



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局

Education Bureau

Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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15 August 2024

To: Supervisors/Principals of government, aided and caput secondary schools

Dear Supervisors/Principals,

**School-based Medium of Instruction Plan for Junior Secondary Levels
(Arrangements for Secondary 1 Students Admitted in the 2025/26 School Year)**

This circular letter informs schools to submit the “School-based Medium of Instruction Plan for Junior Secondary Levels (Arrangements for Secondary 1 Students Admitted in the 2025/26 School Year)” at the Annex to the Education Bureau (EDB) on or before **13 September 2024 (Friday)**. Schools may submit the duly completed Annex by returning it to the respective Senior School Development Officers, or using the “reply” function of the “Fast Information Transmission System - School Messaging Module (SMM)”.

Details

2. Pursuant to EDB Circular No. 6/2009 “Fine-tuning the Medium of Instruction (MOI) for Secondary Schools”, schools are required to devise appropriate MOI arrangements in accordance with the prescribed criteria¹ and by making reference to the school-based circumstances in a professional manner. In the third cycle (2022/23 to 2027/28 school years) of MOI fine-tuning, EDB will take forward the existing fine-tuned framework. Schools’ discretion on MOI arrangements in the third cycle will continue to be determined by the three prescribed criteria of “student ability”, “teacher

¹ The prescribed criteria under the fine-tuned MOI framework include: (i) “student ability” (i.e. the average proportion of Secondary (S) 1 intake of a school admitted to a class belonging to the “top 40%” group (territory) in the “Secondary School Places Allocation” of the previous two years under a six-year cycle reaches 85% of the size of a class); (ii) “teacher capability” (i.e. teachers adopting English as the MOI should have Level 3 or above in English Language of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (or Grade C or above in English Language (Syllabus B) of the defunct Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) / Level 3 or above in English Language of the HKCEE in 2007 to 2011), or other recognised equivalent qualifications (e.g. Band 6 or above in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (academic domain)); and (iii) “school-based support” (i.e. support measures provided by schools for students in adopting English as the MOI).

capability” and “school-based support”, so that students can continue to benefit from the merits of the fine-tuned arrangements. For details, please refer to our letter dated 29 April 2021 on “Fine-tuning the Medium of Instruction for Secondary Schools – Arrangements for the Third Cycle (2022/23 to 2027/28 School Years)”.

3. Under the framework for fine-tuned MOI arrangements, all schools have the discretion to adopt Chinese as the MOI (CMI) for all non-language subjects. For schools meeting the “student ability” criterion, they may, having regard to their own circumstances and the needs of their students, exercise professional discretion to put in place the most appropriate MOI arrangements, such as adopting English as the MOI (EMI) for all non-language subjects or adopting CMI for some non-language subjects. For schools not meeting the “student ability” criterion, for each class/group of students, they may only:

- (i) dedicate up to 25% of the total lesson time (excluding the lesson time for the English Language subject) to conduct extended learning activities (ELA) in English (if ELA are conducted for individual subject(s), the lesson time should also be capped at the aforementioned percentage of the total lesson time of the subject(s) concerned);
- (ii) transform all 25% or a smaller percentage of the ELA lesson time into the adoption of EMI in up to two non-language subjects (i.e. “allocation of time to subjects”); or
- (iii) implement both ELA in English and “allocation of time to subjects”, the lesson time involved together must not exceed 25% of the total lesson time (excluding the lesson time for the English Language subject).

Besides, schools may opt to take the entire junior secondary learning stage (i.e. S1 to S3) as a unit, and adopt an orderly and progressive approach to make blanket allocation of ELA lesson time from S1 to S3 for the same cohort of students, up to 25% of the total lesson time (excluding the lesson time of the English Language subject) in the junior secondary learning stage; and make blanket allocation of subjects to be covered by “allocation of time to subjects” from S1 to S3 for this cohort of students, up to six counts of transformation of the ELA lesson time in the junior secondary learning stage.

4. Schools are required, as usual, to take into account their school-based situation and devise professionally their MOI arrangements in each of the school years within the third cycle. In light of the aforementioned letter on the arrangements for the third cycle, schools should review their school-based situation every year, and may exercise their professional discretion to consider whether the MOI arrangements in the classes/groups concerned should be maintained with regard to other prescribed criteria (including teachers’ capability and readiness in adopting English as the MOI, as well as school support measures) so as to cater for students’ learning needs in a stable language environment. To ensure the effectiveness of learning and teaching, EDB will continue to engage schools in professional dialogue when required and schools shall review and revise their MOI arrangements where appropriate.

5. Information about schools' MOI arrangements will continue to be included in the Secondary School Profiles 2024/2025 to be issued in December 2024. The MOI of individual subjects will be listed under the sections "Subjects Offered in the 2024/2025 School Year" and "Subjects to be Offered in the 2025/2026 School Year" as appropriate, with elaborations in the section "Whole-school Language Policy" under "Learning and Teaching Plan" of "School Characteristics" in the Profiles. The MOI information is to facilitate parents' making of school choices for S1 admission of their children in the 2025/26 school year. Schools are also advised to enhance the transparency of their MOI arrangements through disseminating the relevant information on their school websites.

Enquiries

6. For enquiries, please contact your Senior School Development Officer or the Review and Planning Section:

Mr Keith LAM	(Tel. no.: 2892 6608):	Kwun Tong, Yau Tsim & Mongkok, Sai Kung, Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan, Islands
Ms Miriam CHAN	(Tel. no.: 2892 6639):	Wanchai, Wong Tai Sin, Kwai Chung & Tsing Yi, North
Ms Faye NG	(Tel. no.: 2892 6463)	Hong Kong East, Southern, Sham Shui Po, Yuen Long
Ms Yvonne SHUM	(Tel. no.: 2892 6625):	Central & Western, Kowloon City, Shatin, Tai Po

For enquiries regarding the use of SMM, please contact the SMM Helpdesk at 3464 0550.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Bonnie CHAN)
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Chief School Development Officers
SEO(SIM)