



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局  
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13 June 2023

To: Supervisors / Heads of Direct Subsidy Scheme Schools

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Allowable Whole School Repetition Rate  
in Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) Schools**

This letter aims to inform DSS schools that starting from the 2023/24 school year, the Education Bureau (EDB) will take suitable follow-up actions with DSS schools having the total number of repeaters exceeding the allowable whole school repetition rate as described in the ensuing paragraphs so as to safeguard the best interests of students.

**Promotion and Repetition in Schools**

As a general rule, students should normally be promoted at the end of each school year and retention of a student in a particular class to repeat a whole year's work should be the exception rather than the rule. Schools should adopt remedial measures to assist students with weak academic performance to cater for individual needs. EDB has been emphasising to schools that repetition is not a desirable course of action and should not be associated with failure to obtain a fixed mark in any test or examination. Repetition may be allowed at the discretion of school heads only when it is in the best interests of a student that s/he repeats a school year for educational reasons. Schools should avoid having a large number of students repeating at a certain level.

## Follow-up Actions with Schools

As publicly funded schools, DSS schools are expected to follow the allowable whole school repetition rate applicable to aided schools i.e. the total number of repeaters in every school year should not exceed 3% and 5% of the total enrolment for primary schools and secondary schools respectively. DSS schools have all along been advised to regularly review their student repetition situation according to the abovementioned rate and to ensure that appropriate guidance and support services are offered to students.

Starting from the 2023/24 school year, EDB would follow up with DSS schools identified with the whole school repetition rate exceeding 3% (for primary schools) and 5% (for secondary schools) of the total enrolment as follows:

- (i) Schools exceeding the rate for the first time or exceeding the rate in the current school year but not in the preceding school year will be verbally reminded of the situation and be required to take necessary follow-up actions (e.g. review their promotion and repetition policies);
- (ii) Schools exceeding the rate for two consecutive years will be given a state-the-fact letter and be required to take necessary follow-up actions; and
- (iii) Schools exceeding the rate for three or more consecutive years will be given an advisory letter and be required to provide written explanation to the EDB within one month.

While grade retention may be acceptable in exceptional circumstances, EDB would consider justifications provided by schools on a case-by-case basis.

For enquiries, please contact the respective Senior School Development Officer.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Rio CHEUNG)

for Permanent Secretary for Education

c.c. CSDOs