



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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To: Principals of all government schools, aided schools (including special schools), caput schools, Direct Subsidy Scheme schools, and kindergartens / kindergarten-cum-child care centres and schools with kindergarten classes joining the kindergarten education scheme

Dear Principals,

**Arrangements for Submitting the Basic Law and National Security Law Test (BLNST)
Information of Newly-appointed Teachers in the 2023/24 School Year**

This circular letter informs all public sector schools¹, Direct Subsidy Scheme schools and kindergartens / kindergarten-cum-child care centres and schools with kindergarten classes joining the kindergarten education scheme of the arrangements for submitting the Basic Law and National Security Law Test (BLNST) information of newly-appointed teachers to the Education Bureau (EDB) starting from the 2023/24 school year.

Background

2. Starting from the 2022/23 school year, newly-appointed regular and monthly-paid temporary teachers in public sector schools are required to pass the Basic Law Test (BLT) in order to be considered for appointment. Starting from the 2023/24 school year, newly-appointed teachers (including regular teachers and teachers remunerated with cash grant) in public sector schools, Direct Subsidy Scheme schools (DSS schools) and kindergartens / kindergarten-cum-child care centres and schools with kindergarten classes joining the kindergarten education scheme (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Scheme-KGs”) are

¹ Public sector schools include government, aided and caput schools. For government schools, the BLNST requirement and relevant arrangements apply to newly-appointed monthly-paid temporary teachers on non-civil service terms.

required to pass the BLNST². Details of the requirement are stipulated in the EDB Circular No. 13/2022 “Requirement for Newly-appointed Teachers to Pass the Basic Law and National Security Law Test”.

Points to Note about the Appointment of Teachers in the 2023/24 School Year

3. Prior to appointing teachers for the 2023/24 school year, schools must verify whether the teachers to be appointed have obtained a pass result in the BLNST issued by EDB, Civil Service Bureau or government departments before the appointment is effective. Teachers applying for graduate teaching posts should obtain a pass result in BLNST (degree level) to fulfill the requirement; teachers applying for non-graduate teaching posts should obtain a pass result in BLNST (non-degree level) or (degree level) to fulfill the requirement.

4. Schools shall bear the responsibility to pay the salaries on their own if the newly-appointed teachers fail to meet the BLNST requirement for the corresponding teaching post. EDB will also take appropriate follow-up actions and request the schools to refund any overpayment of salaries to EDB.

Submission of the BLNST Information of Newly-appointed Teachers

5. Starting from the 2023/24 school year, schools should submit the BLNST information of all newly-appointed teachers at the beginning of each school year to EDB through the e-Services Portal (<https://eservices.edb.gov.hk>) (hereinafter referred to as “the Portal”). The information includes the organising authority of the test, level of the test, date of attaining a pass result in the test and whether schools have verified the relevant test result, etc. Schools may download the Portal User Manual from EDB webpage (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/blnst>) starting from August 2023 to understand the details of inputting, verifying and submitting the BLNST information of newly-appointed teachers, and submit the above-mentioned information through the Portal on or before 25 September 2023. If there are any staff changes during the school year, schools are also required to update the list on the Portal and submit the BLNST information of the newly-appointed teachers concerned to EDB.

² The BLNST requirement is **not applicable** to daily-rated supply teachers, teachers employed under the Native-speaking English Teacher (NET) Scheme in public sector schools or NETs appointed on terms comparable to the NET Scheme for performing the same kind of duties in DSS schools, NETs in Scheme-KGs, teachers mainly teach a non-local curriculum (i.e. teaching non-local curriculum as approved by EDB in 80% or more of their lessons) in DSS schools, teachers mainly teach a non-local curriculum (i.e. teaching non-local curriculum as approved by EDB in 80% or more of their lessons) in Scheme-KGs which also offer a non-local curriculum. For details, please refer to question 2 of frequently asked questions on EDB webpage (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/blnst>) illustrating the teachers appointed on other terms.

6. Besides, starting from the 2023/24 school year, schools must properly keep the employment records of the newly-appointed teachers and copies of teachers' pass results in the BLNST for not less than two years for EDB's inspection as and when necessary. Aided schools do not need to attach relevant supporting documents when submitting the appointment forms to EDB, but are required to confirm that the newly-appointed teachers have fulfilled the BLNST requirement. If necessary, EDB will require schools to provide copies of the BLNST pass results of the newly-appointed teachers separately for verification.

7. This Bureau will organise briefing sessions in June to July 2023 about the updating exercise of teachers' personal profiles on the Portal for the 2023/24 school year, in which the procedures of submitting the BLNST information of newly-appointed teachers through the Portal will also be introduced. For details, please refer to the circular memorandum to be issued by this Bureau later and the Training Calendar System.

Enquiries

8. For enquiries about the requirement for newly-appointed teachers to pass the BLNST, please contact the Teacher Professional Development Special Duty Team of the Professional Development and Training Division at 2892 5709. For enquiries about matters of schools' appointment of teachers, please contact the respective Senior School Development Officers or Senior Services Officers.



(Ms W P LEE)

for Secretary for Education

c.c. District School Development Sections, EDB
Joint Office for Kindergartens and Child Care Centres, EDB