



Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council

香港津貼中學議會

Results of the Survey on Educational Issues in 2007-08 Policy Address

After the announcement of the 2007-08 Policy Address by the Chief Executive of HKSAR, the Executive Committee of our Council has discussed thoroughly the issues related to secondary schools and decided the needs to solicit our members' views on the issues related to (I) Class size and (2) Free education for senior secondary students. The results of our survey are as follows:

Return rate : 217 responses out of 353 member schools, that is 61.47%

I. Class size

<u>Background:</u>				
In order to improve the quality of education, the class size in primary schools will be reduced to 25 by 2014/15, there should not be too great a difference in the class size in secondary school. We have the following proposals.				
1.	As a transition measure between now and then, we propose two options for gradual reduction of class size: A. Reduction by 3 phases: 2008/09 - 38 students/class; 2009/10 - 35 students/class; 2012/13 - 30 students/class Further reduction expected in the future B. Reduction of 2 students per year from 2008/09 to 2012/13 2008/09 - 38 students/class; 2009/10 - 36 students/class; 2010/11 - 34 students/class; 2011/12 - 32 students/class; 2012/13 - 30 students/class Further reduction expected in the future		<u>No. of schools</u>	<u>(%)</u>
		1. Option A only	45	20.74
		2. Option B only	69	31.80
		3. Option A or B	100	46.08
		4. Neither A nor B	3	1.38
		<u>Overall</u>		
		Option A (1+3)	145	66.82
		Option B (2+3)	169	77.88
2.	As we realize the population of students is not uniform in all the districts, we propose: Reduction process would start for all schools within the district with insufficient number of students.	1. Agree 2. Disagree 3. No comment	181 22 13	83.80 10.19 6.02
3	If different districts have different class size, we propose: The maximum no. of students per class should be capped at that class size	1. Agree 2. Disagree 3. No comment	180 6 26	84.91 2.89 12.26

II. Free education for senior secondary students

4.	Since the government will provide free education for all senior secondary students, she should bear the costs of all the courses of Applied Learning, we propose: The schools and the students do not need to pay for any Applied Learning courses.	1. Agree 2. Disagree 3. No comment	201 3 13	92.63 1.38 5.99
5.	Free education provided by the government will not include Tong Fai, we propose: EDB should allow schools to continue collecting Tong Fai from our senior secondary students.	1. Agree 2. Disagree 3. No comment	211 2 4	97.24 0.92 1.84

Conclusion:

- 1 On the issues related to class size,
 - (a) 98.62% of the responses agreed to have a transition measure for gradual reduction of class size in the secondary schools, with slightly more responses (77.8%) favouring Option B of **the reduction of 2 students each year from 2008/09 till 2012/13**; and
 - (b) Over 80% of the responses agreed that the in the process of reduction of class size,
 - (i) **reduction process would start for all schools within the district with insufficient number of students**; and
 - (ii) **the maximum no. of students per class should be capped at that class size.**
- 2 On the implementation of free education for senior secondary students,
 - (a) over 90% of the responses agreed that: the government should bear the costs of all the courses of Applied Learning, i.e. **the schools and the students do not need to pay for any Applied Learning courses**; and
 - (b) nearly all responses (97.24%) agreed that **EDB should allow schools to continue collecting Tong Fai from our senior secondary students.**

Other Suggestions

Class Size

1	All the districts can start the reduction process simultaneously.
2	For Q2, schools in ALL districts should have the right to a reduction of students per class despite the sufficiency of students in the district. It should be at the discretion of the school to exercise its right or not.
3	To expedite the improvement of teacher / pupil ratio, ie.faster and bigger reduction of no. of pupils per class.
4	(8) We suggest the government to consider a 'zero-sums' principle to moderate the class size among Band 1 - Band 3 schools in addition to the transition measure as suggested in item 1.(e.g. X is the optional no. of normal class size as suggested.) X+2 can be accepted as the maximum enrolment no. of Band 1 school, X-2 can be accepted as the maximum enrolment no. of Band 3 school.
5	Schools accepting more than 50% Band 3 students should be allowed to have a further reduction in the class size, say 5 students less in each phase.
6	It's important to maintain the cap for normal no. of students per class for all types of secondary schools, including DSS.

Tong Fai

1	Tong Fai should be collected from junior secondary students as well.
2	I suggest that Tong Fai can be collected from all students, not only the senior ones.
3	Tong Fai should be collected from all students, i.e. including junior secondary.
4	Not only senior secondary students, but also S1-S3 students. The reason for senior secondary is because of 9 yr Free Ed. But now it would be 12 yr free Ed..Therefore, Tong Fai for S1-S3, SS1-SS3 is justified with EDB to amend code fo aid 13(b).
5	For point 5, it is suggested that to collect Tong Fai from all student but of 50% of the amount collected in present situation.

Others

1	提早退休不應與縮班裁員或科目配對掛鈞。即只要老師想提早退休，不論符合上述兩要求與否，應批准。
2	Please consider seriously on raising the funding & CEG of each school.
3	How about the issues related to increased percent of G.M.?
4	ACEG should become regular funding such as CEG so as to support SBA & TSA, splits class teaching in NSS.
5	Apart from Tong Fai, the former SMI collection or air-conditioning fee should also be tolerated by EDB.
6	Senior Secondary is free that NOT compulsory. This point should be clarified with EDB.
7	Eventhough the class size becomes smaller, the additional teachers for ALAS (Band 3 and Bottom 10%) should not be waived.