

Education Services in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Education Bureau
(December 2024)

Right to Basic Education

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region provides twelve-year free primary and secondary education (i.e. 6-year primary education, 3-year junior secondary education and 3-year senior secondary education) for eligible children. Under the existing legislation, it is compulsory for children aged between 6 and 15 to attend school. They may enrol in public sector mainstream or special schools, Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS), private or international schools. On completion of junior secondary education, students may proceed to Secondary 4 or undertake other training programmes.

Education System

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| Kindergarten Education | • Children normally start kindergarten education at the age of 3. Children who reach the age of 2 years and 8 months by 1 September may enrol in kindergartens accordingly. Eligible children aged 5 years and 8 months as at 1 September will proceed to primary schools through the Primary One Admission System. |
| Primary Education | • Children normally start their 6-year primary education at the age of 6. On completion of primary education, students will proceed to secondary schools through the Secondary School Places Allocation System. |
| Secondary Education | • Children normally start secondary education around the age of 12. On completion of study at Secondary 6, students can register for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE), and then apply for admission to local universities or post-secondary institutions. |
| Post-secondary Education | • A number of universities and post-secondary institutions are established in Hong Kong, offering full-time and part-time programmes at sub-degree, undergraduate, taught postgraduate and research postgraduate levels. |
| Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET) | • The Vocational Training Council (VTC) and other VPET providers offer full-time and part-time VPET programmes at various levels to equip persons with different academic qualifications for employment or further studies. While students who have completed junior secondary education may pursue Diploma or Certificate of Vocational Education programmes offered by the VTC, those who have completed senior secondary education may opt for degree, higher diploma, Diploma of Foundation Studies or Diploma of Vocational Education programmes offered by the VTC. Higher diploma holders may enrol in top-up degree programmes. |

Services for Newly-arrived Children

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| Initiation Programme | • Newly-arrived children can choose to attend the full-time 6-month Initiation Programme prior to joining mainstream schools. The Programme aims to enhance the learning experience of the newly-arrived children in a real classroom environment, help them adjust to the local society, and foster their personal development. The Programme contents include the learning of English, Chinese, study skills, personal development and social adaptation, etc. The Education Bureau (EDB) will provide children completing the Programme with placement assistance to mainstream schools. |
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Induction Programme

- If newly-arrived children choose to enrol in mainstream schools direct, they can attend the Induction Programme in parallel in their spare time. The 60-hour Induction Programme is run by non-government organisations with subventions from EDB, aiming to help newly-arrived children cope with adjustment problems and learning difficulties which they may encounter when they newly join the local education system. The Programme contents include knowing the local community and culture, basic learning skills, traditional Chinese characters and fundamental English, etc.

School-based Support Scheme (SBSS)

- If newly-arrived children choose to enrol in mainstream schools direct, the public sector and DSS schools admitting these children can apply to EDB for SBSS Grant according to actual enrolment for providing suitable support services to newly-arrived children to cater for their learning and adaptation needs.

Placement Arrangement

Officers at the Regional Education Offices (REOs) of EDB stand ready to help newly-arrived children and young people with enrolment in local primary or secondary schools. Those in need of assistance should bring along the newly-arrived children and the originals and photocopies of the following documents to the REOs for registration for placement assistance services:

1. identity documents (e.g. Hong Kong Birth Certificate/One-way Permit/Re-entry Permit/Document of Identity for Visa Purposes/Passport/Recognizance form);
2. proof of academic history (e.g. student handbooks/report cards issued by Mainland school); and
3. proof of residence (e.g. gas bill/electricity bill/water bill).

New arrivals may also complete the form on the right and return it by post to the Placement and Support Section of EDB or submit e-form online for assistance. School Profiles containing information on kindergartens, primary and secondary schools are available at the REOs for public information. School Profiles are also available on the website of the Committee on Home-School Co-operation (Path: <https://www.chsc.hk> > Schools > School Profiles).

Other Services

Special Education

- Special schools are operated in Hong Kong to provide intensive support services for children with intellectual disability, hearing impairment, visual impairment, physical disability or moderate to severe emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Financial Assistance Scheme for Designated Evening Adult Education Courses

- EDB provides subsidies for adult learners to take evening secondary education courses (i.e. Secondary 1 to 6) run by the approved course providers in designated centres. For details of the Scheme, please visit <https://www.edb.gov.hk/faeac> or call 3509 7404.

Diploma of Applied Education (DAE) Programme

- EDB has introduced the DAE Programme to provide an alternative pathway for secondary 6 school leavers as well as adult learners to obtain a formal qualification for the purposes of employment and further study. The content and design of the DAE programme incorporates additional VPET elements to help students articulate to other VPET programmes and strengthen their employability. Please visit <https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/dae> for the details of the Programme.

Please fold and seal along the dotted line



New arrivals seeking educational assistance may complete this form and return it by post to the Placement and Support Section of EDB.
(Please read the Personal Information Collection Statement overleaf before filling in the form and do not attach any supporting documents to this form.)

Online Form



I. Particulars of Parent

Name _____ Local contact telephone number _____

Address _____

Correspondence address (if different from above) _____

Email _____

II. Particulars of Children in Need of Assistance

Child 1

Name _____ Date of birth _____ year _____ month _____ day

Grade at leaving of previous school _____

Date of leaving from school _____ year _____ month _____ day

Date of first arrival in Hong Kong _____ year _____ month _____ day

Assistance required :

- ☐ joining in the Induction Programme ☐ enrolling in the Initiation Programme
- ☐ enrolling in a local mainstream school
- ☐ enrolling in a special school:
- ☐ School for Children with Intellectual Disability ☐ School for Children with Hearing Impairment
- ☐ School for Children with Visual Impairment ☐ School for Children with Physical Disability
- ☐ Other educational assistance (please specify): _____

Child 2

Name _____ Date of birth _____ year _____ month _____ day

Grade at leaving of previous school _____

Date of leaving from school _____ year _____ month _____ day

Date of first arrival in Hong Kong _____ year _____ month _____ day

Assistance required :

- ☐ joining in the Induction Programme ☐ enrolling in the Initiation Programme
- ☐ enrolling in a local mainstream school
- ☐ enrolling in a special school:
- ☐ School for Children with Intellectual Disability ☐ School for Children with Hearing Impairment
- ☐ School for Children with Visual Impairment ☐ School for Children with Physical Disability
- ☐ Other educational assistance (please specify): _____

Child 3

Name _____ Date of birth _____ year _____ month _____ day

Grade at leaving of previous school _____

Date of leaving from school _____ year _____ month _____ day

Date of first arrival in Hong Kong _____ year _____ month _____ day

Assistance required :

- ☐ joining in the Induction Programme ☐ enrolling in the Initiation Programme
- ☐ enrolling in a local mainstream school
- ☐ enrolling in a special school:
- ☐ School for Children with Intellectual Disability ☐ School for Children with Hearing Impairment
- ☐ School for Children with Visual Impairment ☐ School for Children with Physical Disability
- ☐ Other educational assistance (please specify): _____

Child 4

Name _____ Date of birth _____ year _____ month _____ day

Grade at leaving of previous school _____

Date of leaving from school _____ year _____ month _____ day

Date of first arrival in Hong Kong _____ year _____ month _____ day

Assistance required :

- ☐ joining in the Induction Programme ☐ enrolling in the Initiation Programme
- ☐ enrolling in a local mainstream school
- ☐ enrolling in a special school:
- ☐ School for Children with Intellectual Disability ☐ School for Children with Hearing Impairment
- ☐ School for Children with Visual Impairment ☐ School for Children with Physical Disability
- ☐ Other educational assistance (please specify): _____

Parent's signature: _____

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Education Services in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Personal Information Collection Statement

Purpose of Collection

1. The personal data provided by you in this form will be used by the EDB for one or more of the following purposes:
 - (a) Activities relating to the processing, authentication and assessment on eligibility and counter-checking of the application for placement assistance;
 - (b) Activities relating to matching of the personal data with the database of other relevant Government bureaux / departments in connection with the processing, authentication, assessment on eligibility and counter-checking of the application mentioned in (a) above;
 - (c) Activities relating to matching of the personal data within the database of EDB for purposes of verifying / updating records of the EDB; and
 - (d) Activities relating to compilation of statistics, research and Government publications.
2. The provision of personal data required by this form and during the processing of this form is obligatory. In the event that you do not provide those personal data, we may not be able to handle or further process the application.

Classes of Transferees

3. The personal data you provide will be made available to persons working in EDB. Apart from this, they may be transferred or disclosed to the parties or in the circumstances listed below:
 - (a) other Government bureaux and departments for the purposes mentioned in paragraph 1 above;
 - (b) the school to which the form relates for the purposes mentioned in paragraph 1 above;
 - (c) where you have given your prescribed consent to such disclosure; and
 - (d) where such disclosure is authorised or required under the law or court order applicable to Hong Kong.

Access to Personal Data

4. You have the right to request access to and correction of your personal data held by EDB. Request for access to or correction of personal data should be made in writing to Assistant Education Officer (Placement and Support)31 at Room 1424, 14/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong or email to aeops31@edb.gov.hk.

NO POSTAGE
STAMP
NECESSARY IF
POSTED IN
HONG KONG
如在本港投寄
毋須貼上郵票

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE LICENCE NO.: 4883
商業回郵牌號：4883

Placement and Support Section
Education Bureau
Room 1424, 14/F
Wu Chung House
213 Queen's Road East
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

POSTAGE
WILL BE
PAID BY
LICENSEE
郵費由持
牌人支付

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Enquiries

To enquire about the aforesaid education services, new arrivals may call the EDB's 24-hour hotline or visit the EDB website <https://www.edb.gov.hk>.

EDB's 24-hour hotline

2891 0088

New arrivals may also bring along their children and the originals and photocopies of the documents required to the REOs for registration for placement assistance services (please refer to the section on "Placement Arrangement" above for details).

Contact details of REOs under EDB

<u>REO</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>	<u>Fax Number</u>
Hong Kong Regional Education Office	3/F, 14 Taikoo Wan Road Taikoo Shing Hong Kong	2863 4646	2865 0658
Kowloon Regional Education Office	Podium, East Block Education Bureau Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre 19 Suffolk Road Kowloon Tong, Kowloon	3698 4108	2770 2012
New Territories West Regional Education Office	19/F, Chinachem Tsuen Wan Plaza 457 Castle Peak Road Tsuen Wan, New Territories	2437 7272	2416 2750
New Territories East Regional Education Office	22/F, Landmark North 39 Lung Sum Avenue Sheung Shui, New Territories	2639 4876	2672 0357

Contact details of Placement and Support Section under EDB

<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>	<u>Fax Number</u>
Room 1424, 14/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	2892 6190 2892 6191	3106 2304