

EDUCATION BUREAU CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 164/2023

From: Secretary for Education To: Supervisors/Heads of all aided
Ref.: EDB(CD/SEN)/ADM/55/1/18(1) special schools
Date: 13 September 2023

Ongoing Renewal of the School Curriculum: the Curriculum Guide for Special Schools (Pilot Version)

Summary

This circular memorandum announces the release of the **Curriculum Guide for Special Schools (CGSS) (Pilot Version) (2023)** prepared by the Curriculum Development Council (CDC) and published for use by aided special schools (hereafter referred to as “special schools”). All heads and teachers of special schools should read the said curriculum guide.

Background

2. Based on the principle of "one curriculum framework for all", special schools have been following the Hong Kong School Curriculum Framework by making reference to relevant curriculum guides, including Secondary Education Curriculum Guide (SECG) (2017), Primary Education Curriculum Guide (PECG) (Pilot Version) (2022) and related curriculum documents, to develop and optimise their school curriculum to provide students with special educational needs (SEN) with broad and balanced learning experiences.

3. To tie in with the ongoing renewal of school curriculum and the latest learning and teaching development in special schools, the Committee on SEN under CDC has established an Ad Hoc Committee (AHC) on CGSS to update the curriculum guide for special schools in order to keep pace with times. The AHC reviewed and updated

the curriculum guides¹ previously issued for different categories of special schools, aiming to provide concrete suggestions on school-based curriculum development and adaptation for special schools' reference and adoption. The updated CGSS has been completed, discussed thoroughly and approved by the CDC Committee on SEN and was accepted by the CDC in June 2023.

Details

4. The CGSS provides key principles for the development of curriculum of special schools and focuses on illustrating how the schools can adapt their curriculum to better cater for student diversity. The CGSS **is launched on a pilot basis** in the 2023/24 school year. Special schools should further optimise the planning and implementation of school curriculum by making reference to the suggestions and curriculum adaptation strategies provided in the CGSS, so as to better address the learning needs of students with SEN and achieve the aim of fostering students' whole-person development.

5. The major highlights of CGSS are as follows:

- It **provides the key principles and recommendations on school-based curriculum development** in special schools based on the principle of “one curriculum framework for all”, including the setting of school curriculum objectives, curriculum and assessment adaptation, arrangement of learning and teaching, professional collaboration, etc.;
- It **connects to the central curriculum** by providing **further elaboration** on the latest development of the school curriculum, including the overall aims of the school curriculum and the learning goals, five essential learning experiences and major renewed emphases, etc. **in view of the needs of students of special schools**; and

¹ The curriculum guides previously issued for different categories of special schools are: “Guide to Curriculum for Hearing Impaired Children” (1996), “Guide to Curriculum for Visually Impaired Children” (1996), “Guide to Curriculum for Mentally Handicapped Children” (1997), “Guide to Curriculum for Maladjusted Children” (1998), and “Guide to Curriculum for Physically Handicapped Children” (1999).

- It **provides specific examples** to illustrate how special schools can implement the school curriculum and the strategies on adaptation and differentiation.

6. The Chinese version of the CGSS (Pilot Version) has been uploaded to the webpage of the Education Bureau (EDB) (<https://www.edb.gov.hk/cgss>) (the English version will be uploaded at a later stage). Special schools should try out and implement the principles, strategies and solutions suggested in the CGSS in this school year according to their specific school context, development of different curriculum areas and priorities of school development.



7. A school briefing session on the CGSS will be organised on 6 October 2023 (Friday) to introduce its overall rationale and main content. Principals and vice-principals of special schools, curriculum leaders and teachers are welcome to sign up to participate via EDB Training Calendar System (<https://tcs.edb.gov.hk>). Details of the briefing session are as follows:

| School Briefing Session on CGSS (Pilot Version) (Course ID: CSD020230516) | |
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| Date: | 6 October 2023 (Friday) |
| Time: | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon |
| Venue: | Room W301, 3/F, West Block, Education Bureau Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon |
| Quota for each school: | 3 |
| Closing date for application: | 29 September 2023 |

8. Curriculum development is an ongoing process. Through various channels, including meetings, school visits and focus groups, etc., the EDB will seek to understand how the curriculum guide is being piloted, and collect school-based experience and good practices to further address the needs of special schools.

Enquiries

9. For enquiries, please contact Ms Bell NG (Tel: 2892 5879) or Mr Chris YEUNG (Tel: 2892 6524), Special Educational Needs Section, Curriculum Support Division, EDB.

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c.c. Heads of Sections – for information