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Education System in Hong Kong

The Education System in Hong Kong is basically divided into four stages, which are kindergarten, primary school, secondary school and post-secondary education. The following information is quoted from the website

<http://www.edb.gov.hk/index.aspx?nodeID=97&langno=1> of the Education Bureau of Special Administrative Region on 1.7.2010.

Kindergarten Education



Pre-primary Services in Hong Kong refers to provision of education and care to young children by kindergartens and child care centres. Kindergartens, registered with the Education Bureau, provide services for children from three to six years old. Child care centres, on the other hand, are registered with the Social Welfare Department and include nurseries, catering for children aged two to three, and creches, looking after infants from birth to two.

At present, most of the kindergartens operate on half-day basis offering upper, lower kindergarten classes and nursery classes. Some kindergartens operate full-day kindergarten classes too. Child care centres also provide full-day and half-day services with most centres providing full-day services.

The aim of pre-primary education in Hong Kong is to provide children with a relaxing and pleasurable learning environment to promote a balanced development of different aspects necessary to a child's development such as the physical, intellectual, language, social, emotional and aesthetic aspects.

Primary School Education

The Government's policy objectives are to:

- provide nine years' free and universal primary and junior secondary education to all children attending public sector schools. Starting from the 2008/09 school year, senior secondary education is provided free through public sector schools. In addition, with effect from the 2008/09 school year, the Government provides full subvention for full-time courses run by the Vocational Training Council for Secondary 3 leavers to offer an alternative free avenue for senior secondary students outside mainstream education;

- provide a balanced and diverse school education that meet the different need of our students; and help them build up knowledge, values and skills for further studies and personal growth;
- enhance students' biliterate and trilingual abilities;
- enhance teaching quality and effectiveness in learning;
- improve the learning and teaching environment;
- help newly arrived children from the Mainland integrate into the local school system as soon as possible; and
- enhance the quality, flexibility and accountability of school administration.



Secondary School Education

The Government's policy objectives are to:

- provide nine years' free and universal primary and junior secondary education to all children attending public sector schools. Starting from the 2008/09 school year, senior secondary education is provided free through public sector schools. In addition, with effect from the 2008/09 school year, the Government provides full subvention for full-time courses run by the Vocational Training Council for Secondary 3 leavers to offer an alternative free avenue for senior secondary students outside mainstream education;
- provide a balanced and diverse school education that meet the different need of our students, and help them build up knowledge, values and skills for further studies and personal growth;
- enhance students' biliterate and trilingual abilities;
- enhance teaching quality and effectiveness in learning;
- improve the learning and teaching environment;
- help newly arrived children from the Mainland integrate into the local school system as soon as possible; and
- enhance the quality, flexibility and accountability of school administration.



Post-Secondary Education

The Government's policy objectives are to:

- provide 14,500 first-year first-degree (FYFD) places to cater for about 18% of the 17 to 20 age group;
- further develop Hong Kong as a regional education hub;
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- support the progressive increase in post-secondary education. Our planning target is that by 2010/11, 60% of our senior secondary school leavers will have access to post-secondary education;
- facilitate tertiary institutions, private enterprises and other organizations to provide option(s) other than traditional sixth form education, such as professional diploma courses, and allocate more resources by providing land and loans to those institutions interested in offering such courses;
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- ensure that no qualified students are denied access to higher and post-secondary education due to a lack of financial means;
- make available to working adults further opportunities for higher education through the Open University of Hong Kong;
- assure the quality of tertiary education and ensure its relevance to the needs and development of the community; and
- ensure that courses leading to non-local higher academic and professional qualifications are conducted by recognized institutions and professional bodies and have attained comparable standards and recognition as similar courses in the home countries concerned.

