

The total government expenditure on education in the 2018-19 estimates is \$113.7 billion, making up 20.0 per cent of total government expenditure. Of this, \$84.6 billion is recurrent expenditure on education, comprising 20.8 per cent of total recurrent government expenditure.

Kindergarten education in Hong Kong is for children from three to six years old. Local non-profit-making kindergartens joining the kindergarten education scheme are provided direct government subsidy.

Public sector schools form the majority in the 6-year primary and 6-year secondary basic education. These consist of government schools operated directly by the Government and aided schools that are generally run by religious or charitable organisations, fully subvented by the Government and managed by incorporated management committee or school management committee. In addition, there are Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools, which can charge school fees, receive government subvention based on enrolment, and self-financed private schools providing alternatives to parents.

Further details are available at <http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/list-page.html>

The Government is committed to developing a vibrant international school sector mainly to meet the demand for international school places from non-local families living in Hong Kong and families coming to Hong Kong for work or investment. In the 2017/18 school year, there are 53 international schools in Hong Kong, which generally operate on a self-financing basis and offer different non-local curricula.

Further details are available at <https://internationalschools.edb.hkedcity.net/?lang=en>

At the tertiary level, both publicly-funded and self-financing post-secondary programmes are available at sub-degree, undergraduate and higher levels. Publicly-funded programmes are provided by the eight University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded universities, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) and the Vocational Training Council. Diverse publicly-funded and self-financing post-secondary programmes are provided by various post-secondary institutions with a choice of study pathways and multiple entry and exit points.

Kindergarten Education: Starting from the 2017/18 school year, the Government has implemented a new kindergarten education policy to give eligible local non-profit-making kindergartens a direct subsidy which is, in principle, sufficient for the provision of quality half-day service for all eligible children aged between three and six. The policy objectives are to provide good quality and highly affordable kindergarten education, and enhance students' access to different services that suit their needs. In the 2017/18 school year, 748

kindergartens (about 97% of local non-profit-making kindergartens) have joined this new scheme.

Further details are available at <http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/about-edb/publications-stat/figures/kg.html>

Kindergarten Curriculum: The child-centred kindergarten education curriculum emphasises fostering children's learning interest, building positive values and attitudes, and enhancing self-confidence as well as self-care abilities. Based on the principles of fostering children's comprehensive and balanced development, the kindergarten education curriculum aims to help children to attain all-round development in the domains of ethics, intellect, physique, social skills and aesthetics. The kindergarten education curriculum also covers three interconnected components, namely "Values and Attitudes", "Skills" and "Knowledge" to keep in line with the primary and secondary curriculum forming a coherent curriculum system.

Further details are available at <http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/major-level-of-edu/preprimary/index.html>

Primary and Secondary Education: The Government provides 12 years' free primary and secondary education to all children through public sector schools. 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 them outside mainstream education.

In September 2017, 293 457 children were enrolled in 454 public sector primary schools; 261 242 students were enrolled in 392 public sector secondary schools.

Primary and Secondary Curriculum: To foster our students' whole-person development and nurture their lifelong learning capabilities, primary and secondary schools provide students with a broad and balanced curriculum in alignment with the seven learning goals. The school curriculum provides diverse learning experiences inside and outside the classroom enabling our students to realise their potentials in the domains of moral, intellectual, physical, social and aesthetic development. Emphasis has been put on the implementation of the four key tasks for developing students' generic skills and self-directed learning capabilities, for example, information technology in education, STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education, to prepare our students for future challenges.

Further details are available at <http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/list-page.html>

Education of Students with Special Educational Needs:

Types of special educational needs (SEN) include dyslexia, intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorders, etc. The Government adopts a dual-track mode to implement special education. Under the policy of integrated education, students with more severe or multiple disabilities are enrolled in special schools for intensive support services, other students with SEN will attend ordinary schools. Some of the special schools have a boarding section to provide boarding service.

According to their types, special schools will be provided with additional teachers, specialists and resources to meet the diverse needs of their students. The Government also provides public sector ordinary schools with additional resources, professional support and teacher training to help them cater for students with SEN. Starting from the 2017/18 school year, public sector ordinary schools would be provided with an additional graduate teaching post by phases in 3 years so that a designated teacher could be assigned as Special Educational Needs Coordinator to support integrated education.

Further details are available at <http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/about-edb/policy/special/index.html>

Education and Support Services for Newly Arrived Children (NAC):

The Education Bureau (EDB) provides support services for newly-arrived children, including the 6-month full-time Initiation Programme and the 60-hour Induction Programme, and provides public sector schools and DSS schools admitting these students with a School-based Support Scheme Grant to run school-based support programmes for them, so as to help them better integrate into the local community and overcome learning difficulties. All these support services are available to newly-arrived children from the Mainland, non-Chinese speaking children and returnee children. Placement service and information on study pathways are also provided for them as appropriate.

Further details are available at <http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/student-parents/newly-arrived-children/overview/index.html>

Education Services for Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) Children:

The Government ensures equal opportunities in school admission for all eligible children (including non-Chinese speaking (NCS) children) in public sector schools, regardless of their race. The Government is committed to encouraging and supporting the early integration of NCS students (notably ethnic minority students) into the community, including facilitating their adaptation to the local education system and mastery of the Chinese language. EDB provides various education services for NCS students and supports the work of school administrators, teachers and parents.

Further details are available at <http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/student-parents/ncs-students/about-ncs-students/index.html>

Post-secondary Education: Hong Kong provides quality, diversified and flexible pathways with multiple entry and exit points for students to pursue post-secondary education. There are 20 local degree-awarding post-secondary education institutions in Hong Kong, 9 of which are funded by the public and the other 11 are self-financing post-secondary institutions.

Further details are available at <http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/postsecondary/index.html>

The UGC-funded universities provide around 15 000 publicly-funded, first-year-first-degree intake places. There are also around 9 000 self-financing undergraduate programme places offered by various institutions. Besides, there are subsidised senior-year undergraduate places and self-financing top-up degree places for sub-degree graduates. At the sub-degree level, there are around 20 000 and 10 000 intake places for self-financing and publicly-funded sub-degree programmes respectively.

Starting from the 2017/18 academic year, the Government provides a non-means-tested annual subsidy of \$30,000 for eligible students pursuing full-time locally-accredited local and non-local self-financing undergraduate (including top-up degree) programmes (save for those enrolled in places already supported under the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors) offered by eligible institutions in Hong Kong.

Further details are available at <https://www.cspe.edu.hk/en/nmt-annual-subsidy.html>

Nurturing talent in support of specific industries with keen demand for human resources is one of the objectives of the Government to implement the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors. The number of subsidised places will be about 3 000 per cohort.

Further details are available at <https://www.cspe.edu.hk/en/sssdp/index.html>

Since 2003, the Government has launched several rounds of Matching Grant Scheme (MGS). The Seventh MGS launched in August 2017 provides up to \$500 million for eligible self-financing local degree-awarding institutions to apply.

Further details are available at <https://www.cspe.edu.hk/en/Overview-Measures-MatchingGrant.html>

Hong Kong as a Regional Education Hub: In recent years, the Government strives to develop Hong Kong as a regional education hub through internationalisation of the higher education sector. In this connection, the Government has implemented a basket of measures including: increasing the non-local student admission quotas, setting up the HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund to award government scholarships to outstanding local and non-local students, and allowing non-local students to stay in Hong Kong without limitations for 12 months after graduation, etc. In recent years, number of non-local students from different countries/regions studied post-secondary programmes at various levels in Hong Kong is on the multiple increase.

Further details are available at <https://www.cspe.edu.hk/en/Overview-RegionalEducation.html>

Vocational and Professional Education and Training: The Vocational Training Council (VTC) is a statutory body established to provide a comprehensive system of vocational and professional education and training (VPET) for school leavers and adult learners. It provides both full-time and part-time places. Courses offered through the VTC's member institutions are available from post-secondary 3 up to degree level, covering applied science, design, engineering, hotel, service and tourism, childcare, elderly and community services, business administration, information technology and other study areas.

Further details are available at
<http://www.vtc.edu.hk/html/en/>

The Government introduces a series of measures to promote VPET. These measures, implemented through the VTC, include the Pilot Training and Support Scheme, as well as the Pilot Subsidy Scheme for Students of Professional Part-time Programmes, which provides tuition fee subsidy for students admitted to designated professional part-time programmes in the disciplines of construction, engineering and technology.

Professional Development of Teachers: The Committee on Professional Development of Teachers and Principals advises the EDB on policies relating to the professional development of the teaching profession at different career stages and provides a platform for professional sharing, collaboration and networking.

Further details are available at
<http://www.cotap.hk/index.php/en/>

Professional development requirements are in place to help aspiring, newly appointed and serving principals enhance their leadership knowledge and address their developmental needs at different career stages. So far, some 1 500 aspiring principals have attained the Certification for Principalship and about half of them have become principals.

The Chief Executive's Award for Teaching Excellence (CEATE), organised by the EDB every year, aims to recognise accomplished teachers who demonstrate exemplary teaching practices and foster a culture of excellence in the teaching profession.

Further details are available at
<http://www.ate.gov.hk/english/index.html>