details of the successful experience of the 2016 Tryout Study are set out in LC Paper No. CB(4)262/16-17 (02).

### **2017 Primary 3 Basic Competency Assessment Research Study**

8. In view of the effectiveness of the 2016 Tryout Study, the Committee recommended extending the four new initiatives under the 2016 Tryout Study to all primary schools in the territory in order to collect more comprehensive feedback so as to continue to review related arrangements. The EDB accepted related recommendations and announced

on 23 January 2017 the introduction of the 2017 Research Study, extending the new initiatives for enhancement under the 2016 Tryout Study to all primary schools in the territory in 2017.

9. The 2017 Research Study continues to premise on the three core values of “learning needs of students”, “professionalism” and “mutual trust among stakeholders” to promote quality education and base its design on Basic Competencies, and is so named. Besides the assessment part, the Research Study also includes enhanced school reports as well as a basket of targeted complementary measures and resources for schools to make good use of assessment data for feedback which can help review their own school-based curriculum planning, school-based assessment policies and teaching strategies with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of learning, teaching and assessment to benefit students.

10. Since the design of the 2017 Research Study is based on the 2016 Tryout Study, in response to the invitation of the Legislative Council Panel on Education (***Annex 2***), the EDB contacted participating schools of the 2016 Tryout Study to attend the meeting on 10 April 2017 to share their experience of the 2016 Tryout Study. In order to allow Members to have a more comprehensive experience sharing, the EDB contacted 11 participating schools from different regions, of various school sizes and types to attend the meeting. Participating school representatives included not only school heads, but also frontline teachers and parents with a view to sharing with Members the experience of different stakeholders. As one-tenth of primary schools in Hong Kong participating in the Study, the school representatives were prepared to introduce from the professional perspective how schools use assessment data to facilitate students’ learning, share their firsthand experience of trying out the latest enhanced initiatives and have prepared PowerPoint presentations for concrete sharing.

### **For Members’ Information**

11. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

**Education Bureau**

**May 2017**

**Annex 1**

Review on Basic Competency Assessments  
List of stakeholders met in chronological order

- (a) The EDB has attached great importance to the views of different stakeholders in the review process. In addition to regular reporting and responses to the Legislative Council, a number of seminars and meetings were also conducted to meet different stakeholders, including school heads, frontline teachers, parents and concern groups of various districts. Details are as follows:

(i) Legislative Council

Sequence number	Date	Item	Content
1	13/1/2014	Meeting of Legislative Council Panel on Education	Review on the implementation of the Territory-wide System Assessment
2	25/11/2015	Legislative Council Meeting	Debate on Hon Albert CHAN's motion of 'Expediently abolishing the Primary 3 Territory-wide System Assessment'
3	29/11/2015	Special Meeting of Legislative Council Panel on Education	Issues related to the implementation of the Territory-wide System Assessment (Public hearing)
4	11/1/2016	Meeting of Legislative Council Panel on Education	Issues related to the suspension, continuation or abolition of the Territory-wide System Assessment
5	22/3/2016	Meeting of Legislative Council Panel on Education	Review on the Territory-wide System Assessment
6	12/12/2016	Meeting of Legislative Council Panel on Education	Latest development on the review of the Territory-wide System Assessment
7	20/3/2017	Legislative Council Subcommittee on Children's Rights	Children's expectation on the Government

(ii) Parents

Sequence number	Date	Event	Target participants	Registration method	Number of attendees	Remarks
1	27/11/2015	Seminars for parents	Parents	Via Federations of Parent-Teacher Associations of 18 districts	26	

Sequence number	Date	Event	Target participants	Registration method	Number of attendees	Remarks
2	16/12/2015	District-based seminar on 'Territory-wide System Assessment' for parents	Parents of primary students in the Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung districts	Via the schools	73	From 20 schools
3	17/12/2015	District-based seminar on 'Territory-wide System Assessment' for parents	Parents of primary students in the Northern, Tai Po and Sha Tin districts	Via the schools	109	From 29 schools
4	7/1/2016	District-based seminar on 'Territory-wide System Assessment' for parents	Parents of primary students in the Central and Western, Eastern, Southern, Wan Chai and Islands districts	Via the schools	97	From 33 schools
5	8/1/2016	District-based seminar on 'Territory-wide System Assessment' for parents	Parents of primary students in the Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Kwai Ching and Tsuen Wan districts	Via the schools	141	From 32 schools
6	11/1/2016	District-based seminar on 'Territory-wide System Assessment' for parents	Parents of primary students in the Kowloon City, Shum Shui Po and Yau Tsim Mong districts	Via the schools	120	From 29 schools
7	19/1/2016	Seminar on 'Territory-wide System Assessment' for parents	Members of the public	Via email or fax to the EDB	80	163 people signed up
8	1/2/2016	Meeting with representatives of Federations of Parent-Teacher	Representatives of Federations of Parent-Teacher Associations of	Invited by the EDB	23	

Sequence number	Date	Event	Target participants	Registration method	Number of attendees	Remarks
		Associations of 18 districts	18 districts			
9	20/12/2016	Meeting with representatives of Federations of Parent-Teacher Associations of 18 districts	Representatives of Federations of Parent-Teacher Associations of 18 districts	Invited by the EDB	17	
Total number of attendees					686	From 143 schools

(iii) Principals and teachers

Sequence number	Date	Event	Target participants	Registration method	Number of attendees	Remarks
1	8/2/2016	Chinese New Year gathering cum primary education sharing session for primary school principals	Primary school principals	Via fax to the EDB	115	From 114 schools
2	13/10/2016	2016 Tryout Study (Primary 3) – HKEAA focus group meeting for principals of Hong Kong primary schools	Primary school principals	Via HKEAA	136	From 135 schools
3	14/11/2016	Assessment for learning: 2016 Tryout Study (Primary 3 Mathematics)	Primary school principals, PSMCDs and Mathematics teachers	Via EDB training calendar	196	From 163 schools
4	14/11/2016	Assessment for learning: 2016 Tryout Study (Primary 3 English)	Primary school principals, PSMCDs and English	Via EDB training calendar	234	From 172 schools

Sequence number	Date	Event	Target participants	Registration method	Number of attendees	Remarks
		Language)	Language teachers			
5	15/11/2016	Assessment for learning: 2016 Tryout Study (Primary 3 Chinese Language)	Primary school principals, PSMCDs and Chinese Language teachers	Via EDB training calendar	223	From 173 schools
6	8/2/2017	Chinese New Year gathering cum primary education sharing session for primary school principals	Primary school principals	Via fax to the EDB	210	From 210 schools
7	15/2/2017	Briefing session on 2017 Primary 3 Basic Competency Assessment Research Study	Primary school principals, PSMCDs and teachers concerned	Via fax to the EDB	360	From 352 schools
8	3/4/2017	Briefing session on 2017 Primary 3 Basic Competency Assessment Research Study	Primary school principals, PSMCDs and subject panels of Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics	Via fax to the EDB	262	From 163 schools
Total number of attendees					1,736	From 352 schools

- (iv) Primary school management teams (including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members of Parent-Teacher Associations

Sequence number	Date	Event	Target participants	Registration method	Number of attendees	Remarks
-----------------	------	-------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------

Sequence number	Date	Event	Target participants	Registration method	Number of attendees	Remarks
1	19/1/2017	Seminar on 'Assessment = Examination? How does assessment facilitate learning?'	Primary school management teams of the Kwun Tong district (including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members of PTA	Via fax to the EDB	47	From 16 schools
2	24/1/2017	Seminar on 'Assessment = Examination? How does assessment facilitate learning?'	Primary school management teams of the Eastern district (including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members of PTA	Via fax to the EDB	33	From 13 schools
3	6/2/2017	Seminar on 'Assessment = Examination? How does assessment facilitate learning?'	Primary school management teams of the Tuen Mun district (including school managers,	Via fax to the EDB	41	From 20 schools



Sequence number	Date	Event	Target participants	Registration method	Number of attendees	Remarks
			principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members of PTA			
4	15/2/2017	Seminar on ‘Assessment = Examination? How does assessment facilitate learning?’	Primary school management teams of the Wong Tai Sin district (including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members of PTA	Via fax to the EDB	44	From 16 schools
5	16/2/2017	Seminar on ‘Assessment = Examination? How does assessment facilitate learning?’	Primary school management teams of the Kowloon City district (including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members	Via fax to the EDB	60	From 16 schools

Sequence number	Date	Event	Target participants	Registration method	Number of attendees	Remarks
			of PTA			
6	16/2/2017	Seminar on 'Assessment = Examination? How does assessment facilitate learning?'	Primary school management teams of the Yuen Long district (including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members of PTA	Via fax to the EDB	137	From 35 schools
7	17/2/2017	Seminar on 'Assessment = Examination? How does assessment facilitate learning?'	Primary school management teams of the Southern district (including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members of PTA	Via fax to the EDB	44	From 10 schools
8	20/2/2017	Seminar on 'Assessment = Examination? How does assessment facilitate	Primary school management teams of the Kwai Ching district (including	Via fax to the EDB	72	From 15 schools

Sequence number	Date	Event	Target participants	Registration method	Number of attendees	Remarks
		learning?’	school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members of PTA			
9	21/2/2017	Seminar on ‘Assessment = Examination? How does assessment facilitate learning?’	Primary school management teams of the Central & Western district (including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members of PTA	Via fax to the EDB	83	From 13 schools
10	24/2/2017	Seminar on ‘Assessment = Examination? How does assessment facilitate learning?’	Primary school management teams of the Wan Chai district (including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent	Via fax to the EDB	69	From 11 schools

Sequence number	Date	Event	Target participants	Registration method	Number of attendees	Remarks
			education and chairpersons and members of PTA			
11	27/2/2017	Seminar on 'Assessment = Examination? How does assessment facilitate learning?'	Primary school management teams of the Islands district (including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members of PTA	Via fax to the EDB	19	From 6 schools
12	27/2/2017	Seminar on 'Assessment = Examination? How does assessment facilitate learning?'	Primary school management teams of the Sai Kung district (including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members of PTA	Via fax to the EDB	66	From 11 schools
13	28/2/2017	Seminar on 'Assessment = Examination? How does assessment	Primary school management teams of the Northern district	Via fax to the EDB	54	From 15 schools

Sequence number	Date	Event	Target participants	Registration method	Number of attendees	Remarks
		facilitate learning?’	(including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members of PTA			
14	1/3/2017	Seminar on ‘Assessment = Examination? How does assessment facilitate learning?’	Primary school management teams of the Tai Po district (including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members of PTA	Via fax to the EDB	34	From 10 schools
15	3/3/2017	Seminar on ‘Assessment = Examination? How does assessment facilitate learning?’	Primary school management teams of the Sham Shui Po district (including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and	Via fax to the EDB	57	From 16 schools

Sequence number	Date	Event	Target participants	Registration method	Number of attendees	Remarks
			chairpersons and members of PTA			
16	10/3/2017	Seminar on 'Assessment = Examination? How does assessment facilitate learning?'	Primary school management teams of the Yau Tsim Mong district (including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members of PTA	Via fax to the EDB	62	From 12 schools
17	10/3/2017	Seminar on 'Assessment = Examination? How does assessment facilitate learning?'	Primary school management teams of the Tsuen Wan district (including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members of PTA	Via fax to the EDB	69	From 14 schools
18	17/3/2017	Seminar on 'Assessment = Examination? How does assessment	Primary school management teams of the Sha Tin district	Via fax to the EDB	62	From 14 schools

Sequence number	Date	Event	Target participants	Registration method	Number of attendees	Remarks
		facilitate learning?’	(including school managers, principals and middle managers), teachers in charge of parent education and chairpersons and members of PTA			
Total number of attendees					1,053	From 263 schools

(v) Other groups and organisations

Sequence number	Date	Event	Target participants	Registration method	Number of attendees	Remarks
1	1/12/2015	Focus group interview of Committee on Home-School Co-operation	Members of Committee on Home-School Co-operation	Invited by the EDB	12	
2	3/12/2015	Children's Rights Forum, Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	People who are concerned about child affairs	Via the Children's Rights Unit of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	23	
3	27/1/2016	Meeting with TSA Concern Group	Members of TSA Concern Group members	Invited by the EDB	9	
4	2/2/2016	Meeting with Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union representatives	Representatives of Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union	Invited by the EDB	13	
5	10/11/2016	Meeting with TSA Concern	Members of TSA Concern	Invited by the EDB	7	

Sequence number	Date	Event	Target participants	Registration method	Number of attendees	Remarks
		Group	Group			
6	20/12/2016	Meeting with Parents' Union	Representatives of Parents' Union	Invited by the EDB	6	Groups attended are: TSA Concern Group, Hong Kong Parents' League, Love Our Kids Group and Alliance of Children Development Rights
7	23/1/2017	Meeting with advocacy and support groups of the initiative on "Safeguarding the healthy development of children, supporting the autonomy of the education profession"	Chairman of Committee on Home-School Co-operation, representatives of the sponsoring bodies, representatives of the school groups and representatives of the try-out schools	Invited by the EDB	34	Attendees including 13 representatives of district parents' association, 10 representatives from 9 sponsoring bodies, 4 representatives of School Council and 6 principals of try-out schools
8	8/2/2017	Focus group interview of Committee on Home-School Co-operation	Members of Committee on Home-School Co-operation	Invited by the EDB	18	
Total number of attendees					122	

(b) The number of questions raised by the Legislative Council and the Special Finance Committee on Territory-wide System Assessment

(i) Legislative Council :

Year	Number of questions
2015	Written question : 2 Oral question : 1
2016	Written question : 1
Total	4



(ii) Special Finance Committee

Year	Number of questions
2015/16	5
2016/17	14
2017/18	18
Total	37

- We hope to establish and deepen the mutual trust among stakeholders through the 2017 Basic Competency Assessment Research Study (Research Study) to jointly promote quality education which addresses students' learning needs, embodies professionalism and is founded on mutual trust in order to serve the functions of Basic Competency Assessments to the fullest extent, so that assessment information can help enhance school-based curriculum and teaching arrangements and facilitate students' learning.
- A briefing session by HKEAA for all primary schools in the territory on the arrangements of the 2017 Research Study was conducted on 15 February 2017. The Research Study is in good progress. All public funded primary schools (i.e. more than 470 schools) have arranged to participate in the Research Study; and more than 20 private primary schools have also opted to join.
- To facilitate the implementation of the Research Study, the EDB has organized seminars for schools in the 18 districts to introduce and share the concept and implementation of "assessment for learning" with school managers, principals, teachers and parent representatives. The EDB is also preparing a resource kit for promoting "assessment for learning" to enhance the understanding of different stakeholders on "assessment for learning" and Basic Competency Assessments.

21-MAR-2017 15:23 FROM LEGCO

TO 28930858

P.001/002



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China



立法會

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

來函編號 YOUR REF :  
不函編號 OUR REF : CB4/PL/ED  
電話 TEL/FPHONE : 3919 3404  
傳真號碼 FACSIMILE : 2840 0716  
電郵地址 EMAIL : shau@legco.gov.hk

By Fax (2868 5916)

21 March 2017

Mr Eddie NG Hak-kim, SBS, JP  
Secretary for Education  
Education Bureau  
11/F, East Wing  
Central Government Offices  
2 Tim Mei Avenue  
Tamar, Hong Kong

Dear Mr NG,

**Panel on Education**

**Meeting to be held on 10 April 2017**

On behalf of Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, Panel Chairman, I write to invite your goodself and representatives of the Administration to attend the next regular meeting of the Panel to be held on **Monday, 10 April 2017, at 4:30 pm in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Complex.**

The Panel has agreed to discuss the item on "Start-up loan for The Open University of Hong Kong" proposed by the Administration. On the instruction of the Panel Chairman, the item on "Basic Competency Assessment Research Study ("BCA")" will also be discussed. The agenda of the meeting will be provided to you as soon as practicable.

Regarding the agenda item on BCA, members would like to be briefed on the arrangements for BCA to be implemented in 2017. Meanwhile, to facilitate an effective exchange of views, the Panel Chairman would like to seek your assistance to coordinate the attendance of some representatives from schools participated in the 2016 Tryout Study (Primary 3) to take part in the discussion.

香港中區立法會大樓1號立法會綜合大樓 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMPLEX, 1 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG

21-MAR-2017 15:30

+ 852 2840 0716

98%

P.001

- 2 -

To facilitate discussion, I should be grateful if the Administration would provide a discussion paper on the two agenda items in both Chinese and English and forward them to the Secretariat at [shau@legco.gov.hk](mailto:shau@legco.gov.hk) **on or before 3 April 2017**. Please be informed that unless you request otherwise, the papers provided will be distributed to the media and the public, and made available on the LegCo Website.

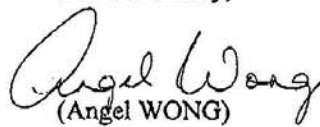
To facilitate meeting arrangements, kindly co-ordinate the attendance of representatives from the Administration and relevant schools, and confirm their names and post titles in both Chinese and English **by 3 April 2017** as well.

On arrival at the LegCo Complex, representatives of the Administration are requested to proceed to Members' Entrance 1 (Council Block facing the LegCo Square) or Members' Entrance 2 (Office Block on Tim Mei Avenue). For public officers who have the personal admission passes issued by the LegCo Secretariat, they are requested to wear the passes prominently while inside the LegCo Complex. For other public officers who do not have the personal admission passes, they are required to obtain temporary admission passes at one of the entrances. They are requested to wear the passes at all times while in the LegCo Complex and return them to the security staff before leaving the LegCo Complex. The representatives are requested to proceed to Waiting Room 216 on the second floor. They will be invited to join the meeting when members are ready.

Meanwhile, if there is any question, please feel free to contact the undersigned or Mr KWONG Kam-fai (tel. no. 3919 3411).

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(Angel WONG)  
Clerk to Panel

c.c. Ms Stephenie HUNG, Education Bureau (Fax no. : 2893 0858)