

## EDUCATION BUREAU CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 163/2010

From: Permanent Secretary for Education      To: Heads of Government and Aided Primary,  
Secondary and Special Schools (including  
Ref: EDB(QA/Ind)/PI/1/3(9)                              the Caput and the Direct Subsidy Scheme  
Schools)  
Date: 30 September 2010                              c.c. Heads of Divisions/Sections  
for information

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### **The Assessment Program for Affective and Social Outcomes (2<sup>nd</sup> Version)**

#### **Summary**

This circular memorandum announces the arrangements of the release of the Assessment Program for Affective and Social Outcomes (2<sup>nd</sup> Version) (APASO-II). School personnel are also invited to attend the workshops on ‘Application of the Assessment Program for Affective and Social Outcomes (2<sup>nd</sup> Version)’ to be organised from November 2010.

#### **Background**

2. To provide support for schools’ self-evaluation, EDB launched the Assessment Program for Affective and Social Outcomes (APASO) in 2003. This facilitates schools to measure their students’ performance in the social and affective domains so that they can identify students’ needs in their whole person development and examine the effectiveness of the related measures implemented in schools. Since its implementation, APASO has been widely adopted by schools. In 2008, EDB commissioned the Hong Kong Institute of Education to conduct a comprehensive review on the APASO. The research team has made reference to the education aims in Hong Kong and the latest education developments in its review, conducting scale validation and updating of the norm data.

#### **Details**

3. EDB has completed the revision of the APASO and is set to launch the APASO-II for schools in this school year. The APASO-II encompasses a wider range of items in the social and affective domains with some enhancement on certain assessment items such as motivation, independent learning capacity and values. It facilitates schools to evaluate students’ affective and social outcomes in accordance with their major concerns and devise follow-up and improvement measures.

4. The APASO-II has been incorporated in the E-platform for School Development and Accountability (ESDA) to facilitate schools to make arrangements for related assessments and the analysis of the results as well as alleviating the workload of teachers.

5. Schools can now update their ESDA to obtain the scales, the Users' Manual and the norm data of the APASO-II. The System Installation Packages and the Installation Guidelines are available on the EDB website (<http://esda.edb.gov.hk>). Details of the APASO-II can be found in the Users' Manual and the latest information is also available on the EDB website (<http://apaso.edb.gov.hk>).

6. To familiarise school personnel with the application of the APASO-II and to enhance their skills on data analysis, EDB will organise a number of identical workshops on 'Application of the Assessment Program for Affective and Social Outcomes (2<sup>nd</sup> Version)' from November 2010. Details of the workshops will be announced on the training calendar on the EDB website in mid October.

#### **Enquiry**

7. Enquiries concerning the content of this circular memorandum can be directed to the Indicators Section, Quality Assurance Division, at 2892 6507.

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for Permanent Secretary for Education