

Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 142/2009

From: Secretary for Education

To: Heads of All Primary and Secondary Schools (except ESF schools; and International schools)

Ref:

Date: 14 October 2009

**Professional Development Course on
Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) for Native-speaking
English Teachers (NETs) and Local English Teachers (LETs)**

Summary

The purpose of this circular memorandum is to inform primary and secondary school heads and teachers, particularly Native-speaking English Teachers (NETs), of the details of a full-time, free-of-charge, eight-week block release professional upgrading course on Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). Eligible teachers are invited to apply for this upgrading course.

Details

2. The Education Bureau (EDB), in conjunction with the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIED), is offering a professional development course entitled “Professional Development Course on Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) for Native-speaking English Teachers (NETs) and Local English Teachers (LETs)”, Course Code BWC055.

3. The course will be run on an eight-week full-time block release basis. The course is designed for in-service primary and secondary school teachers without relevant teacher training qualifications in English. Both Native-speaking English Teachers (NETs) and Local English Teachers (LETs) are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to primary NET teachers. Applications must be recommended by their school principals.

4. The course will be offered in January 2010 and repeated in April 2010. Those who are interested please visit the web site: <http://www.ied.edu.hk/acadprog/pdc/bwc055.htm> or contact Ms. LAM of the HKIEd at 2948 7247.

TEFL/TESL Requirement for Native-speaking English Teachers

5. Native-speaking English Teachers working under the NET Scheme in Primary Schools are required to obtain a Teaching of English as a Foreign Language or a Second Language (TEFL/TESL) qualification at least at certificate level within the current contract of the employment even if this should involve their own expenses and their own spare time. If NETs fail to obtain the qualification within the specified time, they may not be re-employed as a NET upon the completion of the current contract.

6. NETs successfully completing the above course would satisfy the TEFL/TESL requirement. Principals are strongly encouraged to release their NET teachers without the said qualification to attend this course.

Provision of Temporary Teachers

7. Teachers of all primary and secondary schools (except ESF schools and International schools) will be granted full pay study leave for attending the full-time block release session of the courses. Supply teachers will be provided to schools to cover the full-time course period. The schools concerned should follow the normal procedures for employment of supply teachers. DSS schools are requested to make their own arrangements for the employment of supply teachers.

Enquiries

8. For enquiries, please contact Mr. Ralph BARNES at 3549 8339

Simon THAM
for Secretary for Education