



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)3410/15/14(1)

電話 Telephone : 2892 6558

來函檔號 Your Ref. :

傳真 Fax Line : 3582 4002

22 July 2015

Supervisors / Principals,

**Fine-tuning the Medium of Instruction for Secondary Schools
Arrangements for the Second Cycle (2016/17 to 2021/22 School Years)**

Capitalising on the effectiveness of mother-tongue teaching, the fine-tuning of medium of instruction (MOI) arrangements has been implemented at the junior secondary levels starting from the 2010/11 school year. Schools are no longer bifurcated into “Chinese-medium schools” and “English-medium schools”. Under the fine-tuned MOI framework¹, all schools have the discretion with varying degrees to make professional judgment in each of the school years within a six-year fine-tuned MOI cycle, having regard to their school circumstances, to devise school-based MOI arrangements. Students are provided with more opportunities to be exposed to, and use, English in school. Since then, the MOI arrangements at junior secondary levels have become more flexible and diversified (i.e. including, in brief, adopting Chinese or English as the MOI, adopting Chinese as the MOI complemented with extended learning activities (ELA) in English or with the ELA time transformed into teaching not more than two non-language subjects in English, and adopting Chinese or English as the MOI for some students for different non-language subjects) with the policy goal of ‘upholding mother-tongue teaching while enhancing students’ proficiency in both Chinese and English’ to tie in with the development of the society. For details, please refer to Education Bureau (EDB) Circular No. 6/2009 ‘Fine-tuning the Medium of Instruction for Secondary Schools’.

2. The MOI fine-tuned arrangements for secondary schools are approaching the second cycle (2016/17 to 2021/22 school years). Schools have to timely devise school-based MOI arrangements for the Secondary 1 (S1) students to be admitted in the 2016/17 school year. A comprehensive review of the fine-tuned MOI arrangements can only be conducted in 2016 the

¹ 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 a Grade C or above in English Language (Syllabus B) of the defunct Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination or above, 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.

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

Web site: <http://www.edb.gov.hk> E-mail: edbinfo@edb.gov.hk

earliest when the first cohort of students concerned sit for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination. Upon examination, the EDB considers that the MOI arrangements of schools (including schools which first 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 also crucial for teachers to develop learning and teaching strategies of non-language subjects (including learning the English language across the curriculum and the related support measures). 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 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 the schools and teachers will not be well catered for and the effectiveness of the school-based MOI arrangements will be affected.

3. Against the above, the EDB has decided to maintain the policy goal and overall arrangement of MOI fine-tuning for the second cycle. Schools may also extend their school-based MOI arrangements of the first cycle to the second cycle. 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.

4. To ensure the effectiveness of learning and teaching, the EDB will engage schools in professional dialogue when required upon receipt of the school-based MOI plans in each school year of the second cycle and schools will review and revise their MOI arrangements where appropriate. The EDB will also provide professional development for teachers and conduct studies to consolidate and conceptualise experience gained and good practices of school-based support with a view to further enhancing the MOI policy.

5. Your school is required to devise school-based MOI arrangements for the S1 students to be admitted in the 2016/17 school year. Please complete the 'School-based MOI Plan for Secondary 1 Students Admitted in the 2016/17 School Year' at the Annex [not attached] and return it to your school's Senior School Development Officer on or before **22 September 2015 (Tuesday)** for vetting purposes. Relevant information in the Secondary School Profiles will be checked and finalised for parents' information.

6. 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 King, Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan, Islands |
| Ms Jess MAK | (Tel. no. : 2892 6639): | Wanchai, Wong Tai Sin, Kwai Chung & Tsing Yi, North |
| Ms Clara TSOI | (Tel. no. : 2892 6463): | Hong Kong East, Southern, Sham Shui Po, Yuen Long |
| Ms Rosalind LAU | (Tel. no. : 2892 6625): | Central & Western, Kowloon City, Shatin, Tai Po, |

Yours sincerely,

(Ms L B IP)
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Chief School Development Officers