

本署檔號 Our ref: (46) in EMB(SAS1)/DSS/POL/3(I)/C 1 March 2007
來函檔號 Your ref:
電話 Tel. No.: 2892 6401
圖文傳真 Fax No.: 2893 1461

To: Supervisors/Heads of Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) Secondary Schools

Dear Sir/Madam,

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)

It has come to our attention that a number of DSS schools have indicated their intention to offer IBDP. We wish to re-iterate that as stated in the Education and Manpower Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 532/99 issued on 22 September 1999, DSS schools are required to offer principally a curriculum targeted at local students and prepare them for local examinations. Within this parameter, DSS schools are given the maximum freedom with regard to the curriculum.

In response to some recent enquiries on the matter, we would like to set out below the guiding principles for DSS schools which are planning to offer IBDP:

- (a) We have no objection to DSS schools to offer IBDP as an additional curriculum choice for some students on condition that they would principally offer a local curriculum preparing students for local examinations;
- (b) DSS schools should carefully assess their readiness and capacity in offering both the local curriculum and IBDP at the same time, in particular when the new senior secondary (NSS) academic structure is implemented. They must ensure that the quality of its education service would not be undermined by the offer of IBDP in parallel;

- (c) To be in line with our biliterate and trilingual language policy, DSS schools running IBDP should offer 'Chinese Language' as a core language subject. It is desirable for students taking Chinese Language in IBDP to be suitably exposed to Chinese literature, classics, culture, moral and values that are included in the local Chinese Language curriculum;
- (d) The 3-year NSS curriculum enables students to explore their interests as far as possible at Senior Secondary (SS) 1 level and then to progress smoothly in their chosen studies in SS2 and SS3. Hence, the two-year IBDP should be offered as an additional choice only to SS2 and SS3 students;
- (e) On condition that the DSS schools would principally offer a local curriculum preparing students for local examinations, DSS unit subsidy will be provided for all eligible students in the usual manner, irrespective of whether they take the local curriculum or IBDP. No additional government subsidy nor additional classes will be provided for the purpose of offering IBDP. If different fees are charged for the local curriculum and IBDP students, the relevant DSS income banding system will apply where appropriate; and
- (f) DSS schools offering IBDP should fully brief parents of the curriculum design, the streaming arrangement and the possible implications, in particular the admission criteria that the local universities set for IBDP, and the differentiated fees charged, if appropriate. Parents' possible concerns about 'cross-subsidisation' between local curriculum and IBDP streams should be adequately addressed.

We strongly advise that DSS schools wishing to offer IBDP should conduct a feasibility study before they make their decisions and seek authorization from the IB Organization. In this regard, they should submit their proposal to our Regional Education Office in advance for approval-in-principle, having regard to the above guiding principles as well as their capacity and viability in offering the local curriculum and IBDP in parallel. They should avoid making premature commitment to parents prior to approval-in-principle from our Bureau and authorization from the IB Organization.

For further information, please contact Ms Tracy LAM at 2892 5788 or Mrs. Lydia LEUNG at 2892 6623.

Yours sincerely,


(Mrs Fanny K F LAM)

for Secretary for Education and Manpower

c.c. Supervisors/Heads of DSS Primary Schools – for information
CSDOs