



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局

Education Bureau

Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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25 August 2023

To: Supervisors/Principals of government, aided and caput secondary schools

Dear Supervisors/Principals,

School-based Medium of Instruction Plan for Junior Secondary Levels (Arrangements for Secondary 1 Students Admitted in the 2024/25 School Year)

This circular letter informs schools to complete the “School-based Medium of Instruction Plan for Junior Secondary Levels (Arrangements for Secondary 1 Students Admitted in the 2024/25 School Year)” at the Annex and return it to the respective Senior School Development Officers on or before **15 September 2023 (Friday)** for vetting by the Education Bureau (EDB).

Details

2. Pursuant to EDB Circular No. 6/2009 “Fine-tuning the Medium of Instruction (MOI) for Secondary Schools”, schools are required to devise appropriate MOI arrangements in accordance with the prescribed criteria¹ and by making reference to the school-based circumstances in a professional manner. In the third cycle (2022/23 to 2027/28 school years) of MOI fine-tuning, the EDB will take forward the existing fine-tuned framework. Schools’ discretion on MOI arrangements in the third cycle will continue to be determined by the three prescribed criteria of “student ability”, “teacher capability” and “school-based support”, so that students can continue to benefit from the merits of the fine-tuned arrangements. For details, please refer to our letter dated 29

¹ The prescribed criteria under the fine-tuned MOI framework include: (i) “student ability” (i.e. the average proportion of Secondary (S) 1 intake of a school admitted to a class belonging to the “top 40%” group (territory) in the “Secondary School Places Allocation” of the previous two years under a six-year cycle reaches 85% of the size of a class); (ii) “teacher capability” (i.e. teachers adopting English as the MOI should have Level 3 or above in English Language of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (or Grade C or above in English Language (Syllabus B) of the defunct Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) / Level 3 or above in English Language of the HKCEE in 2007 to 2011), or other recognised equivalent qualifications (e.g. Band 6 or above in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (academic domain)); and (iii) “school-based support” (i.e. support measures provided by schools for students in adopting English as the MOI).

April 2021 on “Fine-tuning the Medium of Instruction for Secondary Schools – Arrangements for the Third Cycle (2022/23 to 2027/28 School Years)”.

3. Under the framework for fine-tuned MOI arrangements, all schools have the discretion to adopt Chinese as the MOI (CMI) for all non-language subjects. For schools meeting the “student ability” criterion, they may, having regard to their own circumstances and the needs of their students, exercise professional discretion to put in place the most appropriate MOI arrangements, such as adopting English as the MOI (EMI) for all non-language subjects or adopting CMI for some non-language subjects. For schools not meeting the “student ability” criterion, they may, for each class/group of students, only dedicate up to 25% of the total lesson time (excluding the lesson time for the English Language subject) to conduct extended learning activities (ELA) in English (if ELA are conducted for individual subject(s), the lesson time should also be capped at the aforementioned percentage of the total lesson time of the subject(s) concerned), or transform all 25% or a smaller percentage of the ELA lesson time into the adoption of EMI in up to two non-language subjects (i.e. “allocation of time to subjects”). If schools implement both ELA in English and “allocation of time to subjects”, the lesson time involved together must not exceed 25% of the total lesson time (excluding the lesson time for the English Language subject). Besides, schools may opt to take the entire junior secondary learning stage (i.e. S1 to S3) as a unit, and adopt an orderly and progressive approach to make blanket allocation of ELA lesson time from S1 to S3 for the same cohort of students, up to 25% of the total lesson time (excluding the lesson time of the English Language subject) in the junior secondary learning stage; and make blanket allocation of subjects to be covered by “allocation of time to subjects” from S1 to S3 for this cohort of students, up to six counts of transformation of the ELA lesson time in the junior secondary learning stage.

4. Schools are required, as usual, to take into account their school-based situation and devise professionally their MOI arrangements in each of the school years within the third cycle. In light of the aforementioned letter on the arrangements for the third cycle, if there are changes in the number of students capped for each S1 class² as a result of a change in the number of students allocated through the Secondary School Places Allocation for the 2024/25 school year, schools may exercise their professional discretion to consider whether the MOI arrangements in the classes/groups concerned should be maintained with regard to other prescribed criteria (including teachers’ capability and readiness in adopting English as the MOI, as well as school support measures) so as to cater for students’ learning needs in a stable language environment. To ensure the effectiveness of learning and teaching, the EDB will continue to engage schools in professional dialogue when required and schools shall review and revise their MOI arrangements where appropriate.

5. Information about schools’ MOI arrangements will continue to be included in the Secondary School Profiles 2023/2024 to be issued in December 2023. The MOI of

² The number of students capped for each S1 class is the number of students allocated to each class under the Secondary School Places Allocation System in that school year plus two repeater places.

individual subjects will be listed under the sections “Subjects Offered in the 2023/2024 School Year” and “Subjects to be Offered in the 2024/2025 School Year” as appropriate, with elaborations in the section “Whole-school Language Policy” under “Learning and Teaching Plan” of “School Characteristics” in the Profiles. The MOI information is to facilitate parents’ making of school choices for Secondary 1 admission of their children in the 2024/25 school year. Schools are also advised to enhance the transparency of their MOI arrangements through disseminating the relevant information on their school websites.

Enquiries

6. For enquiries, please contact your Senior School Development Officer or the Review and Planning Section:

Ms Irene WONG	(Tel. no.: 2892 6608):	Kwun Tong, Yau Tsim & Mongkok, Sai Kung, Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan, Islands
Ms Miriam CHAN	(Tel. no.: 2892 6639):	Wanchai, Wong Tai Sin, Kwai Chung & Tsing Yi, North
Ms Faye NG	(Tel. no.: 2892 6463)	Hong Kong East, Southern, Sham Shui Po, Yuen Long
Ms Yvonne SHUM	(Tel. no.: 2892 6625):	Central & Western, Kowloon City, Shatin, Tai Po

Yours sincerely,

(W S LAU)
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Chief School Development Officers