

proficiency requirements in Listening and Recognition, Pinyin, and Speaking; and teachers who have obtained Grade B, Level 2 or above in the Test of Proficiency in Putonghua conducted by the State Language Commission will be exempted from the proficiency requirement in Speaking. Please note that no Putonghua teachers will be exempted from the proficiency requirement in the Classroom Language Assessment (CLA).

For details about exemption, please visit the website of the Education Bureau (EDB) at: <http://www.edb.gov.hk/exemption>.

(b) Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers (LPAT)

The HKEAA and the EDB jointly conduct the LPAT annually. In general, the written and speaking assessments are conducted in the period from January to March 2023 and the CLA from November 2022 to April 2023. Details relating to the arrangement of the LPAT will be announced in due course.

For details about the LPAT, please visit the EDB website at: <http://www.edb.gov.hk/lpat>.

Reviewing the LPR attainment progress of new / newly deployed teachers of English / Putonghua

4. For new / newly deployed teachers of English / Putonghua holding a regular post, they should at least have met the LPR in all the core language skills¹ before taking up teaching the respective language subject. They have to meet the LPR in CLA within the first year of their taking up these duties. After the release of results of the LPAT (2023) in May 2023, schools are reminded to review the LPR attainment progress of their new / newly deployed teachers of English / Putonghua, and make appropriate deployment as needed.

5. Due to the impact of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) epidemic situation, school arrangements for face-to-face classes had to be adjusted, hence the assessment period of the CLA (2022) had to be extended as well. An extension of the deadline for meeting the LPR (i.e. extended from on or before 31 August 2022 to on or before 31 August 2023) was granted to the eligible teachers. Notifications were sent to the respective teachers and schools in May 2022.

Teachers of English / Putonghua NOT holding a regular post

6. The LPR policy is not applicable to teachers of English / Putonghua NOT holding a regular post; that is, teachers whose employment is temporary in nature.

¹ For English, core language skills refer to the Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking papers in the LPAT (English Language). For Putonghua, core language skills refer to the Listening and Recognition, Pinyin and Speaking papers in the LPAT (Putonghua).

These teachers are employed as temporary replacements of teachers holding a regular post taking leave temporarily or employed to take up a post not within the approved staff establishment. They normally constitute a small proportion of the teaching staff of a school. To ensure that all the teachers of English / Putonghua assigned to teach the relevant subject in schools possess basic language proficiency for delivering quality teaching, these temporary teachers of English / Putonghua are also encouraged to attain the LPR.

Teachers employed under the NET Scheme

7. The LPR and all its related arrangements are not applicable to teachers employed under the NET Scheme in government, aided and caput schools. These teachers serve as a resource person for the English subject in schools. They mainly support and collaborate with the local English teachers in facilitating the implementation of the curriculum and the development of the subject. Eligible government, aided and caput schools are normally allocated one teaching post under the NET Scheme. In this regard, the number of teachers employed under a scheme comparable to the NET Scheme in DSS schools and private schools should also be limited. As for teachers who are native speakers of English not employed under the NET Scheme, they are considered comparable to teachers of English holding a regular post in aided schools and are required to meet the LPR.

Deployment of teachers of English / Putonghua in the 2022/23 school year

8. To ensure that all the teachers of English / Putonghua assigned to teach the relevant subject in schools possess basic language proficiency for delivering quality teaching, schools are advised to take proper note of the LPR policy when planning the deployment of language teachers in the 2022/23 school year.

Enquiries

9. More information about the LPR policy can be found on the EDB website at: <http://www.edb.gov.hk/lpr>.

10. For enquiries, please contact Ms Ada LAM at 2892 5764.

Ms W P LEE
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections – for information