

14 May 2008

Education Bureau Circular No. 6/2008

Arrangements for School Fees and Tong Fai

[Note: This circular should be read by –

- (a) Supervisors and heads of aided secondary, special, and caput schools and schools under Direct Subsidy Scheme – for necessary action
- (b) Supervisors and heads of aided primary schools, government secondary schools as well as heads of sections – for information]

SUMMARY

This circular announces the abolition of school fees for senior secondary education and the revised arrangements for collection of Tong Fai from senior secondary students with effect from September 2008.

DETAILS

Abolition of School Fees for Senior Secondary Education

2. As announced in the 2007 Policy Address, free senior secondary education will be offered starting from the 2008/09 school year at Secondary 4 level and above. To this effect, aided secondary, special and caput schools should cease to collect school fees from their senior secondary students as from 1 September 2008. At the same time, ex-aided/ex-caput schools participating in the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) should also cease to collect school fees from their ex-aided/ex-caput senior

secondary students during the transition period.

3. Schools are required to inform parents of the abolition of school fees. The respective School Development Section of Education Bureau (EDB) will issue a revised Fees Certificate to schools concerned accordingly.

4. The financial implication of the abolition of school fees will be reflected in the subvention/subsidy to be provided by EDB for the schools.

Collection of Tong Fai from Senior Secondary Students

5. Under the spirit of school-based management, schools are provided with enhanced flexibility and autonomy in school operation and resource management so that they can respond proactively to the needs of students and the community in delivering quality educational services. Having considered the need of schools to make use of Tong Fai collected from students to support educational expenses, EDB has no objection for aided secondary, special and caput schools to collect Tong Fai at a rate of not exceeding \$290 per annum from their senior secondary students after the abolition of school fees. In this connection, schools are required to make known to parents the reasons for the charge and address parents' concerns, provide a waiver for needy students, critically assess the rate of Tong Fai and monitor the expenditure to ensure cost-effectiveness in its utilization.

6. The updated Guidelines on Collection of Tong Fai are available on the website of EDB at <https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/student-parents/sch-info/fees-charges-in-sch/aided-sch/tongfai-homepage.pdf>. The Guidelines will be reviewed annually. Schools should refer to the above website for up-to-date information regarding the rate of Tong Fai and procedures for its collection.

7. Ex-aided/ex-caput DSS schools may continue to collect Tong Fai from their ex-aided/ex-caput school students during the transition period.

ENQUIRY

8. For enquiries, please contact your respective Senior School Development Officers.

9. This circular supersedes EDB Circular No. 6/2005 dated 15 July 2005.

(M Y CHENG)
for Permanent Secretary for Education