



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 Public Works Subcommittee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Doris LO)

Dear Ms LO,

Public Works Subcommittee
272ES – A 30-classroom secondary school at Site KT2e,
Development at Anderson Road, Kwun Tong
Supplementary Information

At the meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee of the Legislative Council on 29 March 2019 concerning the funding application of 272ES – A 30-classroom secondary school at Site KT2e, Development at Anderson Road, Kwun Tong, Members requested the Government to provide the number of schools at premises not built according to prevailing standards and aged over 50 years.

At present, there are about 850 ordinary public sector school in the territory. Their premises were built in different periods in accordance with the standards at the time of construction and facilities in the premises vary. While the standards have been changing over the years, the existing school premises in use are required to comply with prevailing statutory requirements. As at March 2019, about 185 of them were not built according to prevailing standards and aged over 50 years.

We understand that the community is concerned about conditions of facilities at old school premises. Over the years, the Education Bureau (EDB) has put in place various measures to enhance school facilities for improving the teaching and learning environment. Among the some 180 ordinary public sector schools mentioned above, more than 90% of them have had their school facilities upgraded as well as the teaching and learning environment improved through the completed School Improvement Programme (SIP), the prevailing reprovisioning, extension and redevelopment mechanism, etc. We will continue to actively identify sites and vacant school premises for reprovisioning and expedite school allocation under the established arrangements, with a view to improving the teaching and learning environment of existing schools.

Apart from the above, based on the consensus reached with the sector earlier on, EDB is carrying out improvement works for primary schools operating in “matchbox-style school premises”¹, with a focus on addressing the common problems arising from the unique architectural design of those premises. The improvement works has commenced progressively since the summer of 2017 and is scheduled for completion by the summer of 2019. Under this programme, our works consultants have also explored technically feasible means for more flexible use of space within existing school premises, such as minor internal conversion and installation of moveable partition walls to turn existing facilities into temporary special rooms. We are following up the relevant works progressively in accordance with the schools’ indications and needs, with a view to improving the teaching and learning environment within the constraints of space and existing architectural design. Taking into account the experience from the aforementioned improvement programme and views of different stakeholders (including the Hong Kong Aided Primary School Heads Association and the Subsidized Primary School Council), we are preparing to conduct similar minor internal conversions at other school premises constructed according to past planning standards, to facilitate more flexible use of existing space by schools, thereby enhancing the teaching and learning environment and efficacy. We have reserved \$1 billion to take forward the said improvement works programme. Schools may propose conversion works to EDB in the upcoming two years, based on the conditions of their premises and needs.

¹ Among the schools built in different periods, some are cuboidal-shaped premises constructed between mid-1960s and 1980 in public housing estates for primary school use. These school premises are often referred to as “matchbox-style school premises”.

Meanwhile, EDB will continue to enhance school facilities and improve the teaching and learning environment in accordance with the schools' needs through the annual major repair and emergency repair mechanism. The Government has reserved non-recurrent subvention in 2019-20, comparable to that of 2018-19, for major repairs (applicable to both aided schools and Direct Subsidy Scheme schools) and emergency repairs (applicable to aided schools only).

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Elina CHAN)
for Secretary for Education

c.c.
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
(Attn: Ms KWONG Sin-hang, Terri)