

EDUCATION BUREAU CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 190/2020

From : Permanent Secretary for Education To: Supervisors and Heads of All
Secondary Day Schools, Primary
Schools, Special Schools and
Kindergartens

Ref.: EDB(SDCT)2/ADM/125/1/5(2)

Date: 31 December 2020 c.c. Heads of Sections – for information

Anti-epidemic Fund (December 2020) “School Bus Service Providers Subsidy Scheme”

Summary

This circular memorandum informs schools of the details about the “School Bus Service Providers Subsidy Scheme” under Anti-epidemic Fund (December 2020) (“the Scheme”) and calls on schools which had submitted “Confirmation Form of School Bus Service” for their school bus operators in the “School Bus Service Providers Subsidy Scheme” under Anti-epidemic Fund 3.0 to confirm the latest situation of their provision of school bus services (only applicable to school bus services for local students) again. The Education Bureau (EDB) will issue “Confirmation Form of School Bus Service” to schools in a separate letter.

Details

2. In view of the COVID-19 epidemic development, all schools in Hong Kong had to suspend face-to-face classes and on-campus activities. School bus drivers, school private light bus drivers and escorts (commonly known as “nannies”) were thus required to stop working and their income was severely affected. To alleviate their financial difficulties due to the suspension of school bus service, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved an allocation of funding to the Anti-epidemic Fund on 21 December 2020 to provide a one-off relief grant to school bus drivers, school private light bus drivers and nannies. Each eligible driver will receive a one-off subsidy of \$10,000 and \$10,000 per vehicle will be provided for eligible nannies¹ (the subsidy of \$10,000 will be shared among nannies based on their proportion of service time if more than one nanny serve at

¹ Having considered the operational needs of cross-boundary school coaches (CBSC) services, a subsidy of \$20,000 per CBSC will be provided for eligible nannies who are Hong Kong residents, and the maximum amount of subsidy for each nanny is \$10,000. If more than two nannies serve at the same CBSC, eligible nannies of that vehicle can share a maximum of \$20,000 subsidy based on the proportion of their service time. The maximum amount of subsidy for each nanny is \$10,000.

the same vehicle).

Eligible Persons

3. The eligibility of applicants of the Scheme is the same as that of “School Bus Service Providers Subsidy Scheme” under Anti-epidemic Fund 3.0². However, the applicants are required to be still providing transport/ escort service for school bus operators as self-employed persons or employees when they submit this application. All applicants who have successfully applied for the “School Bus Service Providers Subsidy Scheme” under Anti-epidemic Fund 3.0 / have applied for it but still pending the vetting by the EDB only need to fill in a simplified application form for this application. The application forms have been uploaded to the website of the EDB: <http://www.edb.gov.hk> > School Administration and Management > Administration > About School > Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Schools > Application for Subsidy under the Anti-epidemic Fund. Applicants and operators can refer to the details and download the relevant documents from the website. For the details regarding the eligibility of applicants, application procedures and disbursement of subsidy, etc., please refer to the relevant notes to applicants. In addition, the Government has informed school bus operators in a separate letter so that they can notify eligible drivers and nannies to submit the application forms. Applicants are required to submit the completed application forms to their school bus operators for the operators to fill in Part (III) “Confirmation Form of School Bus Operator” of the application forms. The school bus operators should submit the completed application forms together with the attachments and copy of supporting document(s) (if updated) to the EDB by 1 February 2021. The application workflow of the Scheme is set out in Appendix 1.

4. For school bus drivers/ school private light bus drivers/ nannies who did not apply/ were rejected for the “School Bus Service Providers Subsidy Scheme” under Anti-epidemic Fund 3.0, or those who have successfully applied for the subsidy scheme under Anti-epidemic Fund 3.0 / have applied for it but still pending the vetting by the EDB and their school bus service situation has changed (e.g. providing school bus service for another school bus operator), they should contact the School Development Division/Central Team 2 (applicable to school bus services for local students) or North District School Development Section (applicable to CBSC services) for the relevant application procedures.

Schools’ Confirmation of School Bus Services (only applicable to school bus services for local students)

5. Schools, which had submitted “Confirmation Form of School Bus Service” for their school bus operators in the “School Bus Service Providers Subsidy Scheme” under Anti-epidemic Fund 3.0, will receive “Confirmation Form of School Bus Service” issued

² For the details of the eligibility of applicants, please refer to the Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 154/2020.

by the EDB via fax later. In order to allow the eligible drivers and nannies to obtain the subsidy swiftly to relieve their financial burden, the EDB calls on schools to complete and return the “Confirmation Form of School Bus Service” to the School Development Division/Central Team 2, the Education Bureau by 22 January 2021 via fax to facilitate the processing of applications and the disbursement of subsidy to eligible drivers and nannies.

6. In addition, for individual cases (for example, the school bus operator concerned has not required the school to sign “Confirmation Form of School Bus Service” in the subsidy scheme under Anti-epidemic Fund 3.0, etc.), we may require the school bus operator to directly obtain “Confirmation Form of School Bus Service” from the school to confirm its school bus service.

Enquiries

7. For enquiries, please contact the School Development Division/Central Team 2 (applicable to school bus services for local students) on 3509 8537 or North District School Development Section (applicable to CBSC services) on 2639 4879.

KK LEE
for Permanent Secretary for Education

**Application Workflow of
“School Bus Service Providers Subsidy Scheme”**

