

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)1175/20-21(04)

Ref : CB4/PL/ED

Panel on Education

Meeting on 2 July 2021

Updated background brief on issues related to parent education

Purpose

This paper summarizes the major views and concerns of the Panel on Education ("the Panel") on issues related to parent education.

Background

2. The Education Bureau's ("EDB") strategies for promoting parent education are focused on kindergartens ("KGs"), primary and secondary schools as the platform for promotion of home-school cooperation and development of home-school partnership.

3. At the invitation of EDB, the Task Force on Home-school Co-operation and Parent Education ("the Task Force") was set up under the Education Commission in December 2017 to review the existing approach in promoting parent education and home-school co-operation in order to formulate the directions and strategies for fostering both. Its review report ¹ in which 18 recommendations had been put forth was submitted to EDB in April 2019. The recommendations are set out in **Appendix I**.

4. According to the information provided by EDB in December 2020, EDB has been progressively taking forward the measures recommended by the Task Force. Starting from the 2019-2020 school year, the subsidy to Parent-Teacher Associations ("PTAs") and Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations ("FPTAs") has been increased for organizing more school-based and community-based parent

¹ The report is available at the following website:

https://www.e-c.edu.hk/en/publications_and_related_documents/education_reports.html

education programmes, involving an additional recurrent funding of about \$30 million. Besides, the territory-wide "Positive Parent Campaign" has been launched to enhance the public's understanding about the importance of happy and healthy development of children and parents' awareness of positive parenting through a series of publicity activities.

Major views and concerns

5. The Panel was briefed on the measures to promote parent education at its meetings on 8 December 2014 and 26 June 2017. The major concerns raised by members are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

Promotion of parent education

6. Some members expressed concern that many working parents were too busy to take part in the parent education activities organized by PTAs. The Administration advised that a growing number of private companies were aware of the importance of parent education and organized parent education activities for their staff. Some schools also cooperated with non-governmental organizations, which were good at promoting parent education, in organizing home-school cooperation activities.

7. There were suggestions that instead of relying on government-led measures, parent education should be promoted through sharing of parenting experience among parents; an integrated basic training course lasting for not more than 10 hours should be organized for parents and additional points be given to those children whose parents have satisfactorily completed the training course when they participate in the Primary One Allocation System; interpretation service should be arranged for parents of non-Chinese speaking ("NCS") students during home-school activities to encourage participation; and curriculum focusing on nurturing students' curiosity and motivation to learn should be introduced during the first six years of education to facilitate parent-child communication.

8. According to the Administration, a wide range of education activities, such as parent education talks, workshops and sharing sessions, were covered in parent education to cater for various needs of parents and enhance parents' understanding of the needs of their children for better parent-child relationship.

Support for Parent-Teacher Associations

9. Noting that two thirds of KGs were without PTAs, members enquired whether the Administration had taken concrete measures to encourage KGs to set

up a PTA. The Administration advised that KGs would be encouraged to promote parent education through the setting up of PTAs under the free quality KG education policy to be implemented from the 2017-2018 school year.

10. Members relayed some schools' concerns that the Set-up Grant and Annual Grant (\$5,000 of \$5,267 respectively in the 2016-2017 school year) provided to PTAs for their operation and development were insufficient. The Administration explained that in addition to the Set-up Grant and Annual Grant, the Subsidy for Home-School Co-operation Activities, the Subsidy for Joint Home-School Co-operation Project and the Quality Education Fund were available for applications by schools/PTAs for organizing parent education or parenting activities. Moreover, FPTAs could apply for subsidies for holding district-based parenting activities.

Latest position

11. At the meeting on 2 July 2021, the Administration will brief the Panel on the promotion of home-school co-operation and parent education.

Relevant papers

12. A list of relevant papers on the website of the Legislative Council is in **Appendix II**.

**18 recommendations made by the
Task Force on Home-school Co-operation and Parent Education**

Short-term measures

- (i) EDB should provide more resources to increase the amount of Subsidy for Home-School Co-operation Activities for schools and PTAs.
- (ii) EDB should increase the number of activities which FPTAs could apply for Subsidy for Home-School Co-operation Activities, and set up a new type of subsidy for FPTAs to organize joint-district parent education activities.
- (iii) The amount of Set-up Grant and Annual Grant for PTAs of KGs should be increased to encourage more KGs to set up a PTA.
- (iv) Publicity and education should be stepped up to help KGs and their school sponsoring bodies better understand the procedures and matters pertaining to the setting up of PTAs.
- (v) Tertiary institutions ("TEIs") or non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") should be commissioned by EDB to develop a curriculum framework or a set of curriculum guidelines on parent education.
- (vi) Short training courses for teachers should be provided to enhance their skills in promoting home-school co-operation and parent education, as well as skills in relation to mediation and home-school communication.
- (vii) EDB's parent education website "Smart Parent Net" should be developed to become a more popular parent education learning platform.
- (viii) A territory-wide "Positive Parent Campaign" should be launched and promoted through different platforms. EDB should also produce videos and articles on the theme of "Positive Parent Campaign".
- (ix) EDB should provide funding for KGs and public sector schools to implement school-based activities under "Positive Parent Campaign".
- (x) NGOs should be commissioned to conduct out-reaching promotion activities such as photo-taking, games and arts activities in places including public housing estates, shopping malls and markets so as to

reach more parents of different backgrounds for promoting the "Positive Parent Campaign".

Medium-term measures

- (xi) TEIs or NGOs should be commissioned by EDB to design and organize structured and evidence-based parent education courses in accordance with the curriculum framework or guidelines on parent education developed by the Government, whose targets include parents in general, grandparents, single parents, and parents of students with special educational needs ("SEN"), NCS, newly arrived and non-attendance students.
- (xii) TEIs should be encouraged or commissioned to conduct various researches on home-school co-operation and parent education.
- (xiii) NGOs should be commissioned to provide free parent talks or workshops on various topics regularly in different regions, whose targets include parents in general, grandparents, single parents, and parents of SEN, NCS, newly arrived and non-attendance students.
- (xiv) TEIs or NGOs should be commissioned to develop and provide e-learning parent education courses to enable self-learning through computers or mobile phones.

Long-term measures

- (xv) Parent education courses specifically developed for fathers, mothers, grandparents and single parents should be optimized with a view to covering members of different family status and meeting their needs in nurturing children.
- (xvi) TEIs or NGOs should be commissioned by EDB to optimize tailor-made parent education for parents of SEN, NCS, newly arrived and non-attendance students, etc.
- (xvii) TEIs or NGOs should be commissioned by EDB to design and provide workplace parent education courses specially for working parents.
- (xviii) Companies should be encouraged to join workplace parent education courses through media such as Announcements of Public Interest. Opportunities to co-operate with other organisations which promote programmes on corporate social responsibility could also be explored.

Appendix II

List of relevant papers

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Education	8.12.2014	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Education	26.6.2017	Agenda Minutes

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
25 June 2021