

## EDUCATION BUREAU CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 169/2023

From : Secretary for Education  
Ref : EDB(TPDSD)/3/1 C  
Date : 6 September 2023

To : 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

(Note: This circular memorandum should be read by all supervisors, heads and teachers)

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### **Arrangements for Basic Law and National Security Law Test in the 2023/24 school year**

#### **Summary**

This circular memorandum 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 arrangements for the Basic Law and National Security Law Test (BLNST) organised by the Education Bureau (EDB) in the 2023/24 school year. This circular memorandum should be read in conjunction with the EDB Circular No. 13/2022 “Requirement for Newly-appointed Teachers to Pass the Basic Law and National Security Law Test” issued on 24 October 2022.

#### **Background**

2. The words and deeds of teachers have a far-reaching impact on students’ growth. Teachers should have a correct understanding of the Basic Law and the National Security Law so that they can enlighten students by helping them fulfill responsibilities as a national and Hong Kong resident with a positive, law-abiding, public interest-oriented and responsible attitude. As announced in the EDB Circular No. 13/2022 “Requirement for Newly-appointed Teachers to Pass the Basic Law and National Security Law Test”, 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. For details, please refer to the EDB webpage (Home> School Administration and Management> Administration> About School Staff> Requirement for Newly-appointed Teachers to Pass the Basic Law and National Security Law Test). Schools should require teachers to have a correct understanding of the Basic Law and the National Security Law and encourage teachers to take the relevant test.

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<sup>1</sup> Public sector schools include government, aided and caput schools.

## Details

3. The EDB will conduct a total of five rounds of the BLNST for teachers in the 2023/24 school year. The tests will be arranged for degree holders and non-degree holders respectively. The tentative test schedule is as follows. Teachers who wish to take the test should plan ahead and submit an application on time.

Test	Target	Tentative test dates
Degree level	<u> Holders of a bachelor's degree or persons who will have attained a bachelor's degree in the 2023/24 or 2024/25 academic year, and plan to join or change schools to take up teaching posts at secondary and primary schools as well as kindergartens</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ 3 December 2023 (Sunday)</li><li>➤ 6 April 2024 (Saturday)</li><li>➤ 20 July 2024 (Saturday)</li></ul>
Non-degree level	<u> Persons without a bachelor's degree and plan to join or change schools to take up teaching posts at secondary and primary schools as well as kindergartens</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ 28 October 2023 (Saturday)</li><li>➤ 16 June 2024 (Sunday)</li></ul>

4. Persons who possess a pass result in the BLNST issued by the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) or recruiting departments/grades will be deemed to have met the relevant requirement and will not be required to take the BLNST organised by the EDB again. For details of the BLNST conducted by the CSB, please visit the CSB webpage at <https://www.csb.gov.hk/english/recruit/cre/949.html>.

### Application for the first round of the BLNST (non-degree level)

5. The first round of the BLNST (non-degree level) is scheduled for 28 October 2023. Persons interested in taking the first round of the test may apply from 9:00 a.m., 8 September 2023 to 5:00 p.m., 21 September 2023 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 details and application arrangements of the other rounds of the BLNST will be announced through press release and EDB webpage in due course.



## Enquiries

6. 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

c.c. Supervisors and heads of other schools and heads of sections – for information