

The total government expenditure on education in the 2020-21 estimates is \$112.3 billion, making up 15.4 per cent of total government expenditure. Of this, \$99.6 billion is recurrent expenditure on education, comprising 20.5 per cent of total recurrent government expenditure.

Kindergarten education in Hong Kong is for children from 3 to 6 years old. Local non-profit-making kindergartens joining the kindergarten education scheme are provided with 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 committees or school management committees. In addition, there are Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools, which can charge school fees and 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 September 2019, there were 53 international schools in operation 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 8 University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded universities, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) and the Vocational Training Council (VTC). Diverse publicly-funded and self-financing post-secondary programmes are provided by various post-secondary institutions with a choice of study pathways with multiple entry and exit points.

**Kindergarten Education:** Under the kindergarten education scheme implemented from the 2017/18 school year, a direct subsidy which is, in principle, sufficient for the provision of quality half-day service to all eligible children aged between 3 and 6 is provided to local non-profit-making kindergartens that join the kindergarten education scheme. In the 2019/20 school year, 761 local non-profit-making kindergartens have joined this 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 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 2019, 301 073 children were enrolled in 455 public sector primary schools; 256 126 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 and 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:**

Students with special educational needs (SEN) include those with 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 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.

Further details are available at

<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/special/about-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 for school admission for all eligible children (including non-Chinese speaking (NCS) children) in public sector schools, regardless of their races. 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 22 local degree-awarding post-secondary education institutions in Hong Kong, 8 of which are funded by the public through the UGC. The other 14 are the publicly funded HKAPA, the self-financing Open University of Hong Kong, the VTC's Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong, and 11 approved post-secondary colleges registered under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance.

Further details are available at

<http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/postsecondary/index.html>

In terms of full-time studies in the 2019/20 academic year, the UGC-funded universities and the HKAPA together provided around 15 200 publicly funded, first-year-first-degree intake places, while self-financing undergraduate programmes offered about 9 900 places. The UGC-funded universities and the self-financing, degree-awarding institutions also provided around 5 000 senior-year undergraduate intake places and 9 400 top-up degree places respectively, mainly for sub-degree graduates. At the sub-degree level, about 19 700 self-financing and 13 300 publicly funded intake places were available.

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

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). Following the announcement in the 2017 Policy Address, the Government reserved \$500 million to launch the seventh MGS for application by qualified local self-financing degree-awarding institutions with a view to further enhancing the education quality of the self-financing post-secondary education sector by helping such institutions tap more funding sources and fostering a philanthropic culture. The duration of the seventh MGS ran for two years from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2019. On the other hand, the Eighth Matching Grant Scheme, set up specifically for the 10 publicly-funded post-secondary institutions, has been receiving application since July 2019.

Further details are available at

<https://www.cspe.edu.hk/en/Overview-Measures-MatchingGrant.html>

**Hong Kong as a Regional Education Hub:**

The Government has strived to enhance Hong Kong's status as a regional education hub through internationalisation and diversification of the higher education sector. Our aim is to nurture talents for other industries and attract outstanding people from around the world, boosting Hong Kong's competitiveness and facilitating the long term development of Hong Kong, Pearl River Delta region and the nation as a whole.

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.

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.

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

**Professional Development of Educators:** The EDB implements '*i-Journey*' Paid Non-local Study Leave Scheme for Secondary School Teachers, which aims to enhance teachers' professional capacity and inspire them with the latest global education developments, to promote a culture of research and inquiry in schools that brings positive changes and impact on learning and teaching and to create space for teachers to undertake professional development activities on a full-time basis.

Further details are available at  
<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/teacher/qualification-training-development/training/i-Journey/index.html>

'Sabbatical Leave Scheme for Professional Development of Teachers and Principals' is developed to create space for serving teachers and principals to plan and participate in continuing professional development programmes/activities that support their professional learning and meet developmental needs of their students and schools.

Further details are available at  
<https://www.cotap.hk/index.php/en/t-excel-hk/train/SabbaticalLeave>

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. As of May 2020, some 1 700 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 Education Bureau 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>