



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

本局檔號 Our Ref. : EDB(RP)3410/15/17(1)

電話 Telephone : 2892 6618

來函檔號 Your Ref. :

傳真 Fax Line : 3582 4002

3 September 2018

To: Principals of government, aided and caput secondary schools

Dear Principals,

**School-based Medium of Instruction Plan for Junior Secondary Levels  
(Arrangements for Secondary 1 Students Admitted in the 2019/20 School Year)**

Pursuant to Education Bureau (EDB) Circular No. 6/2009 “Fine-tuning the Medium of Instruction (MOI) for Secondary Schools” issued on 5 June 2009, schools are required to devise their MOI plans in accordance with the fine-tuned MOI framework<sup>1</sup>. In tandem, according to the letter of the EDB dated 22 July 2015 on “Fine-tuning the MOI for Secondary Schools - Arrangements for the Second Cycle (2016/17 to 2021/22 School Years)”, the EDB has decided to maintain the policy goal and overall arrangement of MOI fine-tuning for the second cycle<sup>2</sup>. Schools may also extend their school-based MOI arrangements of the first cycle to the second cycle.

2. Schools are required, as usual, to devise professionally their MOI arrangements taking into account their school-based situation in each of the school years of the cycle. In light of “Fine-tuning the MOI for Secondary Schools - Arrangements for the Second Cycle (2016/17 to 2021/22 School Years)”, if there are changes in the number of students capped for each S1 class<sup>3</sup> because of the number of students allocated through the Secondary School Places

<sup>1</sup> The fine-tuned MOI framework maintains the prescribed criteria of the MOI policy for the junior secondary levels, including ‘student ability’ (i.e. the average proportion of Secondary 1 (S1) 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 (based on the number of students allocated per S1 class)); ‘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 a Grade C or above in English Language (Syllabus B) of the defunct Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination, or other recognised equivalent qualifications (e.g. Band 6 or above in International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (academic domain)); and ‘school-based support’ (i.e. support measures provided by schools for students in adopting English as the MOI). Under the fine-tuned MOI framework, the percentage of the total lesson time allowed for extended learning activities (ELA) in English was standardised at 25% in the maximum. Schools may choose to transform the ELA time into the adoption of English as the MOI up to a maximum of two non-language subjects.

<sup>2</sup> Upon examination, the EDB considers that the MOI arrangements of schools (including schools which have started to adopt English as the MOI fully or partially in the first cycle) have begun to take root with students in general benefitting from the teaching experience of teachers and the effectiveness of school-based support measures. A stable language environment is crucial for teachers to develop learning and teaching strategies of non-language subjects (including the support measures related to learning the English language across the curriculum). Besides, schools have to consolidate and integrate their whole-school language policy to tie in with the school-based curriculum. Should schools be required to change their MOI arrangements in a haste for the second cycle (i.e. from the 2016/17 school year onwards) merely on the basis of the ‘student ability’ criterion, the needs of schools and teachers cannot be well catered for and the effectiveness of the school-based MOI arrangements will be affected.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

香港添馬添美道 2 號政府總部東翼 7 樓

7/F., East Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

網址: <http://www.edb.gov.hk> 電子郵件: [edbinfo@edb.gov.hk](mailto:edbinfo@edb.gov.hk)

Web site: <http://www.edb.gov.hk> E-mail: [edbinfo@edb.gov.hk](mailto:edbinfo@edb.gov.hk)

Allocation for the 2019/20 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 and 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 will review and revise their MOI arrangements where appropriate.

3. Please complete the "School-based Medium of Instruction Plan for Junior Secondary Levels (Arrangements for Secondary 1 Students Admitted in the 2019/20 School Year)" at the Annex<sub>[not attached]</sub> and return it to your school's Senior School Development Officer on or before **21 September 2018 (Friday)** for vetting purposes.

4. Information about schools' MOI arrangements will continue to be included in the Secondary School Profiles 2018/2019 to be issued in December 2018. The MOI of individual subjects will be listed under the sections 'Subjects Offered in the 2018/2019 school year' and 'Subjects to be Offered in the 2019/2020 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 to make school choices for Secondary 1 admission in the 2019/20 school year. Schools are also advised to enhance the transparency of their MOI arrangements through disseminating the relevant information on their school websites. For details, please refer to EDB Circular No. 6/2009 and EDB Circular Memorandum No. 105/2010.

5. For enquiries, please contact your school's Senior School Development Officer or our Review and Planning Section:

Ms Winnie WONG	(Tel. no. : 2892 6608):	Kwun Tong, Yau Tsim & Mongkok, Sai Kung, Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan, Islands
Ms Bonnie SIOW	(Tel. no. : 2892 6639):	Wanchai, Wong Tai Sin, Kwai Chung & Tsing Yi, North
Ms Winkie CHENG	(Tel. no. : 2892 6463):	Hong Kong East, Southern, Sham Shui Po, Yuen Long
Ms Christina KWOK	(Tel. no. : 2892 6625):	Central & Western, Kowloon City, Shatin, Tai Po

Yours sincerely,  
( H P CHOI )  
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Chief School Development Officers