

EDUCATION BUREAU CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM No. 15/2021

From : Secretary for Education

To : Supervisors, Heads and Teachers of all Government and Aided schools (including special schools), Caput Schools and Schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme schools – for action

Ref. : EDB(CDI/TR)/300-1/1/12 (1)

Date: 5 February 2021

**Extension of the Period of the
Free Use of “eRead Scheme”**

Summary

In light of schools’ active participation in the Free Use of “eRead Scheme” (the Scheme) since its implementation in July 2020, the Education Bureau (EDB) has decided to extend the free use period of the Scheme to the end of the 2020/21 school year. This circular memorandum aims to inform all primary and secondary schools of matters related to the extension of the Scheme.

Background

2. The EDB has been promoting “Reading to Learn” through various measures to support schools’ implementation of diversified reading activities to complement the curriculum, thereby developing students’ reading interest and habits from a young age to enhance their reading skills and learning capabilities. Starting from the 2018/19 school year, the EDB has disbursed to all public sector schools the Promotion of Reading Grant, which can be used to organise different types of school-based reading activities to create a reading atmosphere and culture on campus.

3. To support schools’ promotion of extensive reading, the EDB launched a six-month pilot scheme for primary and secondary schools’ free use of the Scheme at Hong Kong Education City (HKEdCity) in July 2020. The Scheme, which is a school-based e-book subscription service for primary and secondary schools, provides a wide range of e-books in various categories and levels. Most primary and secondary schools have participated in the pilot scheme, which has been well received with a high downloading rate for a number of e-books, reflecting the positive effect of the Scheme on schools’ promotion of extensive reading.

Details

4. Due to the impact of COVID-19, all primary and secondary schools still have to suspend face-to-face classes. In view of schools' active participation in the Scheme, the EDB has decided to extend the free use period of the Scheme to the end of August 2021. Schools are encouraged to continuously optimise the use of Information Technology in education to support students to read at home.

5. The terms and conditions of the extended e-Read Scheme will be the same as those of the pilot scheme. Participating schools can make use of the cross-platform and multi-functional eBook reader EdBookShelf to provide a wide range of quality Chinese and English e-books to promote reading as a whole-school initiative. Teachers and students of the participating schools have unlimited access to 100 books during the service period. The reading platform records the reading data of each student, which would enable teachers to have a better understanding of students' reading habits and devise appropriate strategies for promoting reading to enhance their reading skills and learning capabilities.

6. Schools already participating in the Free Use of the Scheme do not need to submit any application again. HKEdCity will automatically extend the service period and a confirmation email will be sent to the schools concerned. For those schools that have previously subscribed to additional paid reading packages for the second school term, HKEdCity will take the initiative to contact individual schools to make corresponding arrangements.

7. For schools that have not participated in the Scheme, starting from today, they may submit online application via the HKEdCity website if interested or refer to the invitation email from HKEdCity. For more details, please refer to the "eRead Scheme" website (<https://www.hkedcity.net/ereadscheme/>).

Enquiries

8. For enquires about and the Free Use of "eRead Scheme", please contact HKEdCity at 2624 1000. For other enquiries, please contact Mr Jack WONG of the Curriculum Resources Section, Curriculum Development Institute, at 3698 3578.

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for Secretary for Education