

Existing and planned measures on the promotion of racial equality

Education Bureau

The Government is committed to encouraging and supporting the integration of non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students¹ into the community, including facilitating their early adaptation to the local education system and mastery of the Chinese language. All eligible children, irrespective of their races or places of birth, enjoy equal opportunities for admission to Primary One and Secondary One of public sector schools under the respective school places allocation systems which are fair and transparent with due regard to parents' school choices. The Education Bureau (EDB) has been providing NCS students with all-encompassing learning support through diverse strategies to help them master the Chinese language and integrate into the community. The policy intent is to encourage parents of NCS students to arrange for their children to study in schools with an immersed Chinese language environment as early as possible to facilitate their mastery of the Chinese language. Major support measures are as follows:

The “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework”

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| Services
Concerned | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• With regard to learning Chinese in class, the “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework” (“Learning Framework”), which was complemented by learning and teaching materials, has been implemented in primary and secondary schools since the 2014/15 school year to help NCS students learn Chinese. |
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Existing Measures	<i>The Learning Framework</i>
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- The Learning Framework has provided steps and methods for learning and teaching, and assessment according to the needs of NCS students of learning Chinese as a second language. With reference to the Learning Framework, teachers can set learning targets, learning progress and expected learning outcomes on reading, writing, listening and speaking, as well as adapt and develop teaching materials at the school-based level for NCS students with different starting points and abilities, so as to help them learn Chinese progressively.

¹ For the planning of educational support measures, students whose spoken language at home is not Chinese are broadly categorised as NCS students. The Education Bureau collects student information, including their spoken language at home and ethnicity, etc., from schools every school year for education-related purposes.

- To provide teachers with guidance and support in curriculum planning, learning and teaching, and assessment, EDB has continually been developing diversified learning and teaching resources, such as the “Chinese Language Assessment Tools for NCS Students” and teaching reference materials. All these resources have been uploaded to the EDB webpage and will be updated on an ongoing basis. Among others, EDB has developed a set of learning and teaching materials, including student textbooks, workbooks and teaching reference materials, for NCS students at the primary level. The materials have been uploaded to the EDB webpage and distributed to schools. Schools may adapt these materials with reference to their curriculum to cater for the diverse learning needs of NCS students. In addition, EDB has designed Online Chinese Language Self-learning Resources for NCS students to provide diversified learning materials so as to help them extend learning beyond the classroom and consolidate their learning.

Funding Support for Schools

- EDB has been providing additional funding for public sector schools (including special schools) and Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools offering the local curriculum and admitting NCS students, with a view to enhancing the support for NCS students in learning Chinese as well as creating an inclusive learning environment in schools. All NCS students studying the local curriculum in public sector and DSS primary and secondary schools are benefitted.

Professional Development for Teachers

- All Chinese Language teachers teaching NCS students are provided with training opportunities. To enhance teachers’ professional capability of teaching NCS students, EDB continues to organise structured and diversified modes of teacher professional development programmes, as well as arranging teacher professional experience sharing, to enhance the professional capability of Chinese Language teachers in teaching NCS students.

- EDB supports the Education University of Hong Kong to continue offering the programme “Certificate in Professional Development Programme on the Teaching of Chinese Language for NCS Students” (5 weeks) for in-service Chinese Language teachers teaching NCS students in primary and secondary schools. The programme aims to enhance their effectiveness of teaching NCS students Chinese.
- Schools are invited to share their good practices and school-based experiences in supporting NCS students’ learning of Chinese and promoting cultural integration, with a view to facilitating professional exchange among schools. Besides, annual sharing sessions for schools are organised in collaboration with the Equal Opportunities Commission to explain how the Race Discrimination Ordinance, Cap. 602 of the Laws of Hong Kong, is relevant to schools in formulating policies, and encourage schools to promote cultural inclusiveness.

School-based Support Services

- EDB provides diversified school-based support services which include helping schools adapt their school curriculum and develop appropriate learning and teaching materials by making reference to the Learning Framework. Through providing on-site support, building professional learning communities and facilitating experience sharing among schools, teachers’ professional capacity for helping NCS students learn Chinese effectively is enhanced. Every school year, schools may apply for the relevant support services according to their development needs.

Assessment of Future Work

- EDB reviews and evaluates the effectiveness of related support measures on an ongoing basis, and refines the measures as necessary. We will look into the learning objectives, curriculum planning, instructional materials and teaching strategies adopted by the schools, language proficiency and learning motivation of NCS students and other contributing factors for effective learning.

Additional Measures Taken/To Be Taken

- EDB will continue collecting views from stakeholders and consider refinement of the support measures as appropriate.

Articulation to Multiple Pathways

Services Concerned

- NCS students may, taking into account their needs and aspirations, choose to study Chinese Language, or Applied Learning Chinese (for NCS students) (ApL(C)) in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE), and/or obtain internationally recognised alternative Chinese Language qualifications at the senior secondary level to prepare for further studies and career pursuits.

Existing Measures

ApL(C)

- Starting from the 2014/15 school year, the introduction of ApL(C) pegged at the Qualifications Framework Levels 1 to 3 provides NCS students meeting specified circumstances² at the senior secondary level with an additional channel to obtain an alternative Chinese language qualification to prepare them for further studies and career pursuits. ApL(C) results are reported as “Attained” and “Attained with Distinction” on the HKDSE certificate.

Alternative Chinese Language Qualifications

- Alternative Chinese Language qualifications include those under the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE), International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Subsidiary (AS)-Level and Advanced (A)-Level. Eligible NCS students² entering for these examinations are only required to pay a “subsidised examination fee” on par with that of the HKDSE Chinese Language. Eligible needy NCS students can also apply for full or half fee remission of the “subsidised examination fee” under the Examination Fee Remission Scheme.

² Specifically, these NCS students are those who have learnt Chinese Language for either –
(a) less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education; or
(b) six years or more in schools, but have been taught an adapted and simpler Chinese Language curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in local schools.

Others

- Post-secondary institutions/training organisations have been invited to organise vocational Chinese Language courses pegged at Level 1 or 2 of the Qualifications Framework for NCS school leavers. Students meeting the relevant requirements can receive a subsidy of up to 85% of the tuition fee.
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| Assessment of Future Work | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The alternative Chinese Language qualifications and ApL(C) are recognised for meeting the general entrance requirements for admission to University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded universities and most post-secondary institutions as well as appointments to the Civil Service. |
| Additional Measures Taken/To Be Taken | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For eligible NCS students taking the HKDSE Chinese Language but not reaching Level 3 or above, the UGC-funded universities may exercise their discretion on the Chinese Language requirement and consider their applications for admission on a case-by-case basis. |

Other Support Measures

Summer Bridging Programme

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| Services Concerned | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Summer Bridging Programme aims to facilitate NCS students progressing to Primary 1 to adapt to the use of Chinese in classroom learning and to help NCS students progressing to Primary 2 to 6 consolidate what they have learnt in the school year and prepare them for Chinese learning in the following school year. |
| Existing Measures | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Summer Bridging Programme is organised for NCS students progressing to Primary 1 to 6. The parents and guardians of the participating NCS students are also invited to join the Programme for more effective learning of Chinese through parental support and home-school co-operation. In addition, EDB has compiled a leaflet on “Challenges of Learning Chinese for NCS Students Progressing to Secondary Schools” to facilitate Primary 6 NCS students to adapt to the learning of Chinese in secondary schools. |
| Assessment of Future work | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of the implementation situation and effectiveness of the Summer Bridging Programme is conducted on an annual basis. |

Additional Measures Taken/To Be Taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDB will continue to collect views from stakeholders and consider refinement of the Programme as appropriate.
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After-school Chinese Language Courses

Services Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase NCS students' exposure to and enrich their learning experiences in Chinese Language beyond classroom learning through systematic after-school Chinese Language courses.
Existing Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting from the 2023/24 school year, EDB implements a pilot scheme to encourage schools to organise after-school Chinese Language courses for primary NCS students using the adapted learning materials of the "Youth Chinese Test". Parents of participating NCS students are welcome to take part in the courses together with their children to enhance their use of Chinese in daily life. The scheme has also provided training courses for teachers of the participating schools to enhance their professional capability of supporting NCS students' Chinese learning.
Assessment of Future work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the implementation situation and effectiveness of the After-school Chinese Language Courses is conducted on an ongoing basis.
Additional Measures Taken/To Be Taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDB will continue to collect views from stakeholders and consider refinement of the scheme as appropriate.

Grant for Supporting NCS Students with Special Educational Needs

Services Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting from the 2019/20 school year, EDB provides a recurrent cash grant known as the Grant for Supporting NCS Students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) (the NCS-SEN Grant) for public sector ordinary schools and DSS schools admitting NCS students with SEN to help schools strengthen the emotional, communication and social support for these students, helping them adapt to different learning stages and integrate into school life.
Existing Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NCS-SEN Grant is disbursed under a 3-tier structure according to the number of NCS students with SEN admitted in each school and the grant rates are adjusted annually according to the change in the Composite

Consumer Price Index.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools can pool the NCS-SEN Grant and other additional resources, such as the Learning Support Grant, for holistic and flexible deployment to employ teaching assistants to assist teachers in designing activities and teaching materials, procure translation services to enhance the communication and collaboration with parents of NCS students, provide the students concerned with social and emotional management training, etc.
Assessment of Future Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The professional staff of EDB conduct regular visits to schools to get a grasp of their utilisation of the additional resources for providing appropriate support and offer advice to schools on effective deployment of resources to help the students concerned adapt to and make smooth transition through different learning stages.
Additional Measures Taken/To Be Taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EDB will continue to promote professional exchanges and sharing among schools in the utilisation of the NCS-SEN Grant.

Providing Life Planning Education Activities for NCS Students at the Secondary Level

Services Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To facilitate NCS students at the secondary level in understanding their career orientation, and learning about different study pathways and jobs through career exploration activities and work experience opportunities.
Existing Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Starting from the 2018/19 school year, EDB has commissioned a non-governmental organisation to organise career exploration activities for NCS students at the secondary level, including visits to post-secondary institutions, workplace visits, work experience programmes, etc., to help them make informed choices on further studies and careers, set personal goals and plan their future. The programme has also provided training courses for teachers and parents of NCS students of the participating schools to enhance their capability of supporting NCS students in life planning education.
Assessment of Future Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EDB adopts various means to evaluate and monitor the effectiveness and progress of the programme, such as conducting regular visits to the participating schools to learn about the implementation of the activities and listen to

the views and needs of teachers and students, as well as conducting review meetings with the service provider and requesting the submission of reports by the service provider.

Additional
Measures
Taken/To
Be Taken

- EDB will refine the programme with reference to the review findings.

Promotion of Early Adaptation

Services
Concerned

- Parents of NCS children are encouraged to send their children to local kindergartens³ for early exposure to an immersed Chinese language environment conducive to NCS children's language learning and their smooth transition to mainstream primary schools.

Existing
Measures

Kindergarten

- School-based support services are provided to support kindergartens in enhancing teachers' professional capacity for teaching Chinese to NCS children and facilitate their smooth transition from kindergarten to primary education. Teacher training programmes on the learning and teaching of the Chinese language for NCS students in kindergartens will also be enhanced. Seminars/workshops on young children development and catering for learner diversity are organised to enhance teachers' professional capacity.

Others

- In collaboration with non-governmental organisations, district-based programmes have been conducted for motivating NCS children to learn Chinese through activities.
- As regards kindergarten admission, dedicated briefing sessions in English (with interpretation services in languages of diverse races provided as necessary) for parents of NCS children are organised. EDB has also produced a PowerPoint with English narration on "K1 admission arrangements", with relevant content translated into languages of diverse races to facilitate NCS parents' understanding about the implementation details and points to note under K1 admission arrangements. The above-

³ "Kindergartens" refer to kindergartens, kindergarten-cum-child care centres and schools with kindergarten classes.

mentioned PowerPoint has been uploaded onto EDB webpage for reference of parents of NCS children. In the meantime, we also organise briefing sessions in collaboration with the Support Services Centres for Ethnic Minority funded by the Home Affairs Department, with a view to better reaching out to parents of NCS children, so as to enhance their understanding of admission procedures of kindergartens, and also encourage them to arrange for their children to study in local kindergartens for early exposure to an immersed Chinese language environment.

Assessment of Future Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDB will continue to conduct curriculum development visits and focus group interviews to collect information and good practices on catering for learner diversity, particularly on NCS children's learning of Chinese, for sharing with schools.
Additional Measures Taken/To Be Taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As from the 2017/18 school year, EDB provided kindergartens joining the Kindergarten Education Scheme (Scheme-KGs) and admitting 8 or more NCS students with an additional grant comparable to the mid-point salary of the salary range for one kindergarten teacher to facilitate kindergartens' support for NCS students. Starting from the 2019/20 school year, EDB has further enhanced the measure by providing a 5-tiered grant. A kindergarten admitting one NCS student also receives the grant, and the grant rate for the highest tier is a double of the previous level. At the same time, EDB has strengthened professional development for kindergarten teachers on support for NCS students.

Information for NCS Students and Their Parents

Services Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objective of the services is to help NCS students and their parents understand the local education system in Hong Kong, major education policies and the related education services, and facilitate parents of NCS students in making informed school choices.
Existing Measures	<p><i>Widening the School Choices of Parents of NCS Students</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDB has been actively encouraging parents of NCS students to arrange for their children to study in schools which provide an immersed Chinese language environment. This is conducive to their children's learning of Chinese as well as integration into the community. With the implementation of a series of enhanced measures for supporting NCS students since the 2014/15 school year, the

number of public sector and DSS schools offering the local curriculum and admitting NCS students has gradually increased from about 590 in the 2013/14 school year to about 710 in the 2024/25 school year, which covers about 75% of the schools in total. This shows that the support measures have widened the school choices of parents of NCS students.

Dissemination of Information

- All relevant information, including, among others, arrangements for admission to Primary 1 and Secondary 1, and Household Application for Student Financial Assistance Schemes, published in Chinese and English with translation into languages of diverse races is provided to NCS students and their parents.
- Dedicated briefing sessions with simultaneous interpretation services for parents of NCS students are organised to introduce the education support measures for NCS students and the arrangements for admission to Primary 1 and Secondary 1 of public sector schools. Contents of the briefing sessions have been uploaded to the EDB webpage.
- The Committee on Home-School Co-operation (CHSC) publishes the English printed version of the School Profiles for distribution to parents of NCS students studying at the K3 and Primary 6 levels via kindergartens and primary schools. A separate column on “Education Support for NCS Students” is available on the School Profiles for schools to provide information on their support for NCS students. Public sector and DSS primary and secondary schools provided with the additional funding for supporting NCS students are required to specify the schools’ support measures. The Chinese and English online versions of the School Profiles are uploaded to the CHSC website.

Other Measures to Facilitate Communication

- A dedicated webpage (<https://www.edb.gov.hk/ncs>) has been set up to facilitate the understanding of NCS students and their parents about the relevant education services and information.

- For daily enquiries, hotline service has been put in place and simultaneous interpretation services, by means of telephone conferencing among the enquirer, EDB and Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents, the Support Services Centre for NCS population funded by the Government, are offered.

Admission to Kindergartens

- While student admission in kindergartens continues to be school-based, kindergartens have been reminded that the application forms and relevant information must be provided in both Chinese and English. In this regard, EDB has provided bilingual templates of relevant documents to kindergartens for reference.
- EDB has issued circular memoranda reminding schools to create an icon, a simple message in English or to provide a link to the English version of the websites on the home page of the school websites prominently, to facilitate parents in obtaining the English version of the information instantly when browsing the home page of the school websites. Furthermore, we require kindergartens to provide on the school websites the links to the English version of the EDB webpage on K1 Admission Arrangements in kindergartens and the webpage indicating the school information in the Profile of Kindergartens and Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centres prominently to facilitate parents of NCS children in browsing relevant information. EDB has also reminded kindergartens to state explicitly on the school websites that during interviews with NCS children, interpretation and/or translation services should be arranged for applicants where necessary. Kindergartens may also allow parents and children to be accompanied by a Chinese-speaking relative/friend during the interview to facilitate communication. Kindergartens should provide on the school websites the information on the school's support for NCS children, enquiry telephone number and email address for parents of NCS children.

- The Profile of Kindergartens and Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centres has been published in both Chinese and English annually to provide information on every kindergarten for parents' reference when making school choices. A column "Support to NCS Students" is also included for kindergartens to set out the support provided to their NCS students.
- EDB has set up a hotline (telephone number: 2892 6676) for parents of NCS children to facilitate their enquiries about admission to kindergartens.
- A set of communication cue cards with audio files in languages of diverse races has been provided for kindergartens to express care and concern for parents of NCS children in their daily contact in order to create a more inclusive school environment.
- Relevant publicity materials, such as leaflets, posters, application form and guidance notes on "Application for Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission", as well as the subtitles of publicity announcements, have been translated into languages of diverse races for reference of parents of NCS children.
- Briefing session on admission to kindergartens was organised for non-governmental organisations serving the communities of diverse races, with a view to leveraging their networks to disseminate information to parents of NCS children. The Equal Opportunities Commission has been invited to brief kindergartens on equal opportunities for student admission.
- Should individual NCS children encounter difficulties in applying for admission, EDB will make referrals as appropriate to Scheme-KGs which still have vacancies.
- Templates of kindergartens' commonly used circulars for parents have been translated into English and languages of diverse races and uploaded onto the EDB webpage to support kindergartens in enhancing their communication with parents of NCS children.

Assessment of Future Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDB will continue optimising the dedicated webpage. Relevant information leaflets will also be updated as and when necessary. Besides, EDB encourages schools to continue enriching the contents of the Chinese and English versions of the School Profiles and their school webpages to provide more information on their school-based support measures for NCS students for reference of parents of NCS students.
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Additional Measures Taken/To Be Taken	<p><i>Strengthening Parent Education</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting from the 2020/21 school year, EDB has commissioned non-governmental organisations and a post-secondary institution to provide diversified parent education programmes for parents of NCS students, including talks, workshops, exhibitions, community explorations and visits, etc. so as to help the parents of NCS students support their children’s learning, encourage their children to master the Chinese language, and help them have a more comprehensive understanding of the multiple pathways available to their children. In addition, EDB has launched the “Parent Education Resource Booklet for Parents of Non-Chinese Speaking Students”, which has been translated into languages of diverse races, to assist parents of NCS students to support their children’s learning and whole-person development.
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Facilitating Communication

- To assist Scheme-KGs in enhancing their school websites and ensure both Chinese and English school information is provided for parents’ reference, EDB has provided a one-off Website Enhancement Grant to Scheme-KGs in the 2020/21 school year. All Scheme-KGs should provide basic school information in both Chinese and English, including an introduction to the school, information on admission arrangements, school fees, the school’s support for NCS children, enquiry telephone number and email address for parents of NCS children on the school website, etc. To support schools’ enhancement of their websites, EDB has provided schools with a grant of \$10,000. For schools that provide all information on their websites in both Chinese and English, a grant of \$20,000 has been provided.

Enquiries

For enquiries concerning the existing and planned measures on the promotion of racial equality, please contact the Non-Chinese Speaking Student Support and Education Commission Section via the following channels -

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