

Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 5/2026

From: Secretary for Education

To: Supervisors / Heads of all Secondary and Special Schools

Ref: 1125-2035-8075-9045-00002(P001)

Date: 12 January 2026

Senior Secondary Adapted Applied Learning Courses for Students with Intellectual Developmental Disorder (2026-28 Cohort)

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

Summary

The purpose of this circular memorandum is to announce the implementation details for the senior secondary adapted Applied Learning (ApL) courses (2026-28 cohort), and invite schools to offer adapted ApL courses and submit applications for their students.

Details

Background

2. ApL is a valued senior secondary elective subject which complements other senior secondary subjects to form a flexible subject combination that helps enrich students' subject choices. The courses focus on practical learning elements linked to broad professional and vocational fields with dual emphasis on theory and practice. It helps students with different aspirations and abilities articulate to multiple pathways. Under the current Academic Structure, students with Intellectual Developmental Disorder (IDD)¹ can be subsidised to take a maximum of two adapted ApL courses (including **ApL course(s)**) as elective subjects² in Secondary 5 and 6.

3. Similar to the requirements of other senior secondary subjects, adapted ApL courses focus on nurturing students' knowledge, skills and attitudes. The emphasis is to provide students with opportunities to understand fundamental theories and concepts through application and practice, develop knowledge, generic skills, positive values and attitudes through providing simulated or authentic contexts, and explore their orientation for lifelong learning and career aspirations.

Study Arrangement

4. Adapted ApL courses for the 2026-28 cohort will commence in the 2026/27 school year. **All Secondary 4 students with IDD who are studying the senior secondary curriculum recommended by the Curriculum Development Council (CDC) in the 2025/26 school year and meeting the requirement below** may apply for studying adapted ApL courses in Secondary 5 and 6:

¹ The term "intellectual developmental disorder (IDD)" has replaced "intellectual disability (ID)" to align with the latest international and professional practice.

² Generally, students can take a maximum of two adapted ApL courses (including ApL course(s)) as elective subjects throughout his/her studies at the senior secondary level.

- **mild grade IDD** students
- **upper-end moderate grade IDD** students

5. For the 2026-28 cohort, a total of 13 adapted ApL courses categorised under the following three areas of studies will be offered by 6 course providers approved by Education Bureau (EDB):

- Creative Studies
- Services
- Engineering and Production

6. The duration of each adapted ApL course is 240 contact hours, generally extending over two academic years from Secondary 5 to 6. Details of the adapted ApL courses and the course providers are available at **Annex 1**. Schools may also refer to EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/cdi/sen>) for course prospectus (including the learning outcomes, course content and organisation, articulation, etc.) of the respective adapted ApL courses.



7. Students taking adapted ApL courses are required to attend lessons and participate in learning activities arranged by the course providers. Schools should make arrangement and avoid compulsory school activities for students during adapted ApL lesson time to support their learning. Schools should also remind students to attend adapted ApL lessons punctually (including those conducted outside school). **The attendance rate of adapted ApL courses has to reach at least 80% of the total contact hours.**

Modes of Implementation

8. Schools may adopt the following two non-exclusive modes in implementing adapted ApL courses to suit their school contexts and the learning needs of their students. Details of the implementation modes are as follows:

- Mode 1: ● **Lessons to be held mainly at the venues of the course providers** and delivered by tutors recognised by the course providers. Schools should arrange their students to attend the lessons according to the timetables set by the course providers.
- Mode 2: ● **Classes are open only to students from eligible schools having entered into special agreements with the relevant course providers. Lessons to be held mainly in schools offering adapted ApL courses** and delivered by tutors recognised by the course providers. **Schools have to reach an initial agreement and formulate the implementation details with the course providers, including the timetables, class venues, provision of facilities, allocation of teaching duties, provision of classroom support and assistance, etc.**
- **Schools may also consider collaborating with other schools to offer adapted ApL courses for their students with the support of the course providers.** For instance, schools in the same/nearby districts may jointly offer one or more adapted ApL courses with agreed implementation details including timetables, class venues, provision of facilities, etc. to enrich subject choices for their students.

- Schools interested in offering adapted ApL courses / collaborating with other schools in Mode 2 can express their intentions by submitting the form at **Annex 2** to EDB.

Pilot Adapted Applied Learning Course

9. To explore the future development of adapted ApL (including engagement of industries), EDB has approved the offer of “Shopping Mall Robot Service Ambassador” and “School Assistant Training” as Pilot Adapted ApL Courses³ for the 2026-28 cohort. The organisations involving in the pilot courses are the course provider (Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong) and all participating schools.

Assessment, Quality Assurance and Articulation

10. There is no public examination for adapted ApL courses. Assessments of student performance, including both formative and summative assessments, are undertaken by course providers and administered mainly by the respective course tutors.

11. **The results attained by students with IDD in ordinary schools who have successfully completed senior secondary adapted ApL courses will NOT be recorded on the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) certificate.**

12. To ensure that adapted ApL courses are developed according to the design principles, the curriculum is delivered as designed, and the learning outcomes of students can meet the expected standards, EDB puts in place a quality assurance mechanism of adapted ApL courses, under the overview of the CDC Committee on Special Educational Needs.

13. Schools may refer to EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/cdi/sen>) for articulation to further studies and career pathways of individual courses in course prospectus.



Funding Arrangement

14. Aided, government and caput schools, schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme and special schools operating senior secondary classes offering the local curriculum are eligible for the Diversity Learning Grant for adapted Applied Learning to offer adapted ApL courses and to pay the course fees charged by the respective course providers. Schools receiving the grant are **NOT** allowed to charge students any course fees. In case a student also takes the ApL course(s), each ApL course will be counted as an adapted ApL course in the funding arrangement. Please refer to the funding and accounting arrangements at **Annex 3**.

³ The Pilot Adapted ApL Course is a part of the CLAP-TECH project that aims to develop a learning pathway with the engagement of industries.

Support for Students, Parents and Schools

15. Schools should arrange appropriate activities for both students and parents to deepen their understanding of adapted ApL courses and provide students with guidance on course selection in order to help them make informed choices. For example, schools may organise talks for students and parents, encourage them to participate in site visits and/or online information sessions organised by course providers, and refer to prospectus of adapted ApL courses. Please refer to EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/cdi/sen>) for prospectus of relevant adapted ApL courses.



16. To enhance schools' and parents' understanding of the course contents and study arrangement of adapted ApL courses so that they can provide guidance to the students in making informed choices, EDB will organise with course providers a briefing session for schools and parents. Details are as follows:

Date:	10 February 2026 (Tuesday)
Time:	9:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Venue:	Lecture Theatre, 4/F, West Block, EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong
Target Participants:	(1) Parents of mild and moderate grade IDD students of Secondary 4; and (2) Principals, teachers and school social workers
Remarks:	Details have been announced to schools through the Fast Information Transmission System – School Messaging Module (SMM) of CloudSAMS

17. Besides, course providers will arrange online information sessions and/or site visits to introduce their offered adapted ApL courses to students who are interested to take adapted ApL courses, their parents and the school staff. Please refer to details to be provided to schools through the Fast Information Transmission System – School Messaging Module (SMM) of CloudSAMS in due course.

Application Procedures

18. Application for adapted ApL courses for the 2026-28 cohort will start from **23 February 2026 (Monday)** and end by **17 March 2026 (Tuesday)**. Students who are interested in taking adapted ApL courses for the 2026-28 cohort should submit their applications through their schools, and participate in the selection arrangements to be announced by the course providers in due course.

19. Schools should refer to the guidelines at **Annex 4** in nominating students for adapted ApL courses. Schools should ensure that all parents of students applying for adapted ApL courses have completed and signed the “Parental Consent Form”, and then submitted to the schools for retention. Schools should submit applications for their students via Special Education Management Information System (SEMIS) **on or before the application deadline (17 March 2026)**.

20. For the detailed arrangement of online application, schools may refer to EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/cdi/sen>). The important dates on offering adapted ApL courses are given at **Annex 5**.



Enquiry

21. For enquiry, please contact the Special Educational Needs Section, Innovation Technology Education Division, EDB at 2892 6493.

Raymond CHEUNG
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections – *for information*

為智障學生而設的高中應用學習調適課程（2026-28年度）
List of Senior Secondary Adapted Applied Learning Courses
for Students with Intellectual Developmental Disorder (IDD) (2026-28 Cohort)

Annex 1

課程一覽表
Course List

學習範疇 Area of Studies	課程編號 Course Code	課程 Course	課程提供機構 ^{註一} Course Provider NOTE 1	上課地點 Venue	上課時間 Time	對象 ^{註二} (智障學生) Target ^{NOTE 2} (IDD Students)	教學語言 Medium of Instruction	課程費用 ^{註三} Course Fee NOTE 3 (HKS)
創意學習 Creative Studies	2026280832	唱作與合奏音樂培訓 Discover Music Together	聖雅各 St. James	新界大圍積輝街15 號 沙田公立學校 Shatin Public School 15 Chik Fai Street, Tai Wai, N.T.	星期一上午 Monday morning	輕度 Mild IDD	中文 Chinese	23,200
	2026280834	創意攝影及傳意設計 Creative Photography and Communication Design	職訓局 VTC	新界屯門豐安街1號展亮技能發展中心(屯門) Shine Skills Centre (Tuen Mun) 1 Fung On St., Tuen Mun, N.T.	星期二下午 Tuesday afternoon	輕度(*) Mild IDD	中文 Chinese	23,550
	2026280835	創意手作藝術 Creative Handcraft Arts	職訓局 VTC	2026/27：九龍塘牛津道1D號 展亮技能發展中心(觀塘) 牛津道暫遷校舍 Shine Skills Centre (Kwun Tong) Oxford Road Re-provisioned Campus 1D Oxford Road, Kowloon Tong 2027/28：（詳細地址待定，位置：觀塘綜合發展項目） 展亮技能發展中心（觀塘）新校舍 Shine Skills Centre (Kwun Tong) New Campus Kwun Tong Composite Development Project	星期二下午 Tuesday afternoon	輕度/中度(*) Mild / Moderate IDD	中文 Chinese	23,550
服務 Services	2026280836A	西式甜品、烘焙及朱古力製作A Patisserie, Bakery and Chocolate Making A	職訓局 VTC	2026/27：九龍塘牛津道1D號 展亮技能發展中心(觀塘) 牛津道暫遷校舍 Shine Skills Centre (Kwun Tong) Oxford Road Re-provisioned Campus 1D Oxford Road, Kowloon Tong 2027/28：（詳細地址待定，位置：觀塘綜合發展項目） 展亮技能發展中心（觀塘）新校舍 Shine Skills Centre (Kwun Tong) New Campus Kwun Tong Composite Development Project	星期二下午 Tuesday afternoon	輕度 Mild IDD	中文 Chinese	23,550
	2026280836B	西式甜品、烘焙及朱古力製作B Patisserie, Bakery and Chocolate Making B	職訓局 VTC	新界屯門豐安街1號展亮技能發展中心(屯門) Shine Skills Centre (Tuen Mun) 1 Fung On St., Tuen Mun, N.T.	星期二下午 Tuesday afternoon	輕度 Mild IDD	中文 Chinese	23,550
	2026280817	西式飲食業實務 Western Catering Practice	明愛 Caritas	九龍亞皆老街147L明愛樂務綜合職業訓練中心 Caritas Lok Mo Integrated Vocational Training Centre 147L Argyle St., Kowloon	星期六上午 Saturday morning	輕度 Mild IDD	中文 Chinese	21,200
	2026280809	基礎飲食業實務 Basic Catering Service	明愛 Caritas	九龍亞皆老街147L明愛樂務綜合職業訓練中心 Caritas Lok Mo Integrated Vocational Training Centre 147L Argyle St., Kowloon	星期六上午 Saturday morning	輕度 Mild IDD	中文 Chinese	20,000
	2026280820	活動策劃助理實務 Event Planning Assistant	明愛 Caritas	九龍亞皆老街147L明愛樂務綜合職業訓練中心 Caritas Lok Mo Integrated Vocational Training Centre 147L Argyle St., Kowloon	星期三下午 Wednesday afternoon	輕度 Mild IDD	中文 Chinese	20,900
	2026280806A	初級烘焙實務 A Elementary Bakery A	明愛 Caritas	九龍亞皆老街147L明愛樂務綜合職業訓練中心 Caritas Lok Mo Integrated Vocational Training Centre 147L Argyle St., Kowloon	星期六上午 Saturday morning	輕度 Mild IDD	中文 Chinese	21,200

學習範疇 Area of Studies	課程編號 Course Code	課程 Course	課程提供機構 ^{註一} Course Provider NOTE 1	上課地點 Venue	上課時間 Time	對象 (智障學生) Target ^{註二} (IDD Students) NOTE 2	教學語言 Medium of Instruction	課程費用 ^{註三} Course Fee NOTE 3 (HK\$)
服務 Services	2026280844	社會服務助理培訓 Social Service Assistant Training	協康會 Heep Hong	九龍何文田愛民邨新民樓地下106-117室 協康會賽馬會星亮資源中心 Jockey Club STAR Resource Centre Units 106-117, G/F, Sun Man House, Oi Man Estate, Homantin, Kowloon	星期四上午 Thursday morning	輕度 Mild IDD	中文 Chinese	23,000
	2026280806B	初級烘焙實務 B Elementary Bakery B	匡智 Hong Chi	新界大埔南坑頌雅路松嶺村匡智松嶺綜合職業訓練中心 Hong Chi Pinehill Integrated Vocational Training Centre Pinehill Village, Chung Nga Road, Nam Hang, Tai Po, N.T.	星期六上午 Saturday morning	輕度 Mild IDD	中文 Chinese	20,000
	2026280801	酒店房務 Hotel Housekeeping	匡智 Hong Chi	新界大埔南坑頌雅路松嶺村匡智松嶺綜合職業訓練中心 Hong Chi Pinehill Integrated Vocational Training Centre Pinehill Village, Chung Nga Road, Nam Hang, Tai Po, N.T.	星期六上午 Saturday morning	輕度 Mild IDD	中文 Chinese	20,600
	2026280842A	校園助理培訓A ^{註四} School Assistant Training A ^{Note 4}	香港中華基督教青年會 YMCA	九龍油麻地窩打老道23號 香港中華基督教青年會 — 青年會專業書院 Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong – YMCA College of Careers 23 Waterloo Road, Yaumatei, Kowloon	星期六下午 Saturday afternoon	輕度 Mild IDD	中文 Chinese	24,600
工程及生產 Engineering and Production	2026280839A	商場機械人服務大使A ^{註四} Shopping Mall Robot Service Ambassador A ^{Note 4}	香港中華基督教青年會 YMCA	九龍油麻地窩打老道23號 香港中華基督教青年會 — 青年會專業書院 Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong – YMCA College of Careers 23 Waterloo Road, Yaumatei, Kowloon	星期三下午 Wednesday afternoon	輕度/中度 Mild / Moderate IDD	中文 Chinese	24,600

註一 NOTE 1

課程提供機構 Course Provider		查詢 Enquiry
明愛 Caritas	明愛樂務綜合職業訓練中心 Caritas Lok Mo Integrated Vocational Training Centre	莊婉雅女士 Ms Cathy CHONG ☎ 2711 0699
匡智 Hong Chi	匡智松嶺綜合職業訓練中心 Hong Chi Pinehill Integrated Vocational Training Centre	鍾月樺女士 Ms Elise CHUNG ☎ 2613 7400
聖雅各 St. James	聖雅各福群會 St. James' Settlement	陸彥璋先生 Mr Bruce LUK ☎ 2596 2712
職訓局 VTC	職業訓練局 Vocational Training Council	彭淑文女士 Ms Vivian PANG ☎ 2836 1753
協康會 Heep Hong	協康會 Heep Hong Society	陳珈璇女士 Ms Kary CHAN ☎ 3956 4651
香港中華基督教 青年會 YMCA	香港中華基督教青年會 Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong	「鼓掌—創新教育歷程」計劃查詢 Enquiry of CLAP-TECH project : 江麗明女士 Ms Renita KONG ☎ 2783 3527

註四 NOTE4

應用學習調適試點課程「商場機械人服務大使」及「校園助理培訓」屬於「鼓掌—創新教育歷程 (CLAP-TECH)」計劃的一部分，計劃旨在探討應用學習調適課程的發展方向，包括引入業界的參與。有關試點課程的詳情，請聯絡課程提供機構—香港中華基督教青年會。

Pilot Adapted ApL courses “Shopping Mall Robot Service Ambassador” and “School Assistant Training” are parts of the CLAP-TECH project that aims to explore the further development of adapted ApL, including engagement of industries. For course details, please contact the course provider, Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong.

註二 NOTE 2

應用學習調適課程的報讀對象為輕度智障或較高能力的中度智障學生。以上有此標記 (*) 的課程，可供輪椅使用學生報讀，惟手部需要有一定程度上的活動能力及手指靈活度，詳情請致電課程提供機構查詢。

The target students applying for adapted Applied Learning (ApL) courses are mild grade IDD or upper-end moderate grade IDD students. Courses with the mark (*) can admit students in wheelchairs, but also require students with certain extent of upper limb ability and finger dexterity. Please contact course providers for details.

註三 NOTE 3

所有在資助中學、官立中學、直接資助計劃中學、按位津貼學校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智障學生，將獲教育局全數資助課程費用。

All students with IDD in aided, government, Direct Subsidy Scheme secondary schools, caput schools 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 adapted Applied Learning (ApL) courses.

**Offering Adapted Applied Learning Courses for Students with Intellectual
Developmental Disorder (2026-28 Cohort)
in Collaboration with Other Schools in Mode 2**

Intention of School

- Schools intending to offer adapted Applied Learning (ApL) courses in collaboration with other schools in Mode 2 should complete this form.
- Schools intending to offer two or more adapted ApL courses in collaboration with other schools in Mode 2 should provide separate information to Parts C to E of this Annex for each adapted ApL course.
- Please return the completed form to the Special Educational Needs Section, Innovation Technology Education Division, EDB by fax (fax no.: 2573 5299) **on or before 17 March 2026**.
- For enquiries, please contact the Special Educational Needs Section, Innovation Technology Education Division, EDB at 2892 6493.

Part A - School and Contact Person Information

School name			
School address			
Name of contact person		Post	
Tel. no.		Fax no.	
Email			

Part B - Declaration by the Principal

I confirm that my school intends to offer a total of _____ adapted ApL course(s) in collaboration with other schools, via Mode 2 arrangement with details given overleaf.

Signature of Principal :

Name of Principal :

Date :

(School Chop)

Part C – Information of the Adapted ApL Courses to be Offered in Collaboration with Other Schools

Name of course provider			
Course name		Estimated no. of students	
Start date (month/year)		End date (month/year)	
Remarks (Please put a “√” in the appropriate box.)	<p>1. Has your school already reached an initial consensus with other school(s) in offering the adapted ApL course through collaboration?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>2. Is your school willing to provide venues/facilities for conducting adapted ApL lessons for students of other schools?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>		

Part D - Information of Collaborating Schools (if applicable)

	School name	Host school (Use “√” to indicate)	No. of students
1			
2			
3			
4			

Part E - Other suggestions/ views (if applicable):

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Funding and Accounting Arrangements for Senior Secondary Adapted Applied Learning Courses for Students with Intellectual Developmental Disorder (2026-28 Cohort)

Diversity Learning Grant

1. The Diversity Learning Grant supports aided, government and caput schools, schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) and special schools operating senior secondary classes, in offering a diversified local curriculum to cater for students' needs. It is a cash grant for aided secondary schools, caput schools, DSS secondary schools and special schools. For government secondary schools, it is in the form of budget allocation.
2. The Diversity Learning Grant for adapted Applied Learning (DLG for adapted ApL) will be provided to eligible schools on a yearly basis for the implementation of adapted ApL courses provided by the course providers and approved by the Education Bureau (EDB). **Schools receiving the grant are NOT allowed to charge students any course fees.**

Ambit

3. Students with IDD in eligible schools studying the senior secondary curriculum prepared by the Curriculum Development Council and published for use in schools by EDB and studying adapted ApL courses are subsidised under the DLG for adapted ApL⁴. Generally, each eligible student is entitled to funding for **a maximum of TWO** adapted ApL courses⁵ throughout his/her studies at the senior secondary level.
4. The DLG for adapted ApL for the 2026-28 cohort can only be used to subsidise students to take adapted ApL courses for the 2026-28 cohort and cannot be mixed with the DLG for adapted ApL for other cohorts. The funding must be used for the payment of adapted ApL course fees to be charged by the course providers. It must not be used for courses under the ambit of Diversity Learning Grant – Other Languages and Diversity Learning Grant – Other Programmes, and other purposes such as capital purchases, overheads or maintenance, etc.

Funding Arrangement

5. Schools will be disbursed / allocated with an amount of DLG for adapted ApL which is equal to the total course fee of adapted ApL courses enrolled by eligible students. The DLG for adapted ApL for 2026-28 cohort will be disbursed / allocated to schools in **TWO equal instalments** during the two-year course duration. The first and second instalments of the DLG for adapted ApL will be provisionally disbursed to schools in August of each year. For government secondary schools, the DLG for adapted ApL will be provided to schools in the form of budget allocations. Adjustments to the DLG for adapted ApL, if any, will be made by EDB based on the actual number of students in adapted ApL courses (2026-28 cohort) (as at **30 September of the respective school year**) and the information submitted by schools.

⁴ Students no longer meeting the requirements as stated in paragraph 3 above due to any reason (e.g. departed from schools) will not be eligible for the DLG for adapted ApL. However, if such students have successfully completed their first year study of adapted ApL courses, they may continue their second year study of adapted ApL courses at their own expense with the consent of the respective course providers and EDB.

⁵ In case a student also takes the ApL course(s), each ApL course will be counted as an adapted ApL course in the funding arrangement.

Accounting Arrangements

6. Schools should pay course fees to the course providers in **TWO equal instalments**. Instalments of course fees would be calculated based on the number of students as at **30 September** of the respective school year. Besides, schools may apply for course fee reduction from the course providers should there be venues, facilities, equipment provided or school teachers contributing to the teaching of adapted ApL courses, etc.

7. Schools are required to observe the established principles and requirements on the use of public funds as promulgated by EDB when using the DLG for adapted ApL. For aided secondary schools, caput schools, DSS secondary schools and special schools, a separate ledger account named “DLG for adapted ApL (2026-28 cohort)” should be kept in the school ledger account under the **Government Fund** to properly record all income and expenditure chargeable to adapted ApL courses. All books of accounts, receipts, payment vouchers and invoices, etc. must be kept for at least 7 years by schools for accounting and auditing purposes. Schools should adhere to EDB’s requirements set out in the relevant circular memoranda/letters as well as their appendices to prepare ledger accounts and annual accounts, and submit the annual audited accounts to EDB. If schools fail to submit the annual audited accounts as at the date as specified by EDB, they may be required to return the grant in full to EDB. The surplus in the ledger account can be carried forward to the next school year until **31 August 2028**. Any unspent balance of the grant will be clawed back. Transfer of funds and/or its unspent balance out of this grant is not allowed. In case of deficit in the ledger account, schools can top up the grant by deploying other resources tabulated below by the end of the respective school years.

School Type	Resources to be Deployed by Schools
Aided Secondary Schools / Special Schools operating Senior Secondary Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity Enhancement Grant (CEG) Surplus in the General Domain of Operating Expenses Block Grant (OEBG) / Expanded OEBG Substitute Teacher Grant (STG) / Teacher Relief Grant (TRG) Schools’ own funds
Government Secondary Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded Subject and Curriculum Block Grant TRG
Caput Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEG Fee Subsidy Schools’ own funds
DSS Secondary Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEG DSS Subsidy Schools’ own funds

8. If schools still have financial difficulties in offering the adapted ApL courses after deploying other resources, schools may approach EDB to explain their practical difficulties. EDB will consider providing appropriate support taking into account the specific situation of individual schools.

9. For government secondary schools, the expenditure should be charged to the user code assigned for DLG for ApL (2026-28 cohort). The grant is financial year-based and the expenditure could not exceed the allocation in the respective financial year. Separate allocation for the unspent balance (if any) of the preceding financial year will be provided at the beginning of the next financial year, and any unspent balance of the grant will lapse after **31 August 2028**. Transfer of funds and/or its unspent balance out of this grant is not allowed. In case of deficit, schools can top up the grant by deploying the resources as set out in paragraph 7.

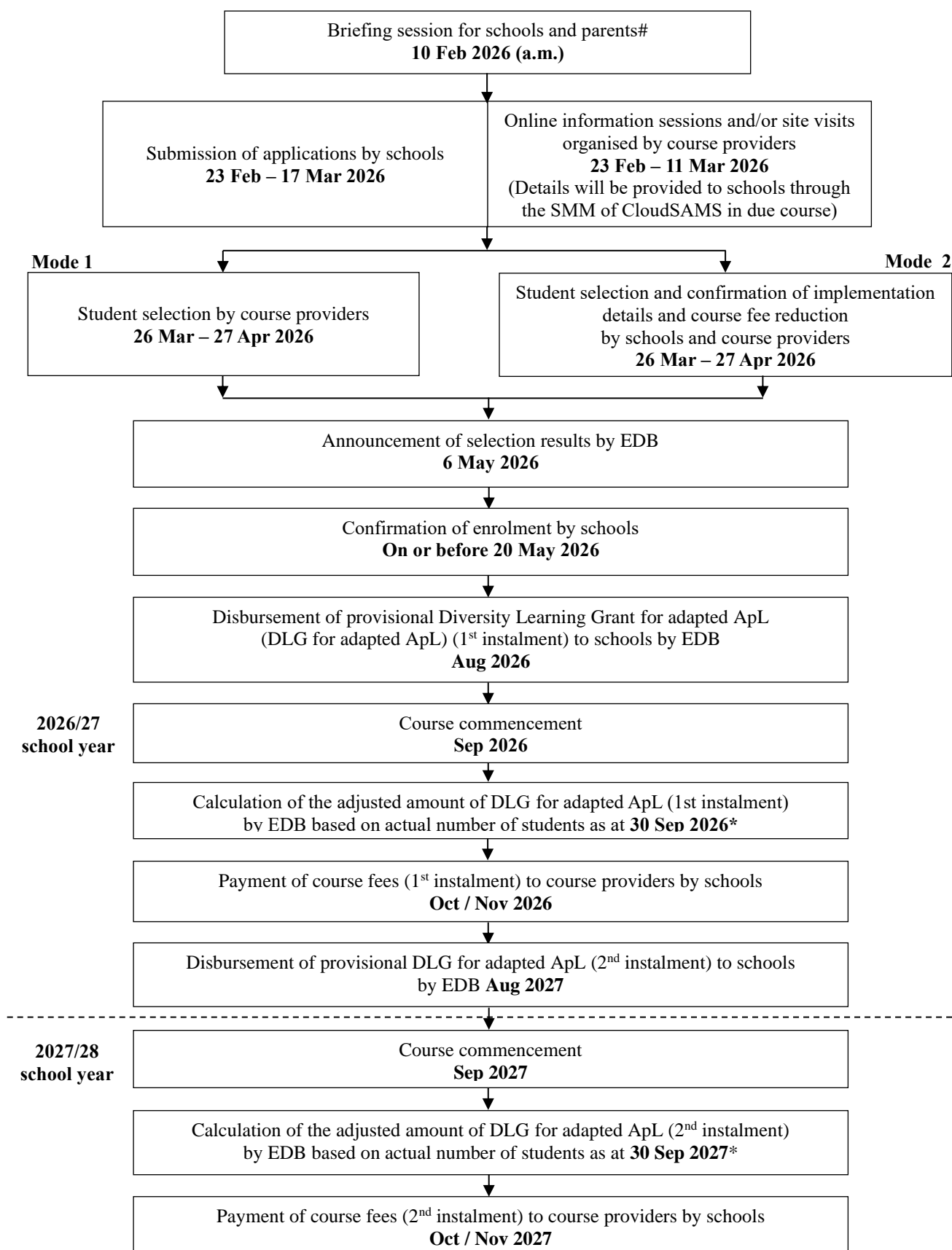
Guidelines on Nominating Students with Intellectual Developmental Disorder for Senior Secondary Adapted Applied Learning Courses

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

- Adapted ApL complements core subjects, elective subjects and Other Learning Experiences to allow flexible subject combination, which helps provide opportunities for theoretical and applied learning to cater for students' diverse learning needs and offer diversified learning experiences for them. School should take into account students' **diverse learning needs** when considering whether their interested adapted ApL course(s) could tie in with the other electives for complementing or broadening students' learning experience.
- Schools should provide guidance to students and assist them in choosing adapted ApL courses according to their abilities, interests and aspirations, taking into consideration the guiding principle of exposing them to broad and balanced learning experiences in their senior secondary education.
- Generally, each eligible student is entitled to funding for **a maximum of TWO adapted ApL courses (including ApL courses)** throughout his/her studies at the senior secondary level. In case a student also takes ApL course(s), each ApL course will be counted as an adapted ApL course in the funding arrangement.
- Students applying for two adapted ApL courses should list their choices in order of preference when submitting their applications. Students applying for adapted ApL courses have to go through a selection process, after which they may opt to accept offers of **one or two** adapted ApL courses based on their preferences.
- Before collecting students' personal data, schools must seek consent of students and their parents and provide the "Parental Consent Form" to students who apply for adapted ApL courses. The form can be downloaded at EDB website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/cdi/sen>). The completed forms should then be collected for retention by the school. In accordance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, schools should ensure that all students' personal data are handled by authorised personnel of the schools only.



**Senior Secondary Adapted Applied Learning Courses
for Students with Intellectual Developmental Disorder (2026-28 Cohort)
Important Dates**



Introduction of adapted ApL courses to be conducted by course providers.

* Adjustment of the 1st and 2nd instalments of the DLG for adapted ApL will be made by EDB before Jan 2027 and Jan 2028 respectively.