

EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BUREAU CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 246/2005

From : Secretary for Education and Manpower To: Heads of Secondary and Primary Schools
(except ESF schools and international
schools)
Ref. : EMB/LPA/PRO/8
Date: 2 November 2005 - for necessary action

**Language Proficiency Requirement (LPR)
for English/Putonghua (PTH) Teachers**

(Note: This circular should be read by all heads and teachers of secondary and primary schools.)

Summary

This circular memorandum reminds school heads and teachers that English/PTH teachers concerned should take immediate action to meet the LPR if they wish to continue teaching the relevant subjects from the 2006/07 school year onwards.

Details

2. Since the announcement of the LPR policy in September 2000, English/PTH teachers have been making progress in attaining the LPR. This is the final year for all serving English/PTH teachers (i.e. those holding a permanent post as from the 2000/01 school year) to meet the LPR. English/PTH teachers who have not yet met the LPR are strongly advised to take immediate action through sitting for the Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers (LPAT), attending authorized language proficiency training courses or applying for exemption, so that schools would have adequate teachers who have met the LPR for deployment after 31 August 2006. In this connection, please refer to the following arrangements within the 2005/06 school year and take immediate action as appropriate.

a. English/PTH Teachers Holding a Permanent Post to Meet the LPR by 31 August 2006

(i) English/PTH teachers holding a permanent post as at the 2000/01 school year and onwards, and teachers of other subjects holding a permanent post as at the 2000/01 school year and onwards and deployed to teach English/PTH within the 2001/02 to 2003/04 school years should meet the LPR by 31 August 2006. English/PTH teachers of this category who have not met the LPR are strongly advised to take prompt action through one or a combination of the channels listed in Paragraph (b) below. Those who cannot meet the LPR by the stipulated date will not be eligible to teach the language subject from 1 September 2006 until they have met the LPR subsequently.

(ii) New English/PTH teachers holding a permanent post in the current school year should have met the LPR in all the core language skills except the part on 'Classroom Language Assessment' (CLA) before they began teaching the language subject. Teachers of this category should meet the LPR in CLA within the first year of teaching the language subject, i.e. 2005/06 school year. They can meet the LPR through exemption or assessment. Those who cannot meet the LPR by 31 August 2006 will not be eligible to teach the language subject from 1 September 2006 until they have met the LPR subsequently.

b. Channels for Meeting the LPR

(i) Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers (LPAT) 2006 (March)

The next LPAT will be held in March 2006. English/PTH teachers are reminded to enter for the LPAT in early December 2005 if they wish to meet the LPR through assessment. Please refer to the circular memorandum to be issued by the end of November 2005.

(ii) Exemption

The first call for exemption from the LPR for the 2005/2006 school year will be made. Please refer to the circular memorandum to be issued on 3 November 2005 for details. Teachers with appropriate qualifications are strongly advised to take prompt action to apply for exemption from the LPR. Late submission of applications may cause a delay in the granting of exemption from the LPR.

(iii) Authorized Language Proficiency Training Courses

The authorized language proficiency training courses for English/PTH teachers will cease to operate after the end of the 2005/06 school year. Teachers eligible for attending these courses are advised to take immediate action for enrolment if they wish to complete these courses in good time before 31 August 2006.

c. Reimbursement of Training/Assessment Fees

To enable timely processing of reimbursement of training/assessment fees, please take note that the closing date of applications for reimbursement is 31 August 2006. Teachers are reminded to submit their applications by this date. To avoid unnecessary delay caused by the rush for applications close to the deadline, teachers are advised to apply for reimbursement when the necessary documents required for application are ready. Application forms can be downloaded from the website of the Bureau (www.emb.gov.hk).

d. English/PTH teachers who have not yet met the LPR

School heads are strongly urged to closely monitor the LPR attainment progress of their teachers who have not yet met the LPR and advise them to take appropriate action in the remaining 2005/06 school year. Schools should ensure that they have adequate language teachers for deployment in the 2006/07 school year.

Enquiry

3. If there are enquiries, please contact Mr K Y LEE at 2921 8938 or Ms Alice CHOW at 2186 8156.

(Ms Susanna CHEUNG)
for Secretary for Education and Manpower

c.c. Heads of Sections – for information