

Ref.: EDB(KGI)/INP/1/7(2)

**Government of the HKSAR
Education Bureau
16 August 2024**

**Education Bureau Circular No. 28/2024
Enhanced Quality Assurance Framework for Kindergarten Education
Striving for Excellence through Collaboration**

[Note: This circular should be read by –

- (a) Supervisors and Heads of Kindergartens, Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centres and Schools with Kindergarten Classes joining the Kindergarten Education Scheme – for action; and
- (b) Heads of Sections – for information.]

SUMMARY

This circular sets out details of the ongoing enhancement regarding the Quality Assurance (QA) Framework for kindergartens, kindergarten-cum-child care centres and schools with kindergarten classes (hereafter collectively referred to as “KGs”) under the Kindergarten Education Scheme (Scheme). Education Bureau (EDB) Circular No. 11/2018 dated 6 July 2018 is hereby superseded.

BACKGROUND

2. The Government has implemented the Scheme since the 2017/18 school year with the aim of providing good quality and highly affordable KG education, and enhancing the accessibility of children to different modes of services that suit their specific needs. In consonance with the implementation of the Scheme, all KGs participating in the Scheme (Scheme-KGs) will continue to conduct School Self-evaluation (SSE) and undergo Quality Review (QR), both of which take the *Performance Indicators (Kindergartens)* for reference. From the findings of the consultancy study (2022) conducted by the Faculty of Education, the University of Hong Kong, as commissioned by EDB after the implementation of the Scheme, KGs benefited from various grants which supported the teaching environment and activities for teachers and students. KGs had been putting more emphasis on the professional development of teachers as they supported teachers to take part in training activities through administrative arrangements. With regard to QA, as shown in the post-QR surveys, KGs agreed that SSE could facilitate school development and the recommendations of QR were in line with their development needs.

3. To foster the effectiveness of SSE and QR, EDB conducted focus group interviews in May 2024 and invited the school principals of Scheme-KGs to participate for gathering views from schools on the work of QA. The kindergarten principals agreed that the current QR was operating smoothly in general.

DETAILS

School Self-evaluation

4. SSE is an integral part of the QA Framework and a core element of refining education. Over the years, KGs have accumulated experiences in establishing SSE mechanism, demonstrating professionalism and teamwork. To enhance the effectiveness of SSE, apart from implementing the inter-connected self-evaluation processes, viz. planning, implementation and evaluation, schools should continue to strengthen the curriculum planning, monitoring and evaluation, including improving the reflective practice of teachers, with the aim of sustaining the school development. EDB provides an updated version of the School Report template for schools' reference to help them grasp their development progress, identify the areas for improvement, explore the factors which would be conducive to development, and implement the SSE rationale in planning future work for the continuous advancement of the schools. The [School Self-evaluation Manual](#) and [School Report Template](#) have been updated and made available on the EDB webpage (Home > Education System and Policy > Kindergarten Education > Quality Assurance Framework > School Self-evaluation (SSE) Mechanism).



5. To enhance transparency and accountability, Scheme-KGs are strongly advised to upload their school reports onto their school websites to keep their stakeholders including parents informed of the school development.

Quality Review

6. QR serves to complement SSE to support the sustainable advancement of KGs. All Scheme-KGs will undergo QR for validation of their self-evaluation and be assessed if they have met the prescribed standards. For details regarding the QR mechanism, KGs may refer to the [Handbook on Quality Review for Kindergartens](#) available on the EDB webpage (Home > Education System and Policy > Kindergarten Education > Quality Assurance Framework > Quality Review Mechanism). Results of QR would be taken into account when considering KGs' application for staying in the Scheme.



7. Since the 2021/22 school year, EDB has regularised the Serving Principal External Observer Scheme in QR. Serving principal external observers (external observers) have been arranged to take part in some QR visits, which yielded positive results. To further enhance the transparency of QR and foster professional exchanges among frontline principals, starting from the 2024/25 school year, all schools undergoing QR will have the opportunity to be assigned with external observers by random sampling. Similar to the existing practice, external observers will share their experiences during the school visits, but will not assess school performance.

8. EDB invites serving principals of KGs who possess no less than 10 years of teaching experience in early childhood education, including no less than 5 years of related managerial and supervisory experiences to apply for serving as external observers. The External Observer Scheme is open for application all year round. Principals who successfully applied earlier do not need to re-apply unless they have changed their positions. EDB will notify principal applicants of the application results, and details about training and QR visits. School sponsoring bodies/ operators and serving principals of KGs may refer to the [application details](#) and fill out the application forms available on the EDB webpage to join the External Observer Scheme (Home > Education System and Policy > Kindergarten Education > Quality Assurance Framework > Quality Review Mechanism).



Support for KGs

9. Focus Inspection is another form of QA measure for both Scheme-KGs and non-Scheme KGs to foster their continuous improvement in learning and teaching as well as addressing areas of concerns. EDB conducts focus inspection on a random basis every school year, offers verbal and written feedback to KGs for their reference in planning the work of learning and teaching.

10. EDB will also continue to organise professional development activities, share with the sector the experiences gained in implementing the QA work and the good practices of schools. KGs may take reference from them and reflect on school-based needs to further implement effective SSE and promote their sustainable development.

BRIEFING SESSIONS AND ENQUIRIES

11. To facilitate KGs' understanding of the enhancement measures and details of the QA Framework, EDB will conduct two identical briefing sessions on Quality Review for Kindergartens (Course ID: KGE020250005) on 23 and 28 September 2024. For details, please visit the Training Calendar System webpage of the EDB website at <https://tcs.edb.gov.hk>.

12. For further enquiries, please contact the Kindergarten Inspection Section at 2892 5458.

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