



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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29 April 2020

Clerk to Panel on Education
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attention: Ms Angel WONG)

Dear Ms WONG,

Provision of Student Grant for Day-school Students in the 2019/20 School Year

With respect to the letter dated 23 April 2020 from Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan to the Chairman of the Legislative Council Panel on Education, I am authorised to reply as follows:

As part of the \$19.1 billion relief measures announced by the Financial Secretary in August 2019, a one-off student grant of \$2,500 would be provided in the 2019/20 school year for each secondary day-school, primary school and kindergarten student to alleviate parents' financial burden in defraying education expenses. The provision was approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council on 6 December 2019. The Chief Executive proposed in the 2019 Policy Address to regularise the provision of the student grant starting from the 2020/21 school year. In view of the COVID-19 epidemic, all schools have temporarily suspended their classes since end January 2020. During class suspension, many parents have to make the usual education-related payments, in whole or in part, for their children, and some may have to pay for learning materials or e-learning devices for their children. To assist parents in defraying these expenses, the amount of the student grant for each student in the 2019/20 school


year has been increased by \$1,000 to \$3,500. The additional \$1,000 allocated from the Anti-epidemic Fund set up on 21 February 2020 is disbursed together with the original \$2,500 in one go. No extra application by parents is necessary. It is estimated to benefit about 900 000 students in Hong Kong.

To safeguard the health of students and minimise the spread of COVID-19 through social distancing, all schools have temporarily suspended their classes since end January 2020. This has affected the submission of applications by parents as well as the processing of applications by the contractor.

As at 29 April 2020, we have received about 842 000 applications, among which about 596 000 applications (accounting for about 71% of applications submitted) have been processed. About 486 000 (accounting for about 58% of applications submitted) parents of eligible students have received payment, while the remaining of about 110 000 applications (accounting for about 13% of applications submitted) require further follow-up with parents owing to incomplete or incorrect information (mainly about the bank account information provided). We will contact the schools concerned to inform their parents to provide or to correct the information on the application forms. If before class suspension, schools have already submitted to the Bureau the student grant application forms completed by the parents, they should have generally received the payment if the information provided is correct and complete. We anticipate that all applications received will be processed, and payments will be made to applications with accurate and complete information by the end of May 2020, while individual special cases will also be processed as soon as possible.

Thank you for the Member's attention to the matter.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Karen LAU)
for Secretary for Education