

Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 135/2012

From: Permanent Secretary for Education To: Supervisors / Heads of All Government,
Ref: EDB(CD/MCNE)/F&A/65/2/1(1) Aided, Caput and Direct Subsidy
Date: 21 September 2012 Scheme Primary, Secondary and Special
 Schools

Amendment to the Policy on the “Moral and National Education Subject”

Summary

This circular memorandum aims to inform secondary, primary and special schools of the amendment to the policy on the “Moral and National Education” (MNE) subject and its details. This circular memorandum supersedes Education Bureau (EDB) Circular Memorandum No. 73/2012 on *Implementation, Support Measures and Grant for the Moral and National Education Subject (Primary 1 to Secondary 6)* dated 15 May 2012.

Background

2. The amendment to the policy on the MNE subject was announced by The Chief Executive the Honourable C Y Leung on 8 September 2012¹ and the EDB further explained the amendment on 10 September 2012². Under the amended policy, School Sponsoring Bodies (SSBs) and schools could, in accordance with their vision and mission, schools’ readiness and professional judgment, exercise their discretion in deciding how to handle MNE-related matters, including whether to develop the MNE subject, whether to implement MNE as an independent subject as well as the implementation modes and schedule.

Enhancement and Support Measures of MNE

3. The arrangement requiring the full implementation of the MNE subject in the 2015/16 school year for primary schools and 2016/17 school year for secondary schools, at the end of

¹ Government’s statement on MNE subject issued on 8 September 2012:

<http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201209/09/P201209090026.htm>

² EDB’s statement on Moral and National Education subject issued on 10 September 2012:

<http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201209/10/P201209100606.htm>

their respective three-year “initiation period”, as stipulated in the EDB Circular Memorandum No. 73/2012, is hereby abolished.

4. The EDB took out the parts on contemporary China and related assessment of the Curriculum Guide (Primary 1 to Secondary 6)” (MNECG). As the parts taken out constitute only a small portion of the curriculum, SSBs and schools can still implement moral education or other related curriculum as recommended in the MNECG. SSBs and schools may also, building upon what they have done so far, enhance their learning and teaching strategies and resources related to MNE such as values education, life education, knowing more about the country, civic education, sustainable development education, sex education, etc (hereafter the related education).

5. In planning their related curriculum, SSBs and schools could, building on their existing foundation, develop their own SSB- and/or school-based learning resources. While the EDB will continue to provide professional learning and teaching support to SSBs and schools, such support will be provided with deference to the professional discretion of SSBs and schools which may adopt different modes of implementation. The Moral and National Education Support Grant (MNESG), formerly known as the Moral and National Education Subject Support Grant, is provided to support schools’ enhancement of the related education.

“The Moral and National Education Support Grant”

6. The MNESG was disbursed to schools in August 2012. Regardless of the modes of implementing the related education and matters, schools can continue to use the MNESG flexibly for the preparation as well as learning and teaching of school-based related education and items. The details and coverage of the MNESG are revised as follows:

- The MNESG is a one-off cash grant of HK\$530,000 disbursed to each of the aided/government/caput/Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) secondary, primary and special schools in August 2012. The unspent balance could be carried forward to the next school year until the grant is used up.
- Schools may flexibly use the grant in the following ways:
 - To hire professional staff/ services in order to share and support work on the related education;
 - To procure and develop school-based resources relating to the learning and teaching of the related education; and
 - To flexibly employ supply teachers to release teachers in the schools to

participate in the MNE related professional exchange programmes or courses lasting for three consecutive calendar days or more.

- Since the MNESG is paid by public revenue, schools shall comply with related EDB circulars and guidelines generally applicable to other grants such as those on procuring outside services, purchases and staff employment such as employing supply teachers, etc.
- For details regarding payment and accounting arrangements, please refer to the *Appendix 1*.

7. Under the spirit of school-based management, schools are responsible and have to ensure the effective use of the MNESG. As is the case for other grants, the use of MNESG should be included in the School Report which should be endorsed by their School Management Committee or Incorporated Management Committee.

Enquiry

8. For enquiries regarding the MNESG, please contact the respective Senior School Development Officer of the Regional Education Office.

Dr CHEUNG Kwok-wah

for Permanent Secretary for Education

cc. Heads of Section

Accounting Arrangements for MNEGS

(a) For Aided Schools (including special schools)

The MNEGS was disbursed to aided schools in August 2012. The unspent balance could be carried forward to the next school year until the grant is used up. Aided schools are required to keep separate ledger accounts to record all the income and expenditure chargeable to the MNEGS, on an actual claim basis. If there is any deficit, schools may deploy the surplus of the General Domain of the Operating Expenses Block Grant (OEBG)/ the surplus of the Expanded Operating Expenses Block Grant (EOEBG) or their own fund to top up the differences at the end of the school year. Any unspent balance of the MNEGS will not be counted into the surplus of schools' OEBG or EOEBG.

(b) For Government Schools

Government schools were credited with the MNEGS in the form of budget allocation in August 2012. The unspent balance could be carried forward to the next school year until the grant is used up. Government schools have to keep separate records of how they spend the MNEGS. If the grant is not sufficient to cover the expenses, government schools may deploy the surplus of the Expanded Subject and Curriculum Block Grant to top up the differences before the end of the same financial year. Any unspent balance of the MNEGS will not be counted into the surplus of schools' Expanded Subject and Curriculum Block Grant.

(c) For DSS Schools

The MNEGS was disbursed to DSS schools in August 2012. The unspent balance could be carried forward to the next school year until the grant is used up. DSS schools are required to keep separate ledger accounts to record all the income and expenditure chargeable to the MNEGS, on an actual claim basis. If there is any deficit, DSS schools may use non-government fund or government fund (i.e. the DSS Subsidy) to top up the differences. Any unspent balance of the MNEGS will not be counted into the surplus of Operating Reserve of DSS schools.

(d) For Caput Schools

The MNEGS was disbursed to Caput schools in August 2012. The unspent balance could be carried forward to the next school year until the grant is used up. Caput schools are required to keep separate ledger accounts to record all the income and expenditure chargeable to the MNEGS, on an actual claim basis. If there is any deficit, Caput schools may use their own fund or the surplus of the fee subsidy to top up the differences.