

The Education Department (ED) will hold a briefing session on 19 November (Monday) to announce the details of the School Allocation Exercise 2002.

The briefing session will be held at 10:00 a.m. at Queen's College, 120 Causeway Road, Causeway Bay. ED would invite the organisations interested in applying for school premises and sites to attend the briefing session to explain to them in details the criteria and procedures for selection of applicant bodies.

At present, an applicant body becomes eligible for consideration for the allocation of school premises or school sites when it is:

- (1)(a) incorporated under the Companies Ordinance and that its memorandum and articles of association contains all the standard clauses and articles required for allocation of a school, or
- (b) it is incorporated under other ordinances and the Director of Education is satisfied, having regard to its constitution, that it is fit to be considered for allocation of a school; and
- (2) a charitable institution or trust of a public character exempted from tax under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance.

Allocation will be considered by an independent School Allocation Committee (SAC) comprising both officials from the ED and non-officials familiar with the Hong Kong education system.

Allocation of school premises and sites is on a competitive basis. The basic principle for allocation is to select sponsoring bodies with the best proposals to provide quality education for our children.

The selection will be based on an assessment of the applicant bodies' proposed school plans for the new schools, including its vision and mission of the new school, management and organization, teaching and learning, support for pupils, performance targets and indicators for self-evaluation.

Upon allocation of a school premises, the applicant body will be required to enter into an agreement with the Government. The agreement sets out the obligations and conditions by which both parties undertake to abide. These include the applicant body's undertaking:

- (1) to provide the educational services as proposed in the school plan;
- (2) to establish a School Management Committee (SMC) for operation of the school;
- (3) to cause the SMC to enter into a Service Agreement with Government;
- (4) to ensure that the SMC will operate the school to the expected standard as set out in the school plan;
- (5) (a) to consider opening up the school's buildings and facilities to the community for use outside school hours upon request. A reasonable charge may be levied by making reference to the schedule of charges as announced in the latest circular issued by the Education Department. (applicable to private independent schools), or
(b) to open up the school's buildings and facilities to the community for use outside school hours upon request. Charges may be levied in accordance with the schedule of charges as announced in the latest circular issued by the Education Department (applicable to aided and DSS schools).

Application forms for this round of school allocation exercise can be obtained from the office of Building Section of the ED (14/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai) and downloaded from the homepage of Education Department (<http://www.ed.gov.hk/school/allocation>) from 19 November 2001 onwards.

Applicant bodies are required to submit their application together with a detailed school plan and detailed information on their eligibility by 15 February 2002 to the Building Section.

Enquiries relating to applications may be directed to the Secretary of the SAC at 2892 6391.

End/Wednesday, November 14, 2001