



Education Services for Children with Special Educational Needs

Present Policy

Children are considered to have special educational needs (SEN) if they have learning difficulties in one way or another that call for the need to receive special education services. They are provided with appropriate education to help them develop their potential to the full, achieve as much independence as they are capable of, and become well-adjusted individuals in the community.

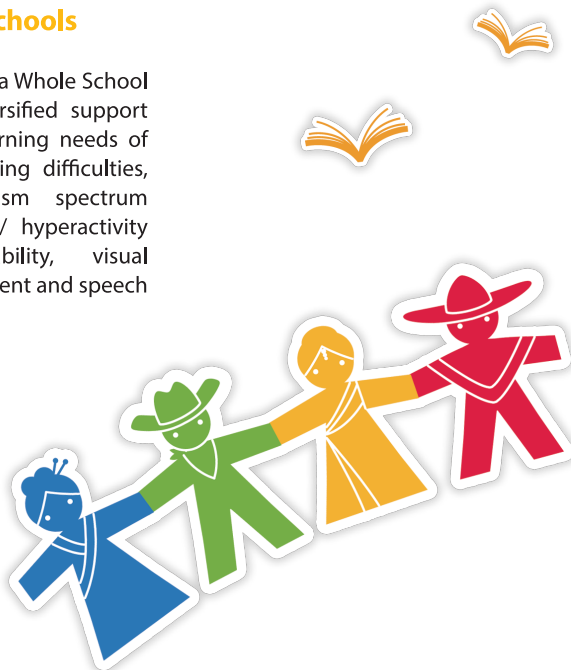
Students with severe SEN or multiple disabilities are referred to special schools for intensive support services subject to the assessment and recommendation of specialists and with parents' consent. Other students with SEN are placed in ordinary schools.

If students encounter learning, emotional and behavioural difficulties, parents may approach student guidance personnel in primary schools or school social workers or guidance teachers in secondary schools. When necessary, they will refer the students to educational psychologists or other specialists for further assessment and consultation.



Support in Ordinary Schools

Schools in Hong Kong adopt a Whole School Approach and provide diversified support services to cater for the learning needs of students with specific learning difficulties, intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit / hyperactivity disorders, physical disability, visual impairment, hearing impairment and speech and language impairment.





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Services offered by Special Schools

There are currently 60 special schools providing places for students with visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical disability, intellectual disability, or severe emotional and behavioural difficulties, and for students hospitalised for a period of time. These special schools are subvented by EDB and operated by school sponsoring bodies. Placement of students in special schools is arranged by EDB according to their individual needs.



Support Services offered by EDB

Besides conducting a territory-wide early identification and intervention of learning difficulties programme for Primary 1 students, EDB provides assessment and support services for students of government and aided schools (including caput schools) who are suspected of having sensory disabilities, speech and language impairments, severe learning or emotional /

behavioural difficulties. The assessment services may include psychological, social and educational assessment, audiological assessment¹, and speech and language assessment².

Other support services provided by EDB include school-based speech therapy support service for students with speech and language impairments, audiological services for children with hearing impairment, guidance service for students with learning or behavioural problems, and advice to parents on placement of students with SEN and on relevant support strategies.

Besides, EDB has compiled guidelines and resource packages for teachers to support education of students with SEN. A variety of leaflets have also been produced for parents and the general public to facilitate their understanding of SEN. The Special Education Resource Centre located at EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre provides a digital platform for teachers, parents and the general public to share information and resources on special education.

¹ Parents who have doubt about their children's hearing are advised to seek medical consultation as soon as possible. When necessary, students with persistent hearing impairment will be referred by the schools or medical practitioners to the Speech and Hearing Services Section for further assessment and follow-up services.

² Parents of students studying in government and aided schools (including caput schools) should approach their children's schools for arrangement of speech therapy service.



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Identification, Assessment and Placement of Students with SEN

Children from birth to 12 years old with developmental problems may receive assessment for diagnosis, functional evaluation, rehabilitation prescription, short-term training and referral for educational service provided by the Child Assessment Service of the Department of Health. Telephone list is found on page 48 for reference. Parents will be briefed on their children's SEN to facilitate their informed decision on school placement.

The children assessed may apply for ordinary schools or, upon parents' written consent, may be placed in special schools, and the assessment results will be forwarded to the schools concerned. Parents are encouraged to inform schools of their children's SEN.

Enquiry

Parents seeking further information may contact the Special Education Services General Office of EDB.

Telephone No. : 3698 3957

Website: <http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/special/overview/factsheet/special-edu/index.html>

