



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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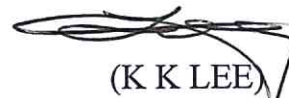
Ms Angel WONG  
Clerk to Panel on Education  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms WONG,

**Panel on Education**  
**Follow-up to the meeting on 2 March 2018**

I refer to your letter of 6 March 2018. The information requested at Items (a) to (c) is provided at the Annex for Members' reference.

Yours sincerely,



(K K LEE)  
for Secretary for Education

Encl.

**Panel on Education**  
**Follow-up to the Meeting on 2 March 2018**

**Items (a) to (c) in the letter of 6 March 2018 from the Clerk to the Panel on Education**

(a) and (b) The Education Bureau (EDB) has launched the Pilot Scheme on Promoting Interflows between Sister Schools in Hong Kong and the Mainland (the Pilot Scheme) for the school years between 2015/16 and 2017/18. The Pilot Scheme aims at enhancing support to local schools that have formed sister schools with their counterparts in the Mainland in planning and conducting exchange activities. With the provision of financial and professional support through the Pilot Scheme, the number of Hong Kong schools that have formed sister schools with their counterparts in various Mainland provinces and cities has increased to about 640 as at March 2018 as compared to about 300 before the implementation of the Pilot Scheme.

Other than the increase in the number of participating schools, we have also expected enhancement in the breadth and depth of the exchange activities between sister schools. Schools have been expected to arrange more multi-faceted activities such as school visits, student activities, seminars, lesson demonstration, lesson evaluation, video conferencing and experience sharing, with their sister schools in light of their development needs at the student, teacher and school management levels. Under the Pilot Scheme, participating schools are required to review annually whether the intended objectives of the exchange activities are met and to submit reports to the EDB. According to the reports, schools were positive about the Pilot Scheme and considered the Pilot Scheme useful in helping teachers and students gain a better understanding about the education in the Mainland, facilitating cultural interflows, expanding schools' network, enhancing teachers' professionalism and broadening students' horizons.

The EDB has commissioned an independent consultant to conduct an overall review of the Pilot Scheme in the 2017/18 school year. However, as schools were generally positive about the Pilot Scheme and keen to know the post-Pilot Scheme arrangements as soon as possible, the EDB decided to regularise the Pilot Scheme. The independent consultant would instead focus on identifying the successful outcomes and areas for improvement of the Sister

School Scheme, so that the experience consolidated can provide reference for schools. The review is still in progress.

(c) Building on the existing foundation, the regularisation of the Pilot Scheme aims at facilitating the sustainable development of interflows among sister schools. It enables Hong Kong schools to make early plans for sister school exchange activities in the next few years. It is anticipated that the provision of recurrent grant and professional support will encourage more public sector and Direct Subsidy Scheme schools (including special schools) in Hong Kong to form sister schools with their counterparts in the Mainland, and the number of Hong Kong schools participating in the Sister School Scheme will increase progressively in the coming years, from about 640 currently to about 700 in the 2018/19 school year. Besides, schools are expected to diversify the modes and expand the scope of the exchange activities, with a view to further fostering teachers' professional development and enriching students' learning experiences for the benefits of both teachers and students. For instance, schools may form clusters or networks with other sister schools on a regional or thematic basis.

Education Bureau  
May 2018