

Financial Innovation Ideathon (2026/27)

Introduction

The Financial Innovation Ideathon (2026/27) (the Ideathon) is organised by the EDB and co-organised by Hong Kong Economic Journal (HKEJ) Education. Under the theme “Innovate on Campus, Care for the Community”, the Ideathon encourages students to address real community needs by devising innovative solutions in areas such as environmental conservation, community support, community economy, public health, and media and information technology. Students will apply AI tools, financial knowledge and business model thinking to turn ideas into concrete and feasible community solutions. A training session will be provided on the day of the Preliminary Round. Participating teams will then deliver a one-minute pitch and receive certificates in recognition of their performance. Teams that perform well in the Preliminary Round will advance to the Grand Final. Shortlisted teams may join the Online Mentorship Programme and receive guidance from professional mentors from sectors including finance, technology, start-ups and social enterprise, further refine their proposals and present them to the judging panel at the Grand Final cum Learning Outcome Exhibition.

Objectives

The Ideathon aims to nurture students’ financial literacy and entrepreneurial spirit, and equip them with the ability to apply AI tools, design thinking, financial knowledge and business model concepts. Through workshops and mentorship, students will be supported in turning innovative ideas into concrete and feasible community solutions. The Ideathon also helps students understand Hong Kong’s development trends in innovation and technology, financial technology and AI, and nurtures core competencies required of future talent, including digital literacy, humanistic qualities, communication skills, problem-solving skills, creativity and research skills.

Divisions

- The activity is divided into two divisions.
- Junior Secondary Division: Secondary 1 to 3
- Senior Secondary Division: Secondary 4 to 6

Presentation Language

- Participating teams may choose to present in Cantonese, English or Putonghua.

Rules

- Registration and team formation must be arranged on a school basis. All team members must be students from the same secondary school.
- Each team shall consist of 1 to 5 students and may include students from different year levels and classes within the same division; Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary students may not be grouped in the same team.
- Each school may nominate a maximum of 50 students to participate. Schools must designate one teacher-in-charge to serve as the liaison and coordinator (schools with more than 30 participating students must designate at least two teachers-in-charge). All teachers-in-charge must attend the Preliminary Round to support and supervise participating students.

Preliminary Round Arrangements

Date: 16 January 2027 (Saturday)

Time: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm (tentative)

Venue: Tung Koon Commercial & Industrial Association Lau Pak Lok
Secondary School, 1 Chik Tai Lane, Tai Wai, New Territories

- The event runs for a full day. The morning session includes a keynote speech and concurrent workshops led by speakers from sectors including finance, technology, start-ups and social enterprises, covering topics such as design thinking, financial education, entrepreneurial spirit, social innovation, business development, AI, ideation methods, market research and presentation skills.
- The afternoon session features a mentoring segment, during which participating teams may consult mentors on the feasibility of their proposals, refine their proposals, and then proceed directly to a one-minute pitch.
- Based on each team's performance in the Preliminary Round, the organisers will select approximately 20 teams to advance to the next stage: the Online Mentorship Programme and the Grand Final cum Learning Outcome Exhibition.

Online Mentorship Programme Arrangements

- The organisers will match shortlisted teams with suitable professional mentors based on the theme of their proposals, and the mentorship programme will be conducted online. Meeting dates and times will be arranged in consultation with each team, and the relevant

schools will be notified in advance. Each team must attend its scheduled mentoring session on time. No make-up sessions will be arranged for teams that fail to attend.

- The content of the mentoring sessions is intended solely to support teams in preparing for the Grand Final cum Learning Outcome Exhibition and must not be disclosed or used for any other purpose.

Grand Final cum Learning Outcome Exhibition Arrangements

Date: 20 February 2027 (Saturday)

Time: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm (tentative)

Venue: EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre,
19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon

- Shortlisted teams will present their proposals in the form of a poster. The judging panel will first assess the entries based on the poster presentations and select five teams from each of the Junior and Senior Secondary Divisions. The five finalist teams in each Division will then deliver a presentation, followed by a Q&A session, to compete for the final awards.
- Family members, teachers and classmates of participating teams are welcome to attend and share in the students' learning outcomes. All attendees may also vote on the day to select the winner of the Most Popular Solution Award.

Judging Criteria for the Preliminary Round and Grand Final

Judging Criteria	Weighting
Solution and Social Innovation	20%
Business Thinking	20%
Feasibility and Execution of the Idea	20%
Presentation and Communication	20%
Social Impact and Values	20%

Preliminary Round Awards

- All students participating in the Preliminary Round will receive a “Certificate of Participation” in recognition of their efforts. Students who meet the prescribed performance standards will be awarded a “Certificate of Satisfactory Performance” or “Certificate of Good Performance” in further recognition of their efforts and achievements.

Each team will also receive brief feedback from the judges to help them continue to improve and enhance their performance.

Final Awards

	Junior Secondary Division	Senior Secondary Division
Champion	\$1500 book voucher, trophy and certificate	\$1,500 book voucher, trophy and certificate
1st Runner-up	\$1000 book voucher, trophy and certificate	\$1,000 book voucher, trophy and certificate
2nd Runner-up	\$500 book voucher, trophy and certificate	\$500 book voucher, trophy and certificate
Best Practical Impact Award	\$300 book voucher, trophy and certificate	\$300 book voucher, trophy and certificate
Merit Award	\$300 book voucher, trophy and certificate	\$300 book voucher, trophy and certificate
Most Creative Solution Award	Trophy and certificate	Trophy and certificate
Best Presenter	Trophy and certificate	Trophy and certificate
Most Popular Solution Award	Trophy and certificate	Trophy and certificate

- The Champion, 1st Runner-up, 2nd Runner-up, Best Practical Impact Award, Merit Award, Most Creative Solution Award and Best Presenter will all be selected by the judging panel based on the teams' performance. The Most Popular Solution Award will be selected through voting by all attendees on the day of the Grand Final cum Learning Outcome Exhibition.

Timeline

Date	Details
From now until 20 November 2026	Event registration period
11 December 2026 (Friday)	Announcement of the list of the Preliminary Round participants
16 January 2027 (Saturday)	Preliminary Round
23 January – 19 February 2027	Online Mentorship Programme for shortlisted teams
20 February 2027 (Saturday)	Grand Final cum Learning Outcome Exhibition

Registration Method

Schools should complete the online registration form (*Chinese version only*) via the website or QR code below on **or before 20 November 2026 (Friday)**. Places are limited and will be allocated on a **first-come, first-served basis**.

Website	QR Code
https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAO__rrW47BUMFhDOEhRNEY1QUZWQIY3RFNHSDNQMU15Vi4u&route=shorturl	

Enquiries

For enquiries about registration and other administrative arrangements, please contact HKEJ Education at 2856 6383 or by email at eduevent@hkej.com.

Use of Submitted Entries

- Regardless of whether participating students win an award, the organisers may use all or part of the submitted entries (including the school's name) for educational promotion purposes, such as publicity, display (including but not limited to uploading to websites or social media platforms) or other non-profit purposes, and reserve the right to modify, translate, adapt, use, reproduce and distribute the entries without obtaining further consent from the participating students or their school, and without payment of any fee to the participating students or their school.

Notes for Schools

- The organisers reserve the right to amend, suspend or terminate the event at any time. Any changes will be announced on the organisers' websites.
- The organisers reserve the right to amend the awards without further notice.
- The organisers reserve the right to make the final decision on all matters relating to the activity.
- Once the online registration form has been submitted, the organisers must be notified of any changes to the information provided.
- The submission date and time of the online registration form will be based on the records of the organisers' servers.

- Participating schools must ensure that the information and content of their entries align with the aims and objectives of the EDB curriculum, and that their entries do not contain any obscene content, foul language, violent or defamatory content, or content that endangers national security, nor violate the laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; otherwise, the entries will be disqualified.
- The organisers reserve the right to reject any entry or disqualify any participant without providing an explanation.
- Participating students, their parents and their schools must agree that, once an entry is submitted, the organisers have the right to use the entry for the purposes set out in this Annex.
- The EDB and HKEJ Education will take photographs and make video recordings during the event. The relevant photographs and video clips may later be uploaded to government websites and displayed in different media/at different events. Schools should inform relevant stakeholders of this. Individual participating students and/or stakeholders who have any concerns should contact the Personal, Social and Humanities Education Section of the Education Bureau before the event.

Personal Data Collection Statement

- Participating students must provide the personal data required on the registration form and are responsible for ensuring that the information provided is complete and accurate. They must also consent to authorise the organisers to use the relevant data, including their names, year levels and schools, for purposes such as communication, announcement of results and publicity. After the event, all collected data will be destroyed if retention is not required. If a participating student fails to provide the required personal data, the organisers may not accept their entry.
- For the above purposes, the names of participating students and their schools may be disclosed on the organisers' websites, other websites and/or the media.