

18 October 2001

EDB Circular No. 37/2001
(Formerly referred as EMB Circular No. 37/2001)
(Formerly referred as Administration Circular No.37/2001)
(Chinese version will follow)

English Language Proficiency Requirement
for Filling English Panel Chair Posts in Aided Secondary Schools

[Note : This circular should be read by –

- (a) Supervisors/Heads of aided ordinary secondary schools, Skills Opportunity Schools, Practical Schools and aided secondary special schools/special schools with secondary section adopting the ordinary school curriculum - for necessary action; and
- (b) Heads of sections, government, Caput and private secondary schools, and secondary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme - for information.]

Summary

The purpose of this circular is to inform schools of the English Language Proficiency Requirement for filling English Panel Chair (EPC) posts in aided secondary schools.

Details

2. In September 2000, the Government announced a package of measures aimed at enhancing the language proficiency and professionalism of language teachers. To enhance language teaching and learning in schools, it was also announced that new EPCs appointed in secondary schools in future should have attained an average proficiency at Level 4 of the English Language Proficiency Requirement (LP4). Criteria for reaching an average proficiency at Level 4 are detailed at the Appendix.

3. Schools are requested to note that incumbents of existing EPC posts should not be affected by the introduction of LP4. An existing EPC on deployment, without break of service, to take up an EPC post in another school under the same sponsoring body within the aided secondary school sector and a teacher given an offer of promotion/direct appointment to an EPC post, which is to take effect in the 2001/02 school year, on or before the date of issue of this circular would not be subject to the LP4 requirement. However, whenever an EPC post is vacated, the school, in filling the vacated post,

- (a) should accord priority to LP4 qualified candidates; and
- (b) may employ a teacher who has met the basic Language Proficiency Requirement, should it be unable to find a suitable candidate who is LP4 qualified.

In addition, incumbents of existing EPC posts who are not LP4 qualified are encouraged to acquire the LP4 qualification through the Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers or through training or through a combination of both.

4. Relevant parts of the Codes of Aid for secondary schools and special schools will be amended in due course.

Enquiry

5. Enquiries relating to this circular should be directed to respective Senior School Development Officers.

Mrs Betty IP
for Director of Education

**Average Proficiency at Level 4 of
English Language Proficiency Requirement**

A teacher is deemed to have reached an average proficiency at Level 4 if he/she has met both of the following two criteria -

- (i) The teacher has attained at least Level 3 in all the five papers in the Language Proficiency Assessment for English teachers. Specifically, the teacher has to attain '3' or above in Reading and Listening. For Writing, Speaking and Classroom Language Assessment (CLA), the teacher has to attain '3' or above in all the scales of the respective papers; AND
- (ii) At least three papers are at Level 4 or above. For Writing, Speaking and CLA, Level 4 is deemed to have been attained if more than half of the scales of the respective papers are scored at '4' or above (i.e. having attained Level 4 in three or more scales in Writing and CLA and four or more scales in Speaking).