

**Education Bureau Circular No. 6/2026**  
**Enhanced School-based Learning Activities Support Grant**

[Note: This circular should be read by –

- (i) Supervisors and Heads of all government schools, aided schools (including special schools), caput schools and schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme – for action; and
- (ii) Heads of sections – for information.]

## **Summary**

This circular informs all government schools, aided schools (including special schools), caput schools and schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS schools) of the integration of the existing School-based After-school Learning and Support Programmes (SALSP) and the Student Activities Support Grant (SASG) under the Student Activities Support Fund (SASF) into the Enhanced School-based Learning Activities Support Grant (ESLASG) starting from the 2026/27 school year. It also sets out the principles on the use of the integrated grant and other relevant details. This circular supersedes the Education Bureau (EDB) Circular Memorandum No. 64/2025 on “School-based After-school Learning and Support Programmes 2025/26 School Year” dated 16 June 2025 and EDB Circular No. 10/2025 on “Student Activities Support Grant” dated 18 July 2025.

## **Background**

### SALSP

2. To support students with financial needs to participate in after-school learning activities, EDB has been implementing SALSP since the 2005/06 school year. While all public sector schools<sup>1</sup> and DSS schools may apply to EDB for School-based Grant (SBG) according to their school-based needs every year, they may also collaborate with non-governmental organisations to apply for funding to implement Community-based Projects (CBP) to support students with financial

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<sup>1</sup> Public sector schools include government schools, aided schools and caput schools. Nevertheless, Caritas Chan Chun Ha Field Studies Centre, Ho Koon Nature Education cum Astronomical Centre and Arts and Technology Education Centre are excluded.

needs in joining diversified after-school learning activities.

### SASG

3. In early 2019, EDB set up SASF to provide SASG for application by public sector schools and DSS schools starting from the 2019/20 school year to support students with financial needs in joining life-wide learning activities organised or recognised<sup>2</sup> by schools.

### **Overview**

4. The purpose of usage and target beneficiaries of the existing SALSP and SASG are similar. Both of them aim at supporting students with financial needs in joining out-of-classroom learning activities. To streamline schools' administrative work and enhance their flexibility, efficiency and synergy in utilising grants, the two aforementioned funding items will be integrated into ESLASG starting from the 2026/27 school year. All public sector schools and DSS schools admitting eligible student beneficiaries will receive ESLASG to support students with financial needs in joining diversified out-of-classroom learning activities. Application is no longer required.

### **Details**

#### Beneficiaries and Grant Rates

5. Eligible beneficiaries of ESLASG are students studying in Primary 1 to Secondary 6 in public sector schools or DSS schools and in receipt of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) or a full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme (STAS full-grant). Schools may also, having regard to their school context, identify financially needy students<sup>3</sup> who are not in receipt of CSSA or STAS full-grant based on their established school-based criteria, and exercise discretion to use up to 30% of the schools' annual ESLASG provision to support such students in joining out-of-classroom learning activities. The rates for each eligible primary and secondary school student per school year are \$1,300 and \$1,600 respectively.

#### Ambit

6. Schools should, taking into account their students' learning and

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<sup>2</sup> Life-wide learning activities recognised by schools refer to those organised by external organisations in which schools have confidence, and the schools acknowledge that the activities can help students attain the objectives of life-wide learning (e.g. schools may nominate students to participate in programmes/activities/competitions organised by post-secondary institutions, sports associations and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department).

<sup>3</sup> Dependents of individuals admitted to Hong Kong through various talent admission schemes of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region are excluded.

developmental needs, formulate school-based criteria to deploy ESLASG in a fair, open and impartial manner to properly support students with financial needs in joining out-of-classroom learning activities.

7. Schools are required to make appropriate allocation of resources, ensuring that students’ learning and developmental needs are met while maximising the number of financially needy student beneficiaries. Schools should avoid confining the use of the grant to a single item or area and a few students. Under exceptional circumstances, if a school, upon careful consideration, considers it necessary to deploy ESLASG to subsidise students with financial needs to join individual activities that incur relatively higher costs, prior approval from its Incorporated Management Committee (IMC)/School Management Committee (SMC) must be obtained.

8. ESLASG may be deployed for:

- (a) subsidising students with financial needs to join out-of-classroom learning activities/competitions which are organised by schools, or external organisations through procurement of services or recognised by schools, including:

Category	Examples
(1) Activities/competitions for broadening students’ learning experiences outside the classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arts and cultural activities</li> <li>• Sports</li> <li>• Visits</li> <li>• Outdoor activities</li> </ul>
(2) Activities for raising students’ understanding of the community and fostering their personal growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community services</li> <li>• Self-confidence building</li> <li>• Social and communication skills training</li> <li>• Leadership training</li> <li>• Mental health activities</li> </ul>
(3) Activities for enhancing students’ learning effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tutorial services</li> <li>• Study skills training</li> <li>• Language training</li> </ul>

To promote the balanced development of students with financial needs, schools should deploy ESLASG to support them in joining diversified activities across the above three categories. The expenditure on Category (3) Activities for enhancing students’ learning effectiveness must not exceed 20% of a school’s annual ESLASG provision; and

- (b) purchasing materials/equipment (e.g. musical instruments and sports equipment) for loan to students with financial needs to support their participation in out-of-classroom learning activities. The relevant expenditure is capped at 5% of a school's annual ESLASG provision.

9. Schools are reminded that if it is necessary to procure services or goods, they should observe the prevailing regulations, rules and relevant circulars and guidelines issued by EDB as appropriate. To ensure quality, schools organising activities for enhancing students' learning effectiveness should verify that the instructors appointed by external organisations meet the qualification requirements for the respective levels, details of which are available at *Annex 1*.

10. For details on the use of the grant and the points to note for schools' organisation of out-of-classroom learning activities, please refer to *Annex 2* and *Annex 3* respectively.

### **Disbursement Arrangements**

11. To streamline schools' administrative work, application to EDB is not required. The existing application arrangement for CBP under SALSP is also no longer applicable. EDB shall disburse ESLASG in September every year to all public sector schools and DSS schools in accordance with the number of eligible students and schools will be informed of the amount of grant disbursed. For government schools, the grant will be paid to the bank account for Extra-curricular Activities Fund of the school. For aided schools, caput schools and DSS schools, the grant will be paid to the EDB Grant Payment Account of the school.

### **Accounting and Financial Arrangements**

12. As ESLASG is a purpose-specific grant, schools must ensure that it is used for supporting students with financial needs in joining out-of-classroom learning activities. Schools are required to manage their financial expenditure in a prudent manner, and keep income and expenditure records and related receipts and invoices for not less than seven years for inspections by EDB when necessary. In addition, schools are required to compile a separate ledger account to properly record all income and expenditure items chargeable to ESLASG. Aided schools, caput schools and DSS schools have to adhere to the requirements regarding the submission of annual audited accounts set out in the relevant EDB circular memoranda and letters (and the annexes therein to prepare ledger accounts and annual accounts), and submit the annual audited accounts to EDB in accordance with the prevailing requirements. Otherwise, EDB may require the school

concerned to refund to the Government the full amount of ESLASG disbursed.

13. ESLASG is complementary in nature. Schools may, based on their needs, flexibly deploy and make appropriate use of other government funding, including the Operating Expenses Block Grant/Expanded Operating Expenses Block Grant (for aided schools), Fee Subsidy (for caput schools), DSS subsidy (for DSS schools), Expanded Subject and Curriculum Block Grant (for government schools), and other resources (such as schools' own funds/non-government funds, and various education subsidy schemes provided by the Government or other community organisations) to achieve synergy from a complementary use of funds.

### **Surplus Retention and Clawback Arrangement**

14. As ESLASG is a recurrent grant with a specific purpose, schools should optimise its use to benefit students with financial needs for the respective school year. Any unspent balance of the grant should be returned to EDB after the end of the school year. Transfer of funds and/or unspent balance out of ESLASG to other accounts is not allowed. For aided schools, caput schools and DSS schools, any unspent balance of ESLASG should be returned to EDB according to the annual audited accounts for that school year (i.e. from 1 September to 31 August of the respective school year). For government schools, any unspent balance of ESLASG should be returned to EDB by crossed cheques according to the "Report on the Use of the Enhanced School-based Learning Activities Support Grant" of the respective school year.

### **Evaluation and Accountability**

15. As in the past, schools are required to observe the relevant circulars and guidelines on the use of public funds as issued by EDB when using ESLASG and be accountable for its use. Schools should formulate their school-based criteria on the use of ESLASG and establish a mechanism to identify financially needy students. Relevant stakeholders, including parents, shall be informed of the related criteria and mechanism, as well as how the school supports students with financial needs in joining out-of-classroom learning activities, thereby further enhancing transparency.


16. In line with the principle of school-based management, schools receiving ESLASG are required to prepare the "Plan on the Use of the Enhanced School-based Learning Activities Support Grant" of the respective school year based on the stipulated objectives of ESLASG. The plan shall be submitted to the IMC/SMC for endorsement and be subsequently uploaded to the school website

by the end of November of the corresponding school year. Schools are also required to assess the use of the grant regularly, and reflect the evaluation results in the “Report on the Use of the Enhanced School-based Learning Activities Support Grant”. The report shall be submitted to the IMC/SMC for endorsement and be subsequently uploaded to the school website by the end of November of the following school year.

17. EDB will monitor schools’ use of ESLASG through various means, including examining the school plans and reports as well as conducting professional dialogues and supervisory visits, to provide schools with professional advice and support.

### **Arrangements for SASG and SBG**

18. As for SASG and SBG under SALSP of the 2025/26 school year, schools should handle them according to the requirements as follows after the end of the 2025/26 school year:

- (a) In line with the principle of school-based management, schools should include the report on the use of the SASG for the 2025/26 school year in the School Report of that school year for submission to the IMC/SMC for endorsement, and upload it to the school website. Schools may download the “Guidelines on the Use of the Student Activities Support Grant” and the template for the “Report on the Use of the Student Activities Support Grant” via the link below or by scanning the QR code on the right ([www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/curriculum-area/life-wide-learning/sas-grant/](http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/curriculum-area/life-wide-learning/sas-grant/)). Any unspent balance of SASG after the end of the 2025/26 school year should be returned to EDB/SASF. For aided schools, caput schools and DSS schools, any unspent balance of the grant should be returned to EDB/SASF according to the annual audited accounts for the 2025/26 school year. For government schools, any unspent balance of SASG should be returned to EDB/SASF according to the records of the designated user code/deposit account for the 2025/26 school year. 
- (b) As for any unspent balance of SBG after the end of the 2025/26 school year, schools may continue to use the unspent balance in the 2026/27 school year, in accordance with the stipulated principles and requirements on the use of grant, to support students with financial needs in joining after-school learning activities until the end of the 2026/27

school year. Nevertheless, the unspent balance should be maintained in the original ledger account and is not allowed to be transferred out of SBG to the newly established ESLASG account/other accounts. Schools are required to record the planned use of unspent balance of SBG after the end of the 2025/26 school year and the evaluation results in the relevant sections of the “Plan on the Use of the Enhanced School-based Learning Activities Support Grant” and “Report on the Use of the Enhanced School-based Learning Activities Support Grant” respectively. For aided schools, caput schools and DSS schools, any unspent balance of SBG as at 31 August 2027 should be returned to EDB according to the annual audited accounts for the 2026/27 school year. For government schools, any unspent balance of SBG will lapse after 31 August 2027.

### **Briefing Sessions**

19. EDB will organise briefing sessions on ESLASG for schools in May 2026. For details and enrolment of the briefing sessions, please refer to the Training Calendar System of EDB (Course ID: ECP020260014).



### **Enquiries**

20. For the latest information about ESLASG, templates of “Plan on the Use of the Enhanced School-based Learning Activities Support Grant” and “Report on the Use of the Enhanced School-based Learning Activities Support Grant” and frequently asked questions, schools may visit the related EDB webpage via the link below or by scanning the QR code on the right ([www.edb.gov.hk/en/student-parents/support-subsidies/ESLASG/](http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/student-parents/support-subsidies/ESLASG/)).



21. For enquiries, please contact the Student Special Support Section of EDB on 2892 6646 or 2892 6648.

Cliff HUI  
for Permanent Secretary for Education

## Enhanced School-based Learning Activities Support Grant (ESLASG) Qualification Requirements for Instructors

To ensure quality, schools procuring services to organise activities for enhancing students' learning effectiveness with ESLASG should verify that the instructors appointed by external organisations meet the relevant qualification requirements for the respective levels:

Level	Minimum Qualification Requirements for Instructors Conducting Activities for Enhancing Learning Effectiveness
Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Level 2 or above in five subjects at the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSEE), including Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics; or</li> <li>● Five passes at the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination, including Chinese Language, English Language (Syllabus B) and Mathematics; or</li> <li>● Equivalent qualification or above</li> </ul>
Junior Secondary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Level 3 or above in five subjects at the HKDSEE, including Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics; or</li> <li>● Passes in Chinese Language, English Language and two Advanced Level (A-Level) subjects at the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE); or</li> <li>● Passes in Chinese Language, English Language, one A-Level subject and two Advanced Supplementary Level subjects at the HKALE; or</li> <li>● Equivalent qualification or above</li> </ul>
Secondary 4 to 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Post-secondary institution graduate (higher diploma); or</li> <li>● Associate degree graduate; or</li> <li>● Equivalent qualification or above</li> </ul>
Secondary 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● University graduate; or</li> <li>● Equivalent qualification or above</li> </ul>

## **Enhanced School-based Learning Activities Support Grant (ESLASG) Details on Use of Grant**

### **Examples in line with the usage principles of ESLASG (non-exhaustive):**

1. Subsidising students with financial needs to join life-wide learning activities organised or recognised<sup>4</sup> by schools, including activities arranged through hire of services, co-organised activities, school-based learning activities and extra-curricular/co-curricular activities with clear learning objectives.
2. Deploying not more than 20% of a school's annual ESLASG provision to subsidise students with financial needs to join activities for enhancing learning effectiveness, such as tutorial services and study skills/language training.
3. Subsidising students with financial needs to join activities by covering the expenses incurred for registration, admission, lodging and transportation<sup>5</sup>.
4. Subsidising students with financial needs to join local or non-local competitions/activities by covering the expenses incurred for registration, transportation, accommodation and procuring materials/apparel for the competitions.
5. Subsidising students with financial needs to join exchange activities outside Hong Kong<sup>6</sup>.
6. Subsidising students with financial needs to join activities/training programmes (e.g. educational camps, scientific exploration activities and sports training) organised by local post-secondary institutions, non-profit-making organisations, academic associations and professional bodies and related to different Key Learning Areas/subjects and cross-curricular learning .
7. Deploying not more than 5% of a school's annual ESLASG provision to

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<sup>4</sup> Life-wide learning activities recognised by schools refer to those organised by external organisations in which schools have confidence, and schools acknowledge that the activities can help students attain the objectives of life-wide learning (e.g. schools may nominate students to participate in programmes/activities/competitions organised by post-secondary institutions, sports associations and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department).

<sup>5</sup> The most suitable and economical mode of transportation should be selected based on the needs.

<sup>6</sup> ESLASG should not cover any personal items, consumable articles/items, or comprehensive personal travel insurance.

purchase materials/equipment (e.g. musical instruments and sports equipment) for loan to students with financial needs to support their participation in out-of-classroom learning activities.

**Examples not in line with usage principles of ESLASG (non-exhaustive):**

1. Subsidising students with financial needs to join activities that are not aligned with learning goals, curriculum objectives, or students' cognitive and affective development stages.
2. Subsidising students with financial needs to join activities that are neither in line with the circulars, instructions, and guidelines issued by the Education Bureau, nor aligned with educational orientations.
3. Subsidising students with financial needs to join learning activities that focus primarily on examination drilling.
4. Employing teaching staff (including supply teachers) or non-teaching staff.
5. Outsourcing the overall planning and implementation of grant utilisation to external parties, or procuring services/employing temporary supporting staff for performing grant-related administrative work.
6. Paying for professional service fees, such as those for educational psychologists and speech therapists.
7. Subsidising students with financial needs to participate in any form of assessment and/or procuring services or materials to drill students for assessment (e.g. International Competitions and Assessments for Schools and English language assessments offered by overseas universities).
8. Paying for expenses for promotional and publicity activities, social events or celebrations (e.g. graduation dinners and parties).
9. Paying for banquet- or courtesy-related expenses (e.g. crystal pedestal and pennant).
10. Subsidising food and beverage expenses<sup>7</sup> for students with financial needs.
11. Subsidising teachers or parent volunteers for leading student activities.

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<sup>7</sup> Except for meal expenses included in the costs of educational camps, training camps and exchange activities outside Hong Kong

12. Purchasing gifts or prizes for competitions or other activities.
13. Purchasing equipment or tools for performing schools' clerical work.
14. Covering the costs of school renovation/construction works.

Note: The above examples are for reference only. Incorporated Management Committees (IMCs)/School Management Committees (SMCs) are required to ensure prudent deployment of ESLASG and proper allocation of the resources, and should avoid confining the use of the grant to a single item or area and a minority of students. IMCs/SMCs should also ensure that resources are utilised in a cost-effective manner and each item of expenditure incurred is used appropriately and in line with the usage principles and ambit of ESLASG.

**Enhanced School-based Learning Activities Support Grant  
Points to Note for Organising Out-of-Classroom Learning Activities**

1. Schools are required to step up the prevention and suppression of school activities undertaken by any parties that are in breach of the “Basic Law”, the “National Security Law”, the “Safeguarding National Security Ordinance” and all laws applicable to Hong Kong. The same principle should apply to out-of-classroom learning activities arranged/recognised by schools. For details, please refer to the relevant circular(s) issued by the Education Bureau (EDB).
2. Schools should organise learning activities that adhere to the curriculum while aligning with the learning goals and objectives. Such activities should be appropriate to the cognitive and affective development stages of students to cater to their developmental needs at various learning stages.
3. When procuring services from external organisations to assist in organising activities, schools should adopt the mechanism in the Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme by the Hong Kong Police Force to safeguard the well-being of students. For details, please refer to the relevant circular(s) issued by EDB.
4. Regarding students’ safety when participating in extra-curricular activities, schools should exercise prudence and observe relevant guidelines provided by EDB, including “Guidelines on Outdoor Activities”, “Guidelines on Study Tours Outside Hong Kong” and “Safety Guidelines on Physical Education Key Learning Area for Hong Kong Schools”; and make reference to the guidelines and information provided by other relevant government departments (e.g. Hong Kong Observatory and Department of Health). When planning and organising activities (including co-organised activities), schools should ensure that the activities are free from danger to safeguard students’ well-being, and that the expected learning objectives could be reached.