



Excellence in Learning

We are committed to equipping our young people with the essential skills, particularly in language and information technology, to aspire for excellence and to face the challenges of the future. Our higher education institutions will also take a lead in setting standards into the 21st Century.

To enable our students to be bi-literate and tri-lingual

Initiatives	Benefits
<p>We will set language benchmarks for all teachers. We will require all new teachers entering the profession from the 2000-01 school year to reach the benchmarks, and all serving language teachers to have reached the benchmarks by 2005.</p>	<p>✓ This will substantially raise the quality of language teaching and ensure that in ten years' time our secondary school graduates will be fully bi-literate and tri-lingual.</p>
<p>We will implement a new Native-speaking English Teachers Scheme, enabling all secondary schools to have at least one additional English teacher who is a native English speaker.</p>	<p>✓ This will strengthen the teaching of English and create a good environment for the learning of English in all secondary schools.</p>
<p>We will examine the setting up of a 'Centre of Language Teaching' within the Institute of Education for the training and re-training of our language teachers.</p>	<p>✓ This will develop a centre of excellence for training in language teaching.</p>



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Initiatives	Benefits
<p>We will provide additional grants, language learning facilities and an average of two additional English teachers for secondary schools adopting Chinese as the medium of instruction.</p>	<p>✓ This will enhance the teaching of English in more than 360 schools expected to adopt Chinese as the medium of instruction.</p>
<p>We will provide in the next four years about 600 additional teachers for primary schools to support libraries and the Chinese and English Extensive Reading Schemes.</p>	<p>✓ This will strengthen the Chinese and English reading skills for about 400 000 students.</p>



To maximise the use of IT in education so that our teachers and students are fully IT competent

Initiatives	Benefits
<p>We will formulate a five-year strategy on the application of information technology in education.</p>	<p>✓ This will in five years' time bring us on par with the most advanced economies in respect of the extent to which IT is used in teaching and learning, hardware provision, and IT proficiency of students and teachers. This will enable at least 25% of the curriculum to be taught through IT.</p>
<p>We will increase the number of computers from 15 to an average of 40 in each primary school and from 20 to an average of 82 in each secondary school.</p>	<p>✓ There will be at least one computer in each classroom in secondary schools for IT-assisted teaching and one computer to one student for computer studies classes.</p>
<p>We will enhance training to teachers in IT use. We will establish an IT Education Resource Centre to provide support to schools.</p>	<p>✓ Over 30 000 teachers will be trained. All teachers will be competent in IT-assisted teaching in ten years' time.</p>



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To maximise the use of IT in education so that our teachers and students are fully IT competent

Initiatives	Benefits
We will introduce pilot schemes in 20 schools to set benchmarks for IT applications in teaching and learning.	✓ The pilot scheme will be completed in 1999.
We will commission a consultancy study for establishing an education-specific network ('Intranet').	✓ This will enhance communication and sharing of information in the school sector. The study will be completed in 1998.



To develop centres of excellence in higher learning

Initiatives

We will ask the UGC to work with tertiary institutions to identify their respective strengths for further development into areas of excellence.

We will support the Open University to develop into a centre of excellence in adult education and distance learning. \$50 million has been earmarked for this development. The University will develop adult distance learning courses in both English and Chinese, to serve not just Hong Kong's long term residents and new arrivals but also people in the Mainland.

Benefits

- ✓ Our heavy investments in these emerging areas of excellence will enable our institutions to achieve and maintain recognition as world-class institutions in the international academic community, and serve the future economic and social needs of Hong Kong.
- ✓ Our aim is to turn the Open University into a centre of excellence in adult education and distance learning in the region.



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To develop centre of excellence in higher learning

Initiatives	Benefits
<p>We will continue to allocate academic research grants of over \$1 billion in the 1998-99 to 2000-01 triennium for research programmes.</p>	<p>✓ This helps encourage the development of a strong research base in the tertiary institutions.</p>
<p>We will double the number of non-local undergraduates and taught post-graduates from 2% to 4% starting from 1998-99 and increase the ratio of non-local research postgraduates from 20% to one-third.</p>	<p>✓ This will help increase exchanges between local, mainland and foreign students and broaden the outlook of local students.</p>



To design the optimal system to deliver quality education

Initiatives

We will call on international expertise and best practices to review and streamline the existing structure of executive and advisory bodies on the education front.

We will ask the Education Commission to begin before the end of this year, a thorough review of the structure of pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary education, addressing the age at which students should begin each stage of education, the length of the various stages of education, the curriculum of each stage and the interface between them.

We will review our policy on private schools.

Benefits

✓ The review will be completed by early 1998 and will upgrade the effectiveness of the whole executive and advisory process.

✓ This will provide a basis for fundamental decisions to be made on our education system and how it should develop into the next century. The review will be completed by 1999.

✓ The review will be completed by mid-1998 and will foster a more vibrant and diverse private school sector.



Excellence in Learning

To design the optimal system to deliver quality education

Initiatives

We will conduct a two-year pilot exercise in nine mainstream schools to map out a long-term integration policy for students with special education needs.

We will incorporate the teaching of Chinese values in the school curriculum and provide more opportunities for students to learn about Chinese history and culture.

Benefits

- ✓ The long-term strategy will be completed by 2000.
- ✓ This will foster a stronger sense of Chinese identity in our students.