

The Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme (PEVS) beyond the 2011/12 School Year

Questions and Answers

Enhancement measures

1. Q: The implementation of the PEVS beyond the 2011/12 school years is subject to review. After the review of the PEVS by the Education Commission, is there any enhancement to the PEVS? If yes, what are the details?

A: Pursuant to the recommendations of the Report on Review of the PEVS (December 2010), the existing PEVS as a mechanism for providing direct fee subsidy for parents to pay for kindergarten (KG) education will be enhanced in its next phase of implementation starting from the 2012/13 school year. The details are as follows:

- (a) With effect from the 2012/13 school year, the Education Bureau (EDB) will conduct annual review, with the fee thresholds either increased annually according to the year-on-year rate of change in Composite Consumer Price Index (CCPI) or frozen in case of deflation. In the latter case, the fee thresholds will be raised again in subsequent years only when the accumulated increase has offset the accumulated decline.
- (b) The voucher value in and beyond the 2012/13 school year for parents to defray the tuition fee of KG education for their children will be adjusted annually on the basis of the 2011/12 school year level of \$16,000 pspa according to the year-on-year rate of change in CCPI.
- (c) With effect from the 2012/13 school year, the portion of KG tuition fee to be met by the voucher will be disbursed to the PEVS-KGs according to their tuition fee payment schedules to streamline administrative and accounting procedures.

2. Q: Besides the enhancement to the PEVS, is there any enhancement to the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme (KCFRS)? If yes, what are the details?

A: With effect from the 2011/12 school year, the KCFRS has been modified to provide enhanced assistance to KG children of needy families as follows –

- (a) calculate the percentage of fee remission after deducting the voucher subsidy;
- (b) remove the social needs assessment in processing applications for fee remission for children attending relevant classes in whole-day PEVS-KGs;

and

- (c) adjust annually the meal allowance ceiling for needy KG children attending whole-day PEVS-KGs with reference to the annual movement of Consumer Price Index (A).

Details are available for browsing at Student Financial Assistance Agency's webpage at <http://www.sfaa.gov.hk/eng/schemes/kinder.htm>.

KGs intending to stay or newly join PEVS in 2012/13

- 3. Q: Are existing PEVS-KGs required to apply for staying in the PEVS in the 2012/13 school year? If yes, what is the reason?

A: Yes. The implementation of the PEVS beyond the 2011/12 school year is subject to review. Hence, in accordance with the existing terms and conditions of the PEVS, the validity period of being an eligible KG under the PEVS is due for expiry by the end of the 2011/12 school year. Existing PEVS-KGs wishing to stay in the Scheme should complete and return the application form at Appendix III of EDB Circular No. 6/2011 to EDB on or before 28 November 2011.

- 4. Q: How do eligible KGs not yet in the PEVS apply for joining the Scheme in the 2012/13 school year?

A: They should complete and return the application form at Appendix III of EDB Circular No. 6/2011 to EDB on or before 28 November 2011.

Voucher value, school fee thresholds and list of eligible KGs for the PEVS in 2012/13

- 5. Q: When will the voucher value and fee thresholds for the 2012/13 school year be announced?

A: The voucher value and fee thresholds for the 2012/13 school year will be announced in the EDB circular memorandum inviting application for fee revision for the 2012/13 school year to be issued in mid-January 2012.

- 6. Q: Will there be a list of KGs eligible for the PEVS in the 2012/13 school year for browsing?

A: The list of approved NPM KGs joining the PEVS in the 2012/13 school year in each district will be available for browsing at <http://www.edb.gov.hk/index.aspx?nodeID=5792&langno=1> in April 2012.

KGs not intending to stay in PEVS in 2012/13

7. Q: If existing PEVS-KGs not wishing to continue to stay in the Scheme in the 2012/13 school year, what actions should they take?

A: School supervisors of existing PEVS-KGs not wishing to continue to stay in the PEVS in the 2012/13 school year should:

- (a) inform parents of students already enrolled as of the 2011/12 school year the decision of the KG to withdraw from the PEVS with effect from the 2012/13 school year starting from K1, properly address their concern and notify parents of existing pupils that should their children remain in the KG, they will continue to be eligible for the voucher subsidy until they leave the KG; and
- (b) with immediate effect, make clear to parents of children seeking to enroll their children in K1 in the 2012/13 school year that the KG will withdraw from the PEVS and hence will not be eligible to redeem the voucher under the PEVS.
- (c) complete and return the form at Appendix II of EDB Circular No. 6/2011 to EDB no later than 31 October 2011.

8. Q: My child is currently studying in a PEVS-KG. If the KG is going to withdraw from the PEVS in the 2012/13 school year, can my child continue to receive the voucher in the same KG?

A: Existing students of these KGs will continue to receive the voucher until they leave the PEVS-KG concerned.