

8 January 2019

Education Bureau Circular No. 1/2019

Primary One Admission System Revised Arrangements for Central Allocation

(Note: This circular should be read by –

- (a) supervisors and heads of all kindergartens, government primary schools, aided primary schools, Direct Subsidy Scheme primary schools and private primary schools – for necessary action; and
- (b) supervisors and heads of all secondary schools and heads of sections – for information.)

Summary

This circular informs all kindergartens¹ and primary schools that starting from the Primary One Admission (POA) 2019 (i.e. application for admission to Primary 1 (P1) in September 2019), minor changes will be introduced to the revised arrangements in place since 2014 for applicant children who intend to commute to schools in Hong Kong². In brief, except for the changes set out in this circular, all other prevailing arrangements applicable to cross-boundary students (CBS) under the POA System shall remain the same. This circular should be read in conjunction with the Education Bureau (EDB) Circular No. 14/2013 “Primary One Admission System – Revised Arrangements for Central Allocation” issued on 15 August 2013.

¹ Kindergartens refer to kindergartens, kindergarten-cum-child care centres and schools with kindergarten classes.

² Cross-boundary students include children of Hong Kong residents, Type I babies (who were born to Mainland women in Hong Kong and whose fathers are permanent residents of Hong Kong) (i.e. singly non-permanent resident children) and Type II babies (who were born to Mainland women in Hong Kong and whose fathers are non-permanent residents of Hong Kong) (i.e. doubly non-permanent resident children).

Background

2. Since the 2014/15 school year, the EDB has implemented the revised arrangements in the Central Allocation stage under the POA System and provided CBS with a separate Choice of Schools List for Central Allocation (Choice of Schools List). With the implementation of the “zero-quota” policy for doubly non-permanent resident pregnant women in 2013, the number of CBS participating in the POA System will decrease significantly. Nevertheless, it is expected that some parents of eligible children of Hong Kong residents and parents of eligible singly and doubly non-permanent resident children will choose to have their children commute daily to schools in Hong Kong. Therefore, the EDB will continue with the aforesaid arrangements of providing a separate Choice of Schools List for CBS.

Changes from 2019 and Implementation Details

3. Starting from 2019, the EDB will appropriately adjust the number of schools and the related school places for choices in the Choice of Schools List according to the actual number of CBS applicants. Details are set out in paragraphs 4 to 6 below.

4. The Choice of Schools List will include schools in the eight School Nets close to boundary control points (i.e. Tuen Mun: 70 (Tuen Mun West), 71 (Tuen Mun East); Yuen Long: 72 (Tin Shui Wai), 74 (Yuen Long East); North District: 80 (Sheung Shui), 81 (Fanling), 83 (Sha Tau Kok); and Tai Po: 84). In addition, with the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) in October 2018, eligible applicant children residing in Zhuhai or Macao might commute to Hong Kong via the HZMB Control Point on Lantau Island for schooling. As the Control Point is near Tung Chung, some schools in School Net 98 (Tung Chung), particularly those which are more ready and willing to support CBS, will also be included in the Choice of Schools List. The number of schools and school places concerned will be further adjusted according to actual demand in future. We will invite in writing, in January each year, parents of applicant children who intend to commute daily to schools in Hong Kong to make school choices for the Central Allocation and provide them with the Choice of Schools List. In view of the above changes, paragraph 10 of EDB Circular No. 14/2013 is hereby superseded.

5. Except for School Net 98 (Tung Chung), all schools in the eight School Nets close to the boundary control points mentioned in paragraph 4 above shall, in principle, set aside at least one school place per provisional P1 class for applicant children who intend to commute daily to schools in Hong Kong. In view of the above changes, paragraph 11(i) of EDB Circular No. 14/2013 is hereby superseded.

6. When necessary, the EDB will increase the number of school places provided by schools in the above eight School Nets in the Choice of Schools List according to the following principles (i.e. paragraphs 11(ii) to 11(iv) of EDB Circular No. 14/2013) to provide sufficient school places for CBS:

- (i) Due consideration will be given to individual schools in the eight School Nets, specifically those which have been admitting relatively more CBS. We will consider allowing these schools on application to include more school places in the Choice of Schools List for applicant children who intend to commute daily to schools in Hong Kong. The premise is that the demand for P1 places from applicant children residing in the school nets / districts concerned will be taken into account;
- (ii) Should the number of school places of a school net among the eight School Nets exceed the number of applicant children residing in the school net concerned, the number of school places per provisional P1 class to be provided by schools in the school net concerned will in principle be increased correspondingly. The premise is that the demand for P1 places from applicant children residing in the district(s) concerned will be taken into account. In practice, the number of places will be determined having regard to the total number of applicant children who intend to commute daily to schools in Hong Kong and the situation, if any, under point (i) above and / or point (iii) below; and
- (iii) If the supply of school places provided under points (i) and (ii) is inadequate to meet the demand from applicant children who intend to commute daily to schools in Hong Kong, we will require schools in the eight School Nets to provide more school places through measures such as making use of vacant classrooms, converting rooms for other

purposes into additional classrooms, etc. for the Choice of Schools List for Central Allocation for applicant children who intend to commute daily to schools in Hong Kong. The premise is that the demand for P1 places from applicant children residing in the school nets / districts concerned³ will be taken into account. If the number of school places provided by the schools in the school nets / districts concerned exceeds the estimated demand, the EDB will decide the number of school places to be provided by individual schools having due consideration to the situation of their respective school nets / districts.

7. For enquiries, please contact the School Places Allocation Section of the EDB at 2832 7700 or 2832 7740.

(Teresa CHAN)
for Secretary for Education

³ Upon completion of the Discretionary Places Admission stage (i.e. in November each year), the EDB will estimate the provision of school places for the Central Allocation stage and the number of applicant students who have not been offered a discretionary place.