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**Nurture a new generation of  
young people with an affection  
for the country and for  
Hong Kong and equipped with  
global perspectives**

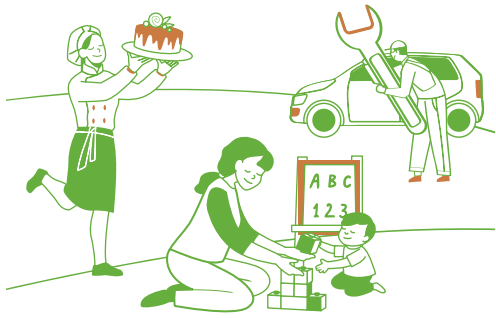
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# 7

**Hong Kong will Prosper  
Only When its  
Young People Thrive**





# 7



## Hong Kong will Prosper Only When its Young People Thrive

### Policy Measures

#### Strengthening Our Education System

##### STEAM education “for all”, “for fun” and “for diversity”

- Step up the promotion of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) education. Implement the enriched coding education at the upper primary level and incorporate learning elements of innovation and technology (I&T), e.g. artificial intelligence into the junior secondary curriculum for implementation in schools by the 2024/25 school year. (EDB)
- Publicly-funded primary and secondary schools are required to designate co-ordinators to holistically plan STEAM education inside and beyond the classroom starting from the 2022/23 school year; and organise or arrange students to participate in quality STEAM activities of reasonable scale at the school, inter-school, territory-wide or international level starting from the 2023/24 school year. (EDB)

- Make arrangements for teachers to undergo core professional development training on I&T in an orderly manner by the 2023/24 school year. (EDB)

#### Enhancing post-secondary education

- Increase the number of University Grants Committee-funded research postgraduate places to 7 200, with full implementation in the 2024/25 academic year. (EDB)
- Provide further support to Hong Kong students pursuing university education on the Mainland by increasing the subsidy level of the Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme starting from the 2022/23 academic year. (EDB)
- Collaborate with institutions to further promote the Belt and Road Scholarship to countries outside the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. (EDB)
- Extend the current interest-free deferral of student loan repayment for another one year until the end of March 2025. (EDB)

## Promotion of vocational and professional education and training

- Expand the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors (SSSDP) by increasing in phases the respective numbers of subsidised places for self-financing higher diploma programmes and self-financing undergraduate programmes (including top-up degree programmes for the first time) by 1 000 and 2 000 per cohort starting from the 2023/24 academic year, so as to broaden students' progression pathways and nurture talent for industries with a keen manpower demand. (EDB)
- Accord priorities under the SSSDP to programmes of applied nature that involve industry-institution collaboration and rationalise the implementation details of the SSSDP and the Non-means-tested Subsidy Scheme for Self-financing Undergraduate Studies in Hong Kong starting from the 2023/24 academic year to provide more flexibility for institutions to admit students with vocational and professional education and training (VPET) qualifications and enhance the VPET pathway, so as to benefit students from different backgrounds. (EDB)
- Explore the introduction of more applied degree programmes following the launch of the first batch of programmes, covering four disciplines, under the Pilot Project on the Development of Applied Degree Programmes in the 2022/23 academic year. (EDB)

- Launch the Diploma of Applied Education Programme in the 2023/24 academic year on a regular basis, which will incorporate additional VPET elements, including a brand new VPET stream, so as to enhance the employability of students and support their articulation to other VPET programmes. (EDB)
- Expedite the development of the Vocational Qualifications Pathway under the Qualifications Framework, and further refine the Recognition of Prior Learning mechanism in collaboration with the industries. (EDB)
- Enhance the image and attractiveness of VPET, and deepen the public's understanding of the VPET pathway. (EDB)
- Support the Vocational Training Council in organising the large-scale "Future Skills Community Event" in December 2022. (EDB)
- Launch the Business-School Partnership Programme 2.0 to widen students' career-world perspective, and increase the number of business partners by 15% in the 2022/23 school year. (EDB)

## Orderly implementation of small class teaching

- Continue to implement small class teaching (SCT) in public sector primary schools in a professional, progressive and orderly manner, with a view to increasing the proportion of public sector primary schools implementing SCT to 90% in the coming two school years. (EDB)

### **Expanding the Sister School Scheme**

- Further promote exchanges between schools in Hong Kong and the Mainland, with the aim of achieving a 10% increase in the number of publicly-funded schools that have paired up with their Mainland counterparts as sister schools by the end of 2023. (EDB)

### **Promoting professional development of teachers**

- Promulgate the guidelines on teachers' professional conduct in 2022 to clearly set out the professional conduct and behaviour required of teachers, with a view to upholding the professionalism of the teaching force. (EDB)

### **Pragmatic rationalisation of demand and supply of places in primary and secondary schools**

- Maintain dialogues with school sponsoring bodies, assist the sector to plan ahead to cope with changes in the demand and supply of school places in various districts through strategies such as relocating and merging schools and suspending plans to operate schools, and optimise the use of resources to enhance education quality. (EDB)

### **Establishing smart and healthy kindergartens**

- Earmark \$60 million for the provision of a one-off grant to all kindergartens joining the Kindergarten Education Scheme (the Scheme), so as to promote digitalisation of school administration and development of "smart kindergartens". (EDB)

- Earmark \$30 million for the provision of a one-off grant to all kindergartens joining the Scheme, so as to improve the ventilation of school premises and support the kindergartens in creating a "Healthy School". (EDB)
- Double the removal grant to \$3 million per kindergarten in the 2022/23 school year and extend the provision of the grant by one year to the 2023/24 school year, so as to encourage kindergartens joining the Scheme to relocate to new development areas, premises of lower rent, or government-owned school premises, thereby improving the learning environment as well as facilitating the consolidation of resources. (EDB)
- Increase the number of kindergarten premises by providing 10 premises by the end of 2023, so that eligible bodies can apply for the reprovisioning or operation of kindergartens on a fair competitive bidding basis. (EDB)

### **Enhanced support for students in need**

- Expand the Strength-based Programme under the Project on Whole School Approach to Providing Tiered Support for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder to help senior secondary students with autism spectrum disorder unleash their potential and strengthen life planning, with the target of doubling the number of courses offered under the programme and benefitting about 100 secondary schools in the 2022/23 school year. (EDB)

- Increase the resources for hospital schools and enhance their manpower provision starting from the 2022/23 school year to provide hospitalised students suffering from injuries or diseases with a holistic senior secondary curriculum and enhanced life planning education, with a view to facilitating their re-integration into mainstream schools after recovery. (EDB)
- Enhance school-based educational psychology service by increasing the number of public sector ordinary schools provided with such service from about 200 in the 2020/21 school year to about 350 in the 2022/23 school year. (EDB)
- Enhance school-based speech therapy service by increasing the number of public sector ordinary schools with the creation of school-based speech therapist posts from about 550 in the 2021/22 school year to about 700 in the 2022/23 school year. (EDB)
- Strengthen the professional development of the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) starting from the 2022/23 school year to dovetail with the enhanced measure in respect of the SENCOs benefitting all public sector ordinary schools. (EDB)
- Have improved the staff establishment of the boarding sections of aided special schools as well as their non-teaching staff establishment and allowed flexibility for staff appointment, benefitting all aided special schools in the 2022/23 school year. (EDB)

## Stepping up parent education

- Organise a territory-wide “Play with Your Children Day” in end-2022 to promote positive parent education. (EDB)
- Introduce the Curriculum Framework on Parent Education (Primary School) in end-2022, and start to develop the framework for secondary schools. (EDB)
- Organise parent education courses in accordance with the Curriculum Framework on Parent Education (Kindergarten) introduced in 2021. (EDB)
- Provide support for kindergartens in organising parent education programmes, helping parents foster the healthy and happy growth of their children since early childhood. (EDB)

## Promoting Youth Development

### Promulgating the Youth Development Blueprint

- Publish the first edition of the Youth Development Blueprint by the end of 2022. The blueprint will outline the vision and objectives as well as the major principles of our youth development work, and set out a series of specific initiatives to assist young people in overcoming hurdles in education, employment, entrepreneurship and home ownership. (HYAB)
- Implement the initiatives proposed in the blueprint within this term of Government and review from time to time for enhancement. (HYAB)

## Launching the Youth Participation Initiative

- Expand further the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth, with the target of increasing the number of participating advisory committees from around 60 at present to not less than 180 within the current-term Government. (HYAB)
- Two committees on district affairs will open up some seats to young people for self-nomination to encourage them to participate actively in district affairs and social development. (HYAB)

## Deepening participation of government departments and civil service grades in youth work

- Encourage professional grades and departments of the Government to strengthen youth work by organising regular activities to increase young people's understanding of government departments and relevant grades and to guide them in their search for career directions. (HYAB)
- Establish Security Bureau Volunteer Services Team in 2022-23, and help at least 100 children from new arrival families enhance their abilities and broaden their horizons, while encouraging them to join the Government after growing up. (SB)
- Strengthen life planning education for youth uniformed groups (UGs) of the disciplined services to deepen their members' understanding of the work of the disciplined services and enhance their knowledge and skills in various aspects. (SB)

- Offer at least 100 internship places in the disciplined services in 2023 to let members of their youth UGs experience the disciplined services' work and prepare them for a career in the disciplined services. (SB)
- Implement a cross-sector internship programme and in 2023, offer some 200 internship places in different sectors (including those in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA)) for members of youth UGs of the disciplined services. (SB)
- Provide short-term internship opportunities in the Government and public organisations for young people to help them equip themselves and accumulate social experience. (CSB)

## Meeting housing needs of young people

- Expand the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) by providing government subsidies for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to rent suitable rooms in hotels and guesthouses for use as youth hostels, with the target of providing about 3 000 hostel places within five years. In addition, identify suitable sites in the Land Sale Programme whereby the developers will be required to set aside a certain number of flats for YHS on a pilot basis. (HYAB, DEVB)



- Allocate site(s) in the Land Sale Programme of the next financial year for the Starter Homes for Hong Kong Residents (SH) project. Such projects can facilitate youth home ownership as over 85% of past SH applicants were aged 40 or less. (HB, DEVB)
- Continue to implement the YHS, including the impending completion of the largest one in Yuen Long, and proactively encourage more NGOs to participate in the scheme. (HYAB)

### Enhancing positive thinking

- Launch a new funding scheme in end-2022 to provide subsidies for NGOs in organising projects to nurture the positive thinking of young people, particularly those that involve cross-sectoral collaboration or are youth-led and could drive community building. (HYAB)
- Subject to the review of the outcome of the pilot scheme, launch a new funding scheme in end-2022 to provide subsidies for NGOs in organising systematic and quality adventure training activities for young people. (HYAB)
- To strengthen cohesion among the youth, the Government will take the lead in staging the Hong Kong Youth Festival annually from 2023 by inviting different sectors of the community to jointly organise a wide spectrum of activities to nurture positive thinking, facilitate development of potential and enhancement of knowledge, and promote experience sharing, etc. (HYAB)

### Accumulating experience in the GBA

- Regularise the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme so as to encourage enterprises to recruit local university graduates and deploy them to work in the GBA. (LWB)
- Establish an Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovative and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area and invite organisations from Guangdong and Hong Kong such as entrepreneurial hubs, universities, NGOs, scientific research institutes, professional bodies and venture funds to join the alliance subject to the development of the epidemic situation. A one-stop information, publicity and exchange platform will be set up to support entrepreneurship by Hong Kong youth in the GBA. (HYAB)

### Broadening horizons

- Further enhance the breadth and depth of the Mainland and overseas internship and exchange programmes subject to the development of the epidemic situation, so as to help young people understand the major development trends of both our country and the world, as well as participate in the overall development of our country. (HYAB)
- Provide recurrent subvention to the Hong Kong Army Cadets Association from 2022-23 onwards to enhance support for youth development and national education. (HYAB)

- Continue to implement the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship by providing full scholarships for students who excel in sports, arts and/or community service to pursue undergraduate studies in local universities and tertiary institutions, with a view to promoting a culture of multi-faceted excellence. (HYAB)