Senior Secondary Applied Learning Courses
(2017-19 Cohort)

(Note: This circular memorandum should be read by heads and teachers of all secondary schools – for necessary action.)

Summary

The purpose of this circular memorandum is to announce the implementation details for the eighth cohort of Senior Secondary Applied Learning courses commencing in the 2017/18 school year.

Details

Background

2. Applied Learning (ApL) is approaching the eighth cohort (2017-19 cohort) of implementation at the senior secondary level. Students at all ability levels could take ApL courses as elective subjects. ApL offers studies with equal emphasis on practice and theory linked to broad professional and vocational field. For holistic learning, a flexible combination of ApL with core subjects, elective subjects and Other Learning Experiences helps provide theoretical and applied learning opportunities to cater for students’ diverse learning needs. Students can opt to take a maximum of two ApL courses as elective subjects in Secondary 5 and 6.

Target Students

3. All current Secondary 4 students who are following the senior secondary curriculum recommended by the Curriculum Development Council (CDC) may apply for studying ApL courses in Secondary 5 and 6. Schools are encouraged to provide opportunities for students with varied interests, aptitudes and abilities to study ApL courses.

Course Design and Areas of Studies

4. The design principles of ApL courses are the same as those of other school subjects, focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes. ApL aims to enable students to understand fundamental theories and concepts through application and practice and to develop beginners’ skill set and generic skills for further studies and work. ApL helps students explore their career aspirations and orientation for lifelong learning.

5. The duration of each ApL course is 180 contact hours, generally extending over two school years from Secondary 5 to 6.

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1 Schools piloting early commencement of ApL courses for the 2017-19 cohort will begin to offer ApL courses to their Secondary 4 students in the 2016/17 school year.
6. There are six areas of studies in the ApL curriculum, namely:
   - Creative Studies
   - Media and Communication
   - Business, Management and Law
   - Services
   - Applied Science
   - Engineering and Production

7. In the 2017-19 cohort, 35 ApL courses, including two Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) courses (ApL(C)), are approved by the Education Bureau (EDB) and offered by 10 course providers. ApL(C) is introduced, starting from the 2014/15 school year, to provide an additional channel exclusively for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students fulfilling the specified circumstances\(^2\) to obtain an alternative Chinese language qualification to prepare them for further studies and work. The duration of ApL(C) course is 270 contact hours, extending over three school years at the senior secondary level.

8. Information on the 35 ApL courses and course providers is given at Annex 1. Schools may also refer to the EDB website (www.edb.gov.hk/apl/en) for the course synopses (including the learning outcomes, content and organisation, articulation) of individual ApL courses.

**Quality Assurance**

9. To ensure that ApL courses are developed according to the design principles, the curriculum is delivered as planned, and the learning outcomes of students can meet the standards which are set, the EDB has been working in collaboration with the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) to put in place a quality assurance mechanism of ApL courses, which is overseen by the CDC Committee on ApL.

**Assessment and Attendance Requirement**

10. Assessments of student performance in ApL courses, including both formative and summative assessments, are undertaken by course providers and administered mainly by the respective course tutors. To keep schools informed of students’ learning progress and facilitate them in providing the necessary support to students throughout the course of study, students’ interim results and attendance reports will be made available to schools by the EDB on a regular basis.

11. To ensure the consistency of assessment standards, the HKEAA is responsible for the moderation of the assessment results submitted by the course providers. The moderated results will be recorded on the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE). In this connection, **schools should arrange their students who are taking ApL to register with the HKEAA for entry to ApL subjects when applying for participation in the HKDSE Examination**. For details on registration for the HKDSE Examination, please refer to the announcements to be made by the HKEAA in due course.

12. Students taking ApL courses are required to attend lessons and participate in learning activities organised by the respective course providers. The **minimum attendance requirement** of all ApL courses is 80% of the total number of contact hours. Schools should make arrangement for students to attend ApL lessons (e.g. avoid arranging compulsory school activities for students on the days and during the time of ApL lessons) so as to support student learning.

\(^2\) Students have learnt Chinese Language for less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education; or students have learnt Chinese Language for six years or more in schools, but have been taught an adapted and simpler curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in local schools.

\(^3\) Assessment information regarding each ApL subject is available at the website of the HKEAA below. (www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/HKDSE/assessment/subject_information/category_b_subjects/)
Recognition

13. Effective from the 2018 HKDSE Examination\(^4\), the reporting of students’ performance is refined to “Attained”, “Attained with Distinction (I)” and “Attained with Distinction (II)”. Performance of “Attained with Distinction (I)” is comparable to Level 3 while “Attained with Distinction (II)” is comparable to Level 4 or above of Category A subjects of the HKDSE Examination. For ApL(C), “Attained” and “Attained with Distinction” will continue to be used. Refinement of these levels would be considered when more data is collected. Candidates with performances below the standard of “Attained”, or attendance rates below 80%, will be designated as “Unattained”, which will not be reported on the certificate.

14. Some ApL courses are also registered in the Qualifications Register as certificate programmes at Qualifications Framework (QF) Level 3 (please refer to the course list at Annex 1). Students will also obtain a QF Level 3 certificate issued by course providers in addition to the HKDSE qualification upon successful completion of these ApL courses. Details are available at the Qualifications Register website (www.hkqr.gov.hk).

15. ApL(C) courses are also pegged at the QF Levels 1-3. In addition to the HKDSE qualification, students will obtain QF certificate(s) issued by course providers upon meeting the assessment and attendance requirements of different levels of ApL(C). Details are also available at the Qualifications Register website (www.hkqr.gov.hk).

Modes of Implementation

16. Schools are encouraged to adopt different modes of implementation to offer ApL courses according to the learning needs of their students. The following are two non-exclusive modes of implementation for the reference of schools -

**Mode 1:** Courses take place mainly at the venues of course providers and are taught by the staff of the course providers. Schools should make arrangements for students to attend the courses according to the timetables set by the course providers.

**Mode 2:** Courses take place mainly in schools and are offered by schools in collaboration with course providers which send their staff to the schools. Schools are expected to work out the detailed arrangements with the course providers, such as sharing of teaching loads, provision of venues and facilities, rendering assistance in classroom teaching, etc.

Piloting Early Commencement of Applied Learning Courses

17. In the 2013/14 school year, the piloting on early commencement of Mode 2 ApL classes was implemented, aiming to explore different flexible arrangements of ApL implementation in order to cater for students’ diverse learning needs. Schools are encouraged to try out different implementation arrangements such as ApL courses commencing in either the first or second term of Secondary 4 with earlier completion at secondary 5 or beginning of secondary 6. The EDB will work in collaboration with course providers to support the implementation of piloting early commencement by interested schools.

Funding Arrangement

18. ApL course fees will be fully subsidised by the Diversity Learning Grant (DLG). All aided,

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\(^4\) For the 2012-2017 HKDSE Examinations, ApL results are reported as “Attained” and “Attained with Distinction” on the HKDSE certificate. Students attaining the results of “Attained” and “Attained with Distinction” in the ApL courses are accepted as attaining the competencies required at HKDSE Examination Level 2 and Level 3 or above respectively for the purposes of further studies and/or work.
government and caput secondary schools, as well as secondary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) and special schools with senior secondary classes offering EDB-approved ApL courses are eligible for the DLG, which is disbursed on a yearly basis. Details of the funding arrangements and the related accounting arrangements are given at Annex 2. All schools eligible for DLG are NOT allowed to charge students any fees for taking ApL courses.

19. The Government encourages and supports the integration of NCS students into society and their learning of Chinese language. NCS students could choose to study ApL(C) according to their language abilities, interests and inclinations. The EDB will fully subsidise schools to pay the course fees of ApL(C) so as to encourage NCS students to obtain an alternative Chinese language qualification.

**Support for Students**

20. To ensure effective use of the DLG, schools should provide appropriate guidance and support for students in making informed choices of ApL courses according to their interests, abilities and inclinations, and in their subsequent learning. Schools are requested to encourage their students to participate in various activities, including ApL course exhibition and taster programmes, so that they can have a better understanding of the courses before application.

- **ApL Course Exhibition**

  The ApL course exhibition will be organised by the EDB in collaboration with course providers. Teachers are encouraged to visit the exhibition together with their students who are interested in taking ApL courses and invite parents to visit the exhibition with their children. Details are as follows:

| Date:         | 9 to 11 March 2017 (Thursday to Saturday)#
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------
|              | 13 March to 12 April 2017 (Monday to Friday)    |
| Time:        | 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.                           |
|              | Closed on Saturday (except 11 March 2017), Sunday and Public Holiday |
| Venue:       | Young Achievers’ Gallery                         |
|              | Podium, West Block, EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon (Kowloon Tong MTR Station - Exit E) |
| Content:     | • Exhibition of ApL courses                      |
|              | • Distribution of ApL course information leaflets |
|              | • Introduction of ApL courses by representatives of course providers and taster activities like demonstrations and games |

- **Taster Programmes**

  Taster Programmes will be arranged by course providers on **18 and 25 March 2017 (Saturdays)** for students who are interested in taking the related ApL courses in the 2017-19 cohort as elective subjects. Details of the programmes and application forms will be sent to schools via the “Communication and Delivery System”(CDS) in due course.

  Regarding ApL(C), taster programmes will also be arranged by course providers on **26 November 2016 (Saturday)**. Details of the programmes and application forms will be sent to schools via the CDS in due course.

**Support for Teachers**

21. To support schools in implementing ApL courses, the EDB will organise professional development programmes for teachers in collaboration with the course providers and the HKEAA. Details will be announced through the Training Calendar System.
Application Procedures

22. All students MUST apply through their schools for enrolment in ApL courses. Schools may refer to the guidelines at Annex 3 before nominating students to apply for ApL courses. Students applying for ApL courses have to go through a selection process to be conducted by course providers. The selection criteria of individual ApL courses will be uploaded to the EDB website in April 2017. Each student may apply for and accept a maximum of TWO ApL courses (excluding ApL(C)). For ApL(C), schools may refer to the guidelines at Annex 4.

23. Application for ApL courses (2017-19 cohort) will commence on 20 February 2017. Schools may submit applications for their students to the EDB electronically via the “ApL Module” in the WebSAMS on or before 12 April 2017. Non-WebSAMS users may contact us at 3698 3186 to make application arrangements.

24. Regarding the application for ApL(C) (2017-19 cohort), schools can apply starting from 1 November 2016 and submit applications for their students to the EDB electronically via the “ApL Module” in the WebSAMS on or before 4 January 2017. Non-WebSAMS users may contact us at 3698 3186 to make application arrangements. For enquiry on ApL(C), schools may also contact us at 3698 3177.


A summary of the application procedures with key events and dates are set out at Annexes 5 and 6 for schools’ reference.

Enquiry

25. For enquiry related to ApL courses, please contact the ApL Section at 3698 3186.

Sheridan LEE
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections – for information
### List of Senior Secondary Applied Learning Courses (2017-19 Cohort)

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<th>科目代碼/ Subject Code</th>
<th>科目及發展 Course<strong>Note 1 &amp; Note 2</strong></th>
<th>課程提供機構/ Course Provider <strong>Note 3</strong></th>
<th>教學語言/ Medium of Instruction</th>
<th>課程費用/ Course Fee <strong>Note 4 (HK$)</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>創意學習/ Creative Studies</td>
<td>Design Studies</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>服裝及形象設計 Fashion and Image Design</td>
<td>VTC</td>
<td>中文或英文 Chinese or English</td>
<td>13,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>媒體及傳意/ Media and Communication</td>
<td>Media Arts</td>
<td>669</td>
<td>電腦遊戲及動畫設計 Computer Game and Animation Design</td>
<td>VTC</td>
<td>中文或英文 Chinese or English</td>
<td>13,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>表演藝術/ Performing Arts</td>
<td>Performing Arts</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>舞出新機 - 舞蹈藝術 Taking a Chance on Dance</td>
<td>HKAPA</td>
<td>中文 Chinese</td>
<td>18,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. 電影•電視與廣播學/ Films, TV and Broadcasting Studies</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>電影及錄像 Film and Video</td>
<td>VTC</td>
<td>中文或英文 Chinese or English</td>
<td>13,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. 媒體製作與公共關係/ Media Production and Public Relations</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>雜誌編輯與製作 Magazine Editing and Production</td>
<td>CUSCS</td>
<td>中文 Chinese</td>
<td>12,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. 會計及金融/ Accounting and Finance</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>會計實務 Accounting in Practice</td>
<td>HKU (SPACE)</td>
<td>中文或英文 Chinese or English</td>
<td>15,500</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7. 商業與管理及法律/ Business, Management and Law</td>
<td>Business Studies</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>商業數據分析 Business Data Analysis</td>
<td>HKIT</td>
<td>中文或英文 Chinese or English</td>
<td>9,850</td>
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<td></td>
<td>690</td>
<td>中小企創業實務 Entrepreneurship for SME</td>
<td>CUSCS</td>
<td>中文或英文 Chinese or English</td>
<td>11,500</td>
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<td></td>
<td>680</td>
<td>市場營銷及網上推廣 Marketing and Online Promotion</td>
<td>CityU (SCOPE)</td>
<td>中文 Chinese</td>
<td>14,500</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>681</td>
<td>香港執法實務 Law Enforcement in Hong Kong</td>
<td>HKBU (SCE)</td>
<td>中文或英文 Chinese or English</td>
<td>14,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. 食品服務及管理/ Food Services and Management</td>
<td>688</td>
<td>西式食品製作 Western Cuisine</td>
<td>VTC</td>
<td>中文或英文 Chinese or English</td>
<td>13,800</td>
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<td>10. 款待服務/ Hospitality Services</td>
<td>611</td>
<td>酒店業務管理 Hospitality Services in Practice</td>
<td>CityU (SCOPE)</td>
<td>中文或英文 Chinese or English</td>
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<td>酒店運營 Hotel Operations</td>
<td>VTC</td>
<td>中文或英文 Chinese or English</td>
<td>13,800</td>
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<td>11. 個人及社區服務/ Personal and Community Services</td>
<td>665</td>
<td>幼兒教育 Child Care and Education</td>
<td>VTC</td>
<td>中文或英文 Chinese or English</td>
<td>13,200</td>
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<td></td>
<td>610</td>
<td>美容學基礎 Fundamental Cosmetology</td>
<td>CICE</td>
<td>中文 Chinese</td>
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<tr>
<td>學習範疇</td>
<td>課程組別</td>
<td>課程名稱</td>
<td>科目代碼</td>
<td>課程提供機構</td>
<td>教學語言</td>
<td>課程費用（HK$）</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applied Science</td>
<td>Medical Science and Health Care</td>
<td>助理護理</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>CityU (SCOPE)</td>
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<td>運動及體適能教練</td>
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<td>Engineering and Production</td>
<td>Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>汽車科技</td>
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<td>物聯網應用</td>
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<td>服務工程</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>應用學習中文（非華語學生適用）</td>
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<td>診療實務中文</td>
<td>686</td>
<td>HKCT</td>
<td>中文</td>
<td>36,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE 1**
學生在同一個課程組別內只可修讀一種有「△」的課程。For courses marked with "△", only ONE course in the course cluster could be taken by students.

**NOTE 2**
有「△」的課程已載錄於資歷名冊，ätz的課程除獲課程提供機構頒發資歷之外，亦會獲資歷名冊冊載。詳情可瀏覽資歷名冊網頁（www.hkqr.gov.hk）。The courses marked with "△" are registered in the Qualifications Register as certificate programmes at Qualifications Framework (QF) Level 3. Students will also obtain a QF Level 3 certificate issued by Course Providers in addition to HKDSE qualification upon successful completion of these Applied Learning courses. Details are available at the Qualifications Register website（www.hkqr.gov.hk）.

**NOTE 3**

**NOTE 4**
所有在資助中學、官立中學、按位津貼中學、直接資助計劃的中學及設有高中班級的特殊學校修讀由課程發展議會所建議之高中課程的合資格學生，將獲教育局全數資助課程費用。All eligible students in aided, government and caput secondary schools, as well as secondary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme and special schools with senior secondary classes following the senior secondary curriculum recommended by the Curriculum Development Council will be fully subsidised by the Education Bureau to take Applied Learning courses.
Funding and Accounting Arrangements for
Senior Secondary Applied Learning Courses (2017-19 Cohort)

Diversity Learning Grant

The Diversity Learning Grant (DLG) supports all aided, government and caput secondary schools, as well as secondary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) and special schools with senior secondary classes in offering a diversified curriculum to cater for students’ needs under the New Academic Structure. It is a cash grant for aided and caput secondary schools, secondary schools under the DSS and special schools. For government secondary schools, it is in the form of budget allocation. Applied Learning (ApL) will be supported by the DLG.

2. DLG will be provided for eligible schools on a yearly basis to support the implementation of ApL courses offered by course providers approved by the Education Bureau (EDB). The ApL courses should be offered as elective subjects within the school curriculum leading to the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) qualification.

3. To apply for DLG for ApL, schools should draw up a three-year plan (endorsed by the School Management Committee or Incorporated Management Committee) to broaden subject choices for a particular cohort of students. Please incorporate the plan into the school’s annual plan as an annex and uploaded to the school’s homepage before the end of November each year.

Funding Arrangements for ApL

4. All students in aided, government and caput secondary schools, as well as secondary schools under the DSS and special schools with senior secondary classes following the senior secondary curriculum recommended by the Curriculum Development Council are eligible for the DLG for ApL\(^5\). For a broad and balanced senior secondary curriculum, each eligible student is entitled to funding for a maximum of TWO ApL courses. For students taking FOUR elective subjects with an ApL course as one of them, the ApL course will be regarded as the fourth elective subject and will NOT be subsidised by the DLG. All schools eligible for DLG are NOT allowed to charge students any course fees for taking ApL courses.

5. With full subsidy provided, schools will be allocated with an amount of DLG equal to the total course fee of ApL courses enrolled by eligible students. If still necessary under special circumstances, schools can deploy the resources tabulated below for the payment of ApL course fees.

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<th>School Type</th>
<th>Resources to be Deployed by Schools</th>
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<td>Aided Schools</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Surplus in the General Domain of Operating Expenses Block Grant (OEBG)/Expanded OEBG</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Substitute Teacher Grant (STG)/Teacher Relief Grant (TRG)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Senior Secondary Curriculum Support Grant (SSCSG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Schools’ own funds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^5\) Students with changes in status at school (e.g. students departed from schools) no longer meeting the requirements as stated in paragraph 4 above will not be eligible for the DLG for ApL. However, if such students have successfully completed their first year study of ApL courses, they may continue their second year study of ApL courses at their own expense with the consent of the respective course providers and the EDB.
6. Upon deployment of resources, if schools still have genuine financial difficulties in offering ApL courses to their students, schools may write to the EDB **on or before 30 June 2017** at the address shown below, setting out their financial difficulties and stating the amount applied for. The EDB will provide support as far as possible.

   Chief Curriculum Development Officer (Applied Learning)
   Curriculum Development Institute, Education Bureau
   Room W115, 1/F, West Block, EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre
   19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong
   Kowloon

7. The DLG for ApL (2017-19 cohort) can only be used to support the learning of ApL courses of the 2017-19 cohort of students (it cannot be mixed with the DLG of other cohorts of ApL courses). The funding must be used for the payment of ApL course fees to be charged by the ApL course providers. It must not be used for Other Languages and Other Programmes (which are supported by other categories of the DLG), and other purposes such as capital purchases, overheads or maintenance, etc.

8. Apart from mobilising other resources to pay the remaining course fees, schools may apply to the course providers for course fee reduction should they also provide the venues, facilities, equipment or teachers contributing to the teaching of ApL courses.

**Funding and Accounting Arrangements**

9. The DLG for ApL will be allocated to schools in **TWO** equal instalments. The first and second instalments of the provisional DLG will be disbursed to schools in August 2017 and August 2018 respectively. For government secondary schools, the DLG will be provided to schools in the form of budget allocations. Adjustments to the DLG, if any, will be made by the EDB based on the actual number of enrolments in ApL courses (2017-19 cohort) (as at **30 September 2017** and **29 September 2018**) and the information submitted by schools.

10. The DLG allocated by the EDB, together with other resources deployed by schools for the payment of course fees, should be paid by schools to the course providers in **TWO** equal instalments. The first and second instalments of course fees would be calculated based on the number of enrolments as at **30 September 2017** and **29 September 2018** respectively, and should be paid by schools upon receipt of debit notes or invoices issued by course providers.

11. For aided and caput secondary schools, secondary schools under DSS and special schools, a separate ledger account named “**DLG for Applied Learning (2017-19 Cohort)**” should be kept in the school ledger account under the **Government Fund** to properly record all income and expenditure chargeable to ApL as illustrated below:
The surplus in the ledger account can be carried forward to the next school year until the end of the 2018/19 school year. Any unspent balance of DLG as at 31 August 2019 will be clawed back. Any deficit in the ledger account should be made up by schools’ deployment of other resources (as stipulated in Paragraph 5 above) at the end of each school year.

12. For government secondary schools, the expenditure should be charged to the user code assigned for ApL (2017-19 cohort). Unspent balance of the allocations as at the end of each financial year (i.e. 31 March 2018 and 31 March 2019) cannot be carried forward to the subsequent financial year and will lapse. Any deficit should be covered by schools’ deployment of other resources (as stipulated in Paragraph 5 above) at the end of each financial year.

**Student Grant for Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (ApL(C))**

13. Full subsidies will be provided to schools to support non-Chinese speaking students in taking ApL(C). The Student Grant for ApL(C) will be provisionally allocated to schools in THREE equal instalments. The first installment will be disbursed to schools in January 2017, the second and third instalments of the Student Grant for ApL(C) will be disbursed to schools in August 2017 and August 2018 respectively. For government secondary schools, the Student Grant for ApL(C) will be provided to schools in the form of budget allocations. Adjustments to the Student Grant for ApL(C), if any, will be made according to actual number of enrolments (as at 28 February 2017, 30 September 2017 and 29 September 2018) and the information submitted by schools.

14. The Student Grant for ApL(C) allocated by the EDB should be paid by schools to the course providers in THREE equal instalments. The first, second and third instalments of course fees would be calculated based on the number of enrolments as at 28 February 2017, 30 September 2017 and 29 September 2018 respectively, and should be paid by schools upon receipt of debit notes or invoices issued by course providers.

15. For aided and caput secondary schools, secondary schools under DSS and special schools, a separate ledger account named “Student Grant for ApL(C) (2017-19 Cohort)” should be kept in the school ledger account under the Government Fund to properly record all income and expenditure. The surplus in the ledger account can be carried forward to the next school year until the end of the 2018/19 school year. Any unspent balance of Student Grant for ApL(C) as at 31 August 2019 will be clawed back.

16. For government secondary schools, the expenditure should be charged to the user code assigned for Student Grant for ApL(C) (2017-19 cohort). Unspent balance of the allocations as at the end of each financial year (i.e. 31 March 2017, 31 March 2018 and 31 March 2019) cannot be carried forward to the subsequent financial year and will lapse.
Guidelines for Nominating Students for 
Senior Secondary Applied Learning Courses
(excluding Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students))

Schools may refer to the following guidelines in nominating students for Applied Learning (ApL) courses:

- Schools should assist students in choosing ApL courses according to their interests and aptitudes, taking into consideration exposing them to broad and balanced learning experience in their senior secondary education.

- Each student can apply for a maximum of TWO ApL courses, excluding Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students). Students applying for more than one ApL course should list their choices in order of preference when submitting their applications. Students applying for ApL courses have to go through a selection process after which they may opt to accept offers from no more than TWO ApL courses based on their preferences.

- For students with special educational needs, schools may opt to submit supplementary information for their applications for ApL courses for reference of the course provider(s) concerned. The form can be downloaded from the website of the Education Bureau (EDB) (www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/cross-kla-studies/applied-learning/forms-download.html). The completed form should be sent to the EDB via FAX at 2714 2456 for transmission to the course provider(s) concerned as reference. The course provider(s) may contact schools to make special arrangements for selection interviews if deemed necessary. The EDB encourages schools to continue communication with course providers about the special educational needs of students, so as to support students’ learning in ApL courses.

- Schools should NOT prioritise their nominations simply based on students’ academic results. The flexible subject combination of ApL course with other elective subjects should be able to serve the purpose of complementing or broadening students’ learning.
Guidelines for Nominating Students for Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students)

Schools may refer to the following guidelines in nominating students for Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (ApL(C)):

- ApL(C) is introduced to provide an additional channel exclusively for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students fulfilling the specified circumstances to obtain an alternative Chinese language qualification to prepare them for further studies and work.

- Schools should assist NCS students in considering applying for ApL(C) according to their language ability, interest and aspirations. Teachers may offer guidance and support to NCS students; and make use of internal Chinese Language assessment tool (for non-Chinese speaking students) for choosing the appropriate Chinese Language Curriculum.

- NCS students who aspire to study ApL(C) should have fundamental language competency to enable them to learn Chinese language through different modes of activities in a simulated applied learning context. At the point of entry, they are expected to have achieved most of the learning outcome of the “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework” at level 4 or above. Upon completion of courses, NCS students are expected to have achieved the relevant learning outcome of the “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework” at level 6 or above. Details for the “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework” are available at the following website: www.edb.gov.hk/tc/curriculum-development/kla/chi-edu/second-lang.html.

6 Students have learnt Chinese Language for less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education; or students have learnt Chinese Language for six years or more in schools, but have been taught an adapted and simpler curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in local schools.
Senior Secondary Applied Learning Courses (2017-19 Cohort)

Important Dates

Briefing Session for Schools
13 December 2016 (Tuesday)

Application for Taster Programmes by Schools
On or before 24 February 2017 (Friday)

ApL Course Exhibition
9 to 11 March 2017 (Thursday to Saturday)#
13 March to 12 April 2017 (Monday to Friday)

Taster Programmes
18 & 25 March 2017 (Saturdays)

Submission of Applications by Schools:
20 February to 12 April 2017 via WebSAMS
(Selection arrangements sent to schools by 4 May 2017 (Thursday))

Mode 1

Student selection by course providers
13 & 20 May 2017 (contingency 27 May 2017)

Announcement of selection results by the EDB
12 June 2017 onwards

Confirmation of enrolment by schools
On or before 26 June 2017

1st Year
(2017/18 school year)

Disbursement of provisional Diversity Learning Grant (DLG) (first instalment) to schools by the EDB
August 2017

Course commencement
September 2017

Calculation of the adjusted amount of DLG (first instalment) by the EDB based on actual number of enrolments as at 30 September 2017*

Payment of course fees (first instalment) to course providers by schools
October/November 2017

Disbursement of provisional DLG (second instalment) to schools by the EDB
August 2018

2nd Year
(2018/19 school year)

Course commencement
September 2018

School registration with the HKEAA for students’ entry to the HKDSE Examination for ApL courses
September/October 2018

Calculation of the adjusted amount of DLG (second instalment) by the EDB based on actual number of enrolments as at 29 September 2018*

Payment of course fees (second instalment) to course providers by schools
October/November 2018

Mode 2

Student selection and confirmation of implementation details and course fee reduction by schools and course providers
April to June 2017

Submission of class details and student information by schools
On or before 5 July 2017

* Adjustment of the first and second instalments of DLG will be made by the EDB before January 2018 and January 2019 respectively.

# Introduction of ApL courses by representatives of course providers and taster activities like demonstrations and games
Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (2017-19 Cohort)

**Important Dates**

**1st Year**  
(2016/17 school year)

- **Briefing Session for Schools**  
  27 October 2016 (Thursday)

- **Taster Programme**  
  26 November 2016 (Saturday)

- Submission of school applications, class details and student information:  
  *1 November 2016 to 4 January 2017* via WebSAMS  
  (Admission arrangement of students by course providers)

- **Course Commencement & Disbursement of provisional Student Grant** (first instalment) to schools by the EDB  
  **January 2017**

- Calculation of the adjusted amount of Student Grant (first instalment) by the EDB based on actual number of enrolments as at **28 February 2017**

- **Payment of course fees (first instalment) to course providers by schools**  
  **March/April 2017**

- **Disbursement of provisional Student Grant (second instalment) to schools by the EDB**  
  **August 2017**

**2nd Year**  
(2017/18 school year)

- **Course commencement**  
  **September 2017**

- Calculation of the adjusted amount of Student Grant (second instalment) by the EDB based on actual number of enrolments as at **30 September 2017**

- **Payment of course fees (second instalment) to course providers by schools**  
  **October/November 2017**

- **Disbursement of provisional Student Grant (third instalment) to schools by the EDB**  
  **August 2018**

**3rd Year**  
(2018/19 school year)

- **Course commencement**  
  **September 2018**

- **School registration with the HKEAA for students’ entry to the HKDSE Examination for ApL(C) courses**  
  **September/October 2018**

- Calculation of the adjusted amount of Student Grant (third instalment) by the EDB based on actual number of enrolments as at **29 September 2018**

- **Payment of course fees (third instalment) to course providers by schools**  
  **October/November 2018**

* Student Grant – Student Grant for Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students)

* Adjustment of the first, second and third instalments of the Student Grant will be made by the EDB before May 2017, January 2018 and January 2019 respectively.