



Quality Learning Environment and Support

To ensure that the potential of our young people can develop to the full, we must provide them with an environment conducive to learning.

A quality learning environment for our children to make the best out of their schooling

Initiatives	Benefits
We will raise the target percentage of primary students in whole-day schools from the previous target of 40 to 60 by the commencement of the 2002-03 school year. We will continue to seek land and study various ways in order to achieve the 100 target.	✓ This will enable about 260 000 primary school pupils to have more time and opportunities to interact with teachers, socialise with peers and participate in extra-curricular activities.
We will abolish all floating classes at Secondary 1 to Secondary 5 by the year 2000.	✓ This will improve the learning environment for 11 040 secondary school students.
We are revising school designs to suit new developments, providing more facilities like staff rooms and multi-media rooms. We will continue our efforts in implementing the School improvement programme.	✓ Under the School improvement programme, we have completed improvement works for 142 schools and are carrying out such works for another 56 schools.



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<p>We will build an additional 13 primary and 19 secondary schools before the 2001-02 school year and provide various support programmes for newly arrived children and young people.</p>	<p>✓ This will ensure an adequate provision of school places for all newly arrived children and young people and will provide us with the capacity to continue with various school improvement measures.</p>
<p>We will provide 11 000 more student hostel places, principally for the three universities that do not have any at present, to ensure that within ten years all students can spend at least one year in a university hostel.</p>	<p>✓ This will encourage an all-round development of tertiary students and provide a better environment for students to learn, interact with their peers and broaden their outlook.</p>
<p>For special education, we will increase the provision of social workers and janitor staff, and upgrade the ranking of boarding staff in special schools.</p>	<p>✓ This will further enhance the quality of special education services for 4 138 students in 40 special schools.</p>



To ensure students do not have to worry about financial support in their study

Initiatives	Benefits
We will introduce a new, non-means tested scheme open to all full-time tertiary students to complement the existing means-tested scheme.	✓ This scheme will benefit some 50 000 students starting from the 1998-99 academic year.
We will enhance the efficiency, transparency and fairness of the Local Student Finance Scheme.	✓ This will ensure that no student will be denied access to tertiary education due to a lack of means.
We will extend the Textbook Assistance Scheme to Secondary 4 to 7 students.	✓ This will enable 88 640 more students to obtain subsidies for the purchase of textbooks.
We will provide travel subsidy for needy primary school pupils.	✓ This will benefit those primary school pupils who need to travel a long distance to attend schools.