

**EDUCATION BUREAU**  
**CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 79/2025**

From : Permanent Secretary for Education      To : Supervisors/Heads of government and  
Ref. : EDB 1148-2010-8030-9035-00011-      aided primary schools (including special  
P001      schools) and primary schools under the  
Direct Subsidy Scheme

Date : 12 May 2025

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**Summer Bridging Programme  
for Non-Chinese Speaking Students**

**Summary**

This circular memorandum aims to inform public sector primary schools (including special schools) and primary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) of the details about the Summer Bridging Programme for Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) Students<sup>1</sup> (the Programme), and invites schools to apply for subvention to operate the Programme during the summer holidays of 2025.

**Background**

2. The Programme aims to facilitate Primary 1 NCS entrants who are about to be admitted to public sector or DSS primary schools to adapt to the use of Chinese in classroom learning and help NCS students progressing to higher levels of a primary school consolidate what they have learnt in the school year and prepare them for Chinese learning in the following school year. To strengthen the support for NCS students, the Programme has undergone further expansion since 2013, which engages parents of participating NCS students for more effective learning of Chinese through parental support and home-school co-operation. Besides, from 2023 onwards, the Education Bureau (EDB) has further extended the target participants of the Programme to cover NCS students progressing to Primary 5 and Primary 6, in addition to NCS students progressing to Primary 2 to Primary 4, with a view to providing more comprehensive and continuous Chinese learning support for NCS students.

**Details**

**Target Participants**

3. Primary 1 NCS entrants admitted to public sector primary schools (including special schools) and DSS primary schools in September each year, as well as NCS students progressing to Primary 2 to Primary 6 in these schools are eligible for the Programme. Parents and guardians of the participating NCS students are also invited to join the Programme.

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<sup>1</sup> For the planning of educational support measures, students whose spoken language at home is not Chinese are broadly categorised as NCS students.

## Duration and Class Arrangement

4. Participating schools **must** make the following arrangements:

- (i) offer the Programme free of charge during the summer holidays and the duration of each class should be no less than 60 hours. To ensure that the duration of each class is no less than 60 hours, schools are required to set a fallback date for arranging make-up classes when necessary (such as under inclement weather conditions which lead to class suspension);
- (ii) the average class size for ordinary schools is about 15 students, and there should be a minimum of 10 NCS students from the host school/and other school(s). For special schools, the minimum number is 5 NCS students; and
- (iii) invite parents and guardians of NCS students (a maximum number of two parents or guardians per student) to accompany the students in class and/or participate in learning activities in order to promote home-school co-operation.

5. Participating schools may, having regard to students' learning needs, exercise professional judgement in designing the programme content and arranging various learning activities (e.g. Chinese Language lessons, cultural activities, reading clubs, recitations, dramas, language games, campus tours and visits to public libraries and other community facilities). The programme content and modes of operation may also be adapted to cater for students with special educational needs.

6. EDB will render assistance, where necessary, to participating schools should they wish to enrol their NCS students and parents or guardians in the Programme operated by other schools. If the situation of individual schools warrants special consideration, discretion will be exercised by EDB in respect of the minimum number of NCS students required for the Programme.

7. Primary 1 NCS entrants in public sector primary schools in the 2025/26 school year under the Primary One Admission (POA) System<sup>2</sup> may opt to send their applications to EDB direct. We will enrol them in the Programme operated by other participating schools if it is not offered by their allocated schools.

8. To encourage NCS students to continue their Chinese learning during the summer holidays, participating schools may implement a Commendation Scheme and present a Certificate of Participation or Certificate of Merit/Commendation to participating NCS students and their parents or guardians (if applicable) by the end of the Programme, aiming at encouraging the NCS students/parents or guardians' active participation in the Programme or appreciating/commending the NCS students with outstanding performance in classroom learning. The Commendation Scheme would help encourage NCS students to make good use of the summer holidays each year to learn Chinese and parents of NCS students to accompany their children in the Programme for more effective learning of Chinese.

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<sup>2</sup> A leaflet is attached to the POA Registration Form to encourage Primary 1 NCS entrants in public sector primary schools to enrol in the Programme.

## Programme Subvention

9. The subvention will be disbursed to schools according to the number of classes approved by EDB, which takes into account the number and grouping of student participants. The subvention rate for 2025 is \$26,360 per class. Schools should validate the balance of the subvention at the end of the Programme. Any unspent balance of the subvention as at 31 August 2025 will be clawed back by EDB based on the audited accounts submitted by schools. The unspent balance cannot be carried forward for use in the next school year. Transfer of the subvention and/or its unspent balance to any other accounts is not allowed. Schools are required to observe the relevant “[Administrative Guide](#)” issued by EDB when using the subvention, otherwise, they will be required to return all the disbursed amount to EDB.

10. To collect schools’ feedback on the Programme and evaluate its overall effectiveness, EDB will conduct supervisory visits to schools and collect stakeholders’ feedback in the form of a questionnaire upon completion of the Programme. Schools are required to complete the questionnaire and submit it together with the programme content to EDB on or before 30 September 2025. Schools will be informed separately in writing of the relevant arrangements. Furthermore, according to the “enhanced School Development and Accountability framework”, participating schools should conduct evaluation of the Programme, and set out the implementation details (including class arrangement and the number of participating NCS students and their parents), the findings of the evaluation, the effectiveness of the Programme in improving NCS students’ learning of Chinese, etc. in their school reports, which should be uploaded to their school webpages on or before 30 November 2025.

## Application Procedures

11. Schools interested in applying for the subvention to operate the Programme should complete [Appendix 1](#) and [Appendix 2](#) and return them to EDB before the deadlines tabulated below:

Submission deadlines	Documents	
On or before 16 June 2025 (Note)	<a href="#">Appendix 1</a>	Application for Summer Bridging Programme for NCS Students 2025
On or before 25 June 2025	<a href="#">Appendix 2</a>	Confirmation of the number of participants in Summer Bridging Programme for NCS Students 2025
	<a href="#">Enclosure to Appendix 2</a>	List of students attending Summer Bridging Programme for NCS Students 2025



Note: If no notification regarding the application is received from EDB by 20 June 2025, please contact the Non-Chinese Speaking Student Support and Education Commission Section (Section 1) for follow-up.

12. EDB will disburse the subvention to participating schools upon receipt of the schools’ confirmation of the number and list of NCS students attending the Programme.

## **Facilitating Primary 6 NCS Students' Smooth Transition to the Learning of Chinese in Secondary Schools**

13. To facilitate Primary 6 NCS students to adapt to the learning of Chinese in secondary schools, EDB has compiled a leaflet on “Challenges of Learning Chinese for NCS Students Progressing to Secondary Schools”. The content of the leaflet provides the available online Chinese self-learning resources for NCS students as well as information for parents of NCS students to support their children in Chinese learning. Schools are required to distribute the above leaflet through electronic means or printouts to all Primary 6 NCS students and their parents before the release of the central allocation results of Secondary School Places Allocation.

14. The details of the “Summer Bridging Programme for NCS Students” are available on EDB’s webpage on “[Summer Bridging Programme for NCS Students](http://www.edb.gov.hk)” ([www.edb.gov.hk](http://www.edb.gov.hk) > Students and Parents Related > NCS Students > Support for Schools > Summer Bridging Programme for NCS Students):

“Administrative Guide”	
Leaflet on “Challenges of Learning Chinese for NCS Students Progressing to Secondary Schools”	

### **Enquiries**

15. For enquiries, please contact the Non-Chinese Speaking Student Support and Education Commission Section (Section 1) at 3509 8565 or 3509 7586.

(Cliff HUI)  
for Permanent Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections – for information

To: Non-Chinese Speaking Student Support and Education Commission Section (Section 1)  
 Education Commission and Planning Division, Education Bureau  
 (Email address: [nssec1@edb.gov.hk](mailto:nssec1@edb.gov.hk); Fax number: 2179 5492;  
 Address: 7/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong)

**Application for Summer Bridging Programme  
 for Non-Chinese Speaking Students 2025**

*(Please complete and return by email, by fax or by post on or before 16 June 2025)*

Our school would like to apply for participation in the Summer Bridging Programme for Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) Students (the Programme) during the summer holidays of 2025. We hereby undertake to observe the terms set out in the “Administrative Guide” in delivering the Programme. We will conduct evaluation of the Programme upon its completion and relay the findings in our school report, which will be uploaded to our school webpage on or before 30 November 2025.

We understand that we should contact the Non-Chinese Speaking Student Support and Education Commission Section (Section 1) for follow-up if no notification regarding the application is received from the Education Bureau (EDB) by 20 June 2025. Our proposal for operation of the Programme is provided below:

*(Please put a “✓” in the appropriate boxes)*

1. Our school plans to operate the Programme for Primary 1 NCS entrants, and NCS students progressing to Primary 2 to Primary 6:  
☐ on our own  
☐ in collaboration with other school(s) by pooling participants (please skip to item 3)
2. Our school plans to operate the Programme by (may choose more than one option):  
☐ hiring outside service(s) (e.g. collaborating with non-governmental organisation(s))  
☐ employing staff
3. Our school plans to schedule the Programme as follows, and the Programme will be conducted for the teaching of Chinese Language only:

Last school day of the current school year (2024/25 school year)	_____ (Date) _____ (Month) 2025
Programme Date	_____ (Date) _____ (Month) to _____ (Date) _____ (Month) 2025
Set fallback date	_____ (Date) _____ (Month) 2025

Signature of Supervisor : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Supervisor : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of School : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Treasury School Code (4 digits) : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Teacher-in-charge : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email of Teacher-in-charge : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Number of Teacher-in-charge : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date : \_\_\_\_\_

School  
Chop

To: Non-Chinese Speaking Student Support and Education Commission Section (Section 1)  
 Education Commission and Planning Division, Education Bureau  
 (Email address: [nssec1@edb.gov.hk](mailto:nssec1@edb.gov.hk); Fax number: 2179 5492;  
 Address: 7/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong)

**Confirmation of the number of participants in  
 Summer Bridging Programme for Non-Chinese Speaking Students 2025**

(Please complete and return together with the Enclosure by email, by fax or by post on or before 25 June 2025)

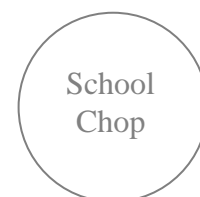
I hereby confirm the number of non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students attending the Summer Bridging Programme for NCS Students (the Programme) in the table below and have submitted via CloudSAMS accurate information of all NCS students progressing to Primary 2 to Primary 6 from our school. Please find the list of students in the Enclosure.

Grade level	Number of NCS students from our school (a)	Number of NCS students from other school(s) (if applicable) (b)	Total number of NCS students of the grade level (a)+(b)=(c)
Primary 1 entrants			
Progressing to Primary 2			
Progressing to Primary 3			
Progressing to Primary 4			
Progressing to Primary 5			
Progressing to Primary 6			
Total			

Parent participation in the Programme is arranged as follows (*please put a “✓” in the appropriate box*):

- ☐ Our school will arrange for parents to accompany their children in class and/or other learning activities. There will be \_\_\_\_ parents from our school and \_\_\_\_ parents from other school(s).
- ☐ Our school has yet to arrange for parents of NCS students to join the Programme.

Signature of Supervisor/School Head\* : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Supervisor/School Head\* : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of School : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date : \_\_\_\_\_



\* Please delete as appropriate

Total number of pages (including Appendix 2 and the Enclosure): \_\_\_\_\_

**List of students from our school attending  
Summer Bridging Programme for NCS Students 2025**

*(Please make copies of this page if the space provided in the table below is insufficient)*

Name of school: \_\_\_\_\_

No.	Name of NCS student	Grade level (P1 entrants, progressing to P2 to P6)
<i>1</i>	<i>JOHN SINGH</i> (example)	<i>Progressing to P2</i>
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

Total number of students from our school attending the Summer Bridging Programme  
for NCS Students: \_\_\_\_\_

Page \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_