



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

香港添馬添美道 2 號政府總部東翼 5 樓 學校行政分部
School Administration Division, 5/F., East Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

本局檔號 Our Ref.: EDB(SA)/ADM/145/10/1

電話 Telephone: 3509 7536

來函檔號 Your Ref.: CB4/PL/ED

傳真 Fax Line: 2893 1461

28 July 2017

Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Panel on Education
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr KWONG Kam-fai)

Dear Mr KWONG,

Panel on Education
Priority Measures to Support Quality Education

I refer to the letter of 13 July 2017 from Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang to the Chairman of Panel on Education requesting the Secretary for Education to provide supplementary information on the above subject. The reply from the Education Bureau (EDB) is enclosed at **Appendix** for the Chairman's reference.

Yours sincerely,

(Y Y SO)

for Secretary for Education

Legislative Council
Panel on Education Meeting on 10 July 2017

Reply to Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang's enquiry on
Priority Measures to Support Quality Education

(1) Proposal on increasing the teacher-to-class ratio in public sector primary and secondary schools by 0.1

As the impact of changes in school-age children population on individual schools may vary, we are unable to estimate the number of classes in public sector primary, secondary schools, and various types of special schools in the coming three school years. Regarding the teacher-to-class (T/C) ratios, currently the T/C ratios for public sector bi-sessional primary schools and whole-day primary schools are 1.4 teachers per class and 1.5 teachers per class respectively (including the provision of additional teaching posts for the implementation of specialised teaching). The T/C ratios for public sector secondary schools in junior and senior classes are 1.7 teachers per class and 2.0 teachers per class respectively. The T/C ratio for special schools in primary and junior secondary classes is 1.7 teachers per class, and that for senior secondary classes is 1.9 teachers or 2.0 teachers per class (applicable to special schools offering the ordinary curriculum).

Starting from the 2017/18 school year, the T/C ratios for public sector primary and secondary schools (including special schools) will be increased by 0.1 across the board to provide additional teaching staff for schools to take forward various education initiatives and enhance the quality of education. The teaching posts to be created will all be graduate posts but will not be counted towards promotion post entitlement for the time being. We shall review the resources provided to schools based on the implementation of individual policy initiatives and actual needs, and formulate appropriate education policies and measures with the aim of attaining quality education.

(2) Operation arrangement for regularisation of the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO)

With effect from the 2017/18 school year, the Pilot Project on SENCO under the Community Care Fund will be replaced upon regularisation of the project. We will provide, by phases in three years, each public sector ordinary primary and secondary

school with an additional regular teaching post (i.e. an Assistant Primary School Master/Mistress in primary schools or a Graduate Master/Mistress in secondary schools or an Assistant Education Officer in government secondary schools). Schools should observe the circular on SENCO issued by the Education Bureau (EDB) and comprehensively consider teachers' years of teaching experience, work experience and relevant qualifications for assigning a suitable candidate to serve as SENCO. Basically, teachers assuming the SENCO role should have at least three years of experience in teaching and in conducting integrated education and should have received training in special education, such as completion of the Basic, Advanced and Thematic (BAT) Courses on supporting students with special educational needs commissioned by the EDB and offered by tertiary institutions, or obtained equivalent qualifications.

The prevailing salary for Graduate Master/Mistress in secondary schools/Assistant Education Officer in government secondary schools ranges from Master Pay Scale (MPS) Point 15 to Point 33 (\$28,040 - \$65,150), whereas the salary for Assistant Primary School Master/Mistress in primary schools ranges from MPS Point 15 to Point 29 (\$28,040 - \$54,230). Schools are required to follow the established salary assessment rules in determining the pay of individual teachers depending on the teaching experience eligible for salary increments after obtaining the required academic/professional qualifications.

Upon regularisation of the Pilot Project from the 2017/18 school year, the funding mode (i.e. a cash grant calculated on the basis of the mid-point salary of the respective ranks of teacher) will not be applicable. Instead, the arrangement of an additional regular teaching post as stated above will apply. Besides, as the entry point and salary range of the teaching ranks concerned are decided after prudent consideration and stringent procedures, we have no plan to introduce changes. Nevertheless, we will review the implementation of the relevant practices, including the arrangement of designated teachers, as well as the ranks, to serve as SENCO.