

**Expression of Interest for a greenfield site
for the establishment of a Mainland curriculum school**

Note to respondents

Basic requirements

(1) Applicants who are interested in applying for the greenfield site are required to fulfill the following basic requirements –

- (a) The majority of the school places shall be allocated to non-local students (“local students” refer to those who are Hong Kong Permanent Residents (with the right of abode in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)) and do not have any valid passport other than the HKSAR Passport. Those students not meeting this definition are regarded as “non-local students”);
- (b) The school operator shall operate a Mainland curriculum, and undertake to put in place a quality assurance mechanism to ensure the quality of the Mainland curriculum to be offered. Curriculum which leads to local examination or mainly prepares for articulation to local schools in Hong Kong shall not be accepted;
- (c) The applicant (either the applicant itself or its affiliated organisation(s) / partner(s)) shall demonstrate proven experience and expertise in offering a Mainland curriculum at primary and/or secondary levels;
- (d) The school operator shall use the greenfield site for operation of a primary-cum-secondary Mainland curriculum school, and undertake to offer 12 years of primary and secondary education ultimately. The Government does not provide sites for the operation of pre-primary, child care centre, nursery or kindergarten. A restricted operation of pre-primary or kindergarten may be permitted provided that the applicants are able to demonstrate that it is part and parcel of the primary curriculum, and justify that the space and facilities for the primary and secondary school use would not be jeopardised. Approval for such operation will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The proposed school should not provide boarding facilities nor be deployed as a decanting premises;

- (e) Apart from an interest-free loan which may be provided by the Government upon application to the school operator allocated with the greenfield site, the Government will not provide any recurrent or capital financial assistance. The school operator shall operate on a self-financing basis with proof of sufficient financial support for necessary capital works. The loan, which is capped at 100% of the cost for constructing a standard-design public sector school accommodating the same number of students, is subject to approval from Legislative Council Finance Committee and would only be provided on an application basis;
- (f) The applicant should undertake to carry out all the necessary technical assessments and measures at its own cost in connection with the use of the greenfield site;
- (g) The applicant shall provide a support letter from the Department of Educational, Scientific and Technological Affairs of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region confirming that the applicant (either the applicant itself or its affiliated organisation(s) / partner(s)) has the experience and expertise in offering a Mainland curriculum at primary and/or secondary levels;
- (h) The school operator shall set aside a sum, which shall not be less than 10% of the annual total school fee income of the Mainland curriculum school, for providing scholarship and/or other financial assistance for deserving students;
- (i) Both the school to be operated at the greenfield site and its school sponsoring body are required to be exempted from tax under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Chapter 112 of the Laws of Hong Kong). The concerned school sponsoring body and school should also be incorporated under the prevailing Companies Ordinance (Chapter 32 or Chapter 622 with effect from 3 March 2014, as appropriate) or incorporated under other ordinances; and
- (j) The school operator shall make available buildings and facilities of the premises when required to the Government and to the community for educational, community or other activities, provided that this would not compromise the day-to-day operation of the proposed school and safety of students.

(2) Requirements applicable to the proposed school shall be enforced by a 10-year Service Agreement, to be renewable, between the Government and the school operator. The school operator allocated with the greenfield site shall submit an application to the Lands Department for the grant of the greenfield site by private treaty grant which similarly sets out the terms and conditions in relation to the use of the greenfield site. The private treaty grant will be co-terminus with the Service Agreement.

Completing the reply form

(3) Respondents should preferably be the school sponsoring bodies of the school to be operated at the greenfield site upon successful allocation.

(4) Respondents should respond to all parts on the reply form, except for part (10), under which the provision of additional information is optional. Only duly completed reply forms will be processed and incomplete reply forms will not be accepted.

(5) Responses to the reply form should be indicated by a tick (✓) in one of the boxes. No more than one tick should be placed in the same part unless otherwise stated. Please delete as appropriate when an asterisk (*) appears.

(6) Respondents should complete the reply form with due care and consideration. They should be prepared to explain any substantive differences between the information provided on the reply form and the detailed proposal to be submitted at the stage of the School Allocation Exercise.

(7) Respondents should make reference to the following notes when responding to questions indicated with a box Note X –

Note 1 : The school operator shall operate mainly a Mainland curriculum. If additional curriculum will be offered, please indicate under “others”. Respondents should be prepared to provide, at the stage of the School Allocation Exercise, sufficient information on the curriculum strategy, including the articulation pathways for their students, as well as documentary proof(s) that they are able to run the curriculum they pledged.

Note 2 : Respondent should specify in which school year the school is targeted to commence operation at the allocated site and the estimated number of places to be delivered on the first and third year of operation. Please provide an estimated number of places to be allocated to non-local students (as defined in (1)(a) above).

Note 3 : The measures in this part are to be implemented in addition to the requirement of allocating the majority of the school places to non-local students (as defined in (1)(a) above). Respondents may consider implementing more than one measure.

Note 4 : The proposed school will be a private school to be operated on a self-financing basis. Successful applicant is expected to fund all capital works, including carrying out necessary assessment, including but not limited to traffic impact assessment and environmental review, at its own cost in connection with the use of the greenfield site. No recurrent subsidy shall be provided by the Government. The site should not be mortgaged to other parties. The successful applicant will normally enjoy nominal rent for premises and exemption of rates. The successful applicant will also be required to provide documentary proof(s) of their financial position at the stage of the School Allocation Exercise.

Note 5 : Respondents shall provide a support letter from the Department of Educational, Scientific and Technological Affairs of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region confirming that the applicant (either the applicant itself or its affiliated organisation(s) / partner(s)) has the experience and expertise in offering a Mainland curriculum at primary and/or secondary levels. Respondents who fail to provide such letter together with the reply form will not be invited to submit a school proposal under the School Allocation Exercise.

Note 6 : Respondents will not be considered adversely if the requirement has not been met at this stage. However, when submitting detailed proposal at the stage of the School Allocation Exercise, applicants should provide documentary proof(s) showing that they have fulfilled the requirements or have applied with relevant government departments for acquiring the necessary status. The allocation of the greenfield site is conditional upon, amongst others, the presentation of documentary proof(s) of the tax exemption status. Successful applicant should confirm the status with this Bureau annually.

Note 7 : Respondents will not be considered adversely if the requirement has not been met at this stage. When submission of detailed proposal is called for at the stage of the School Allocation Exercise, applicants will be required to show that their Memorandum and Articles of Association (or Articles of Association) contain all standard clauses and articles required for allocation of a school site (in the case of incorporation under the Companies Ordinance) or their constitutions satisfying the Permanent Secretary for Education as being fit to be considered for the allocation of the school site. The standard clauses and articles are available at: <http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/sch-admin/sch-premises-info/allocation-of-sch/eligibility.html>. Applicants should provide documentary proof(s) showing that they have fulfilled the requirements or have applied with relevant government departments for acquiring the necessary status when submitting detailed proposal at the stage of the School Allocation Exercise. The allocation of the greenfield site is conditional upon, amongst others, the presentation of documentary proof(s) of the necessary status.

Note 8 : The contact person should be capable and available for responding to any follow-up enquiries or clarifications throughout the expression of interest exercise. If you wish to access or make correction to the personal data provided in this expression of interest exercise, please contact Miss Suki Cheuk, Executive Officer (Administration Support)³ at (852) 2892 6121.

(8) The completed reply form should be returned by email (at email address: irsd@edb.gov.hk) by **5:00 p.m. (Hong Kong Time) on 30 September 2021**, or by post (6/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong). For reply forms submitted by post, the date on the postmark should not be later than the deadline. Reply forms received after the deadline or incomplete forms will not be accepted.

School Allocation Exercise

- (9) Subject to response to this exercise and other relevant factors, a School Allocation Exercise may be launched in due course. In such event, respondents whose reply forms showing that they meet with the basic requirements during the stage of the expression of interest and have provided the necessary documentary proof(s) will be invited to submit detailed proposals in respect of the greenfield site under the School Allocation Exercise. Expression of interest through means other than the reply form will not be considered.
- (10) Detailed proposals will be considered by the School Allocation Committee which comprises government officials and non-officials. In assessing the applications, quality of education is the prime consideration. Normally the detailed proposals should cover information of the proposed school in the following aspects and supporting documentary proof(s) will be requested when submitting the proposals. Details will be announced at the stage of the School Allocation Exercise.
- (a) Vision and mission;
 - (b) Management and organisation;
 - (c) Learning and teaching;
 - (d) Student support;
 - (e) Student mix and admission policy;
 - (f) Financial plan and fee policy;
 - (g) Quality assurance; and
 - (h) Meeting the needs of the community.
- (11) Site visit(s) to the site may be arranged at the stage of the School Allocation Exercise.

Enquiries

- (12) Enquiries may be directed to Mr. Brian Mok at (852)3509 8391 or irsd@edb.gov.hk.

Education Bureau
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