

24 October 2022

## **Education Bureau Circular No. 13/2022**

### **Requirement for Newly-appointed Teachers to Pass the Basic Law and National Security Law Test**

【 Note: This circular should be read by

- (a) Supervisors and heads 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 – for action; and
- (b) Supervisors and heads of schools not included in (a) and heads of sections – for information】

### **Summary**

This circular informs all public sector schools<sup>1</sup>, 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”) of the requirement and relevant arrangements for newly-appointed teachers to pass the Basic Law and National Security Law Test (BLNST) starting from the 2023/24 school year. This circular supersedes the EDB Circular No. 18/2021 issued on 11 November 2021.

### **Background**

2. The words and deeds of teachers have a far-reaching impact on students’ growth. Teachers should be committed to nurturing students into lifelong learners with

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<sup>1</sup> Public sector schools include government, aided and caput schools. For government schools, the requirement and relevant arrangements set out in this circular apply to newly-appointed monthly-paid temporary teachers on non-civil service terms. Teachers appointed on civil service terms will continue to be governed by the relevant requirements of the Civil Service Bureau (CSB).

talents and virtues, a sense of responsibility, visions and love for the country and the city, so as to be ready for future challenges and opportunities. Teachers should have a correct understanding of the Basic Law so that they can enlighten students by helping them correctly understand the constitutional status of Hong Kong and develop a positive attitude towards the Basic Law and ‘one country, two systems’.

3. 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. As for teachers recruited on civil service terms in government schools on or after 1 July 2022, they must attain a pass result in the BLNST conducted by the CSB in order to be considered for appointment<sup>2</sup>.

4. As announced in ‘The Chief Executive’s 2022 Policy Address’, starting from the 2023/24 school year, the requirement for teachers to pass the BLT will be extended from public sector schools to all DSS schools and Scheme-KGs. The test covers the Basic Law and the National Security Law. Apart from regular teachers, newly-appointed teachers remunerated with cash grant are also required to obtain a pass in the test.

## Details

5. Starting from the 2023/24 school year, all **newly-appointed teachers** in public sector schools, DSS schools and Scheme-KGs (including newly-joined teachers and teachers changing schools) are required to pass the BLNST in order to be considered for appointment. The requirement is applicable to newly-appointed regular teachers (remunerated with Salaries Grant), teachers remunerated with cash grant, teachers switching from a teaching post remunerated with cash grant to a teaching post remunerated with Salaries Grant in the same school, monthly-paid temporary teachers (including monthly-paid temporary teachers appointed on non-civil service terms in government schools) in public sector schools, as well as all newly-appointed monthly-paid teachers in DSS schools and Scheme-KGs. The requirement applies to all ranks of the teacher grade (including principals).

6. 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

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<sup>2</sup> For details of the BLNST conducted by the CSB, please visit the CSB webpage (<https://www.csb.gov.hk/english/recruit/blnst/1372.html>).

performing the same kind of duties in DSS schools, NETs in Scheme-KGs, teachers who mainly teach a non-local curriculum (i.e. teaching non-local curriculum as approved by the EDB in 80% or more of their lessons) in DSS schools and teachers who mainly teach a non-local curriculum (i.e. teaching non-local curriculum as approved by the EDB in 80% or more of their lessons) in Scheme-KGs which also offer a non-local curriculum. Persons who have sat for and obtained a pass result in any BLT and plan to join or change schools in the 2023/24 school year are required to take the BLNST and attain a pass result in order to be considered for appointment.

7. For the content and format of the BLNST organised by the EDB, the EDB draws reference to the arrangements of the BLNST conducted by the CSB. The written test is a bilingual paper (in both English and Chinese) assessing candidates' knowledge of the Basic Law (including its annexes, instruments, attachments and appendices) as well as the National Security Law. In this connection, persons who possess a pass result in the BLNST issued by the CSB will be deemed to have met the relevant requirement and are not required to take the BLNST organised by the EDB again.

8. The EDB will conduct a total of five rounds of the BLNST for teachers, and the tests will be held on 3 December 2022, in January, February, April and June 2023 respectively. Having regard to the different entry requirements for teaching posts in secondary and primary schools as well as kindergartens, the above-mentioned five rounds of test will be arranged separately for degree holders and non-degree holders. Teachers who wish to take the test should plan ahead and submit an application on time. Details of the arrangements are as follows:

Test	Target	Relevant information	Date/Month
Degree level	➤ Degree-holding teachers in secondary and primary schools as well as kindergartens (including principals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Candidates have to answer 20 multiple-choice questions within 30 minutes.</li> <li>➤ Candidates who score at least 10 out of 20 questions will be deemed to have a pass result.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 3 December 2022</li> <li>➤ February 2023</li> <li>➤ April 2023</li> </ul>

Non-degree level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Non-degree-holding teachers in secondary and primary schools as well as kindergartens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Candidates have to answer 20 multiple-choice questions within 35 minutes</li> <li>➤ Candidates who score at least 10 out of 20 questions will be deemed to have a pass result.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ January 2023</li> <li>➤ June 2023</li> </ul>
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9. The first round of the BLNST (degree level) is scheduled for 3 December 2022. Persons interested in taking the first round of the test may apply from 9:00 a.m., 26 October 2022 to 5:00 p.m., 7 November 2022 through the online application system on the EDB webpage. For details of the test and application, please visit the EDB webpage at [www.edb.gov.hk/en/blnst](http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/blnst). As places for the test are limited,



applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. The test dates of the other rounds of the BLNST will be announced in due course. Teachers who have passed the BLNST (degree level) will not be required to take any BLNST at or below an equivalent level again. For those who have passed the BLNST (non-degree level) and subsequently attained a degree qualification, they will be required to take the BLNST (degree level) if they wish to apply for graduate teaching posts.

10. Prior to appointing teachers for the 2023/24 school year, public sector schools, DSS schools and Scheme-KGs should verify whether the teachers to be appointed have passed the BLNST. Schools should submit the information of their newly-appointed teachers for that school year to the EDB. Schools will be notified of the arrangement for submission of such information later. Besides, starting from the 2023/24 school year, schools should 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.

### **Related Amendments to the Codes of Aid and Qualifications of Kindergarten Teachers**

11. Relevant provisions in the Code of Aid for Primary Schools, Code of Aid for

Secondary Schools, Code of Aid for Special Schools and Compendium to Code of Aid for Aided Schools, as well as the Kindergarten Administration Guide and relevant circulars will be updated accordingly.

12. Schools should make the requirements of BLNST and the arrangements promulgated in this circular known to all their teaching staff. The EDB will also disseminate the latest information about the BLNST on its website.

### **Enquiries**

13. For enquiries about the BLNST organised by the EDB, please contact the Teacher Professional Development Special Duty Team of the Professional Development and Training Division at 2892 5709. For enquiries about appointment matters of schools, please contact the respective Senior School Development Officers or Senior Service Officers.

Ms W P LEE  
for Secretary for Education