

New Senior Secondary Academic Structure for Special Schools



Introduction

The consultation report *Action for the Future - Career-oriented Studies and the New Senior Secondary Academic Structure for Special Schools* published in August 2006 summarizes the concerns and feedback from various stakeholders and charts the way forward for the New Senior Secondary (NSS) academic structure for special schools.



What will be the academic structure of special schools under NSS?

The Government has pledged to provide 6 years of secondary education for all students, including those with special educational needs.

The academic structure of schools for the visually impaired (VI) will be maintained up to junior secondary level. Thereafter, EMB will render school placement service and support to facilitate the integration of VI students into ordinary schools. For students with normal intellectual ability pursuing ordinary curriculum in schools for the physically disabled / hearing impaired, the existing 10 years of basic education will be provided to better prepare them for the 3-year senior secondary education leading to the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education.

For schools for social development, the academic structure will be extended by 3 years to cover senior secondary education.

Students with intellectual disabilities (ID) will be provided with 3 years of junior secondary education and 3 years of senior secondary education.

What is the NSS curriculum framework for special schools?

Students with special educational needs (SEN), but not ID, should follow the same programme as other students in ordinary schools. Students will be assessed based on the same criteria but with appropriate accommodation.

EMB will conduct Research and Development Projects on the NSS curriculum for students with ID from the 2006/07 to 2008/09 school years in schools with a view to inform schools and parents of the requirements and expectations of the students with ID upon completing the 6-year secondary education.

All students with SEN can choose the Applied Learning (ApL) (formerly known as Career-oriented Studies) courses as an elective in NSS. The first cohort piloting of the adapted ApL courses for students with ID will commence in October 2006.



How will students with ID be assessed and their performance recognized?

All students' learning will be recognized. Individualized Education Programme will form the basis for assessing the progress of students with ID. In addition, student learning profile will be used to report the full range of student achievement. EMB will work with Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority to develop systemic assessment.

How can students with SEN have access to exit pathways?

EMB will collaborate with relevant training/service providers (e.g. Vocational Training Council, Non-government Organizations) on the future course requirements / programme design to facilitate articulation with the learning objectives of the NSS curriculum for students with SEN including the adapted ApL courses. This will support continuity in learning and better prepare the students with SEN for further training, employment and adult life.

What will be the NSS school fees for students with SEN?

Under the implementation of NSS, students from both ordinary and special schools will pay the same amount of school fees in the same level. Parents with financial difficulties may apply for fee remission.



For further information on NSS curriculum for students with SEN, please visit the following website: <http://www.emb.gov.hk>