

## **EDUCATION BUREAU CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 119/2017**

From: Permanent Secretary for Education      To: Supervisors / Principals of Government,  
Aided (including special schools), Caput  
and Direct Subsidy Scheme Primary and  
Secondary Schools

Ref.: EDB(CD)PSHE/ADM/150/1/27/(7)

Date: 17 July 2017

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### **Provision of the One-off Grant for the Promotion of Chinese History and Culture**

#### **Summary**

This circular memorandum sets out the details about the disbursement of the one-off grant for the promotion of Chinese history and culture (the one-off grant) to primary and secondary schools (including special schools).

#### **Background**

2. In the 2015 and the 2017 Policy Address, the Government pledges to promote Chinese history and Chinese culture with a view to reinforcing primary and secondary students' interest in and understanding of Chinese history and Chinese culture, and enabling them to admire and inherit the spirit of excellence and the civilisation of the Chinese people. In this regard, the Education Bureau is taking actions to promote Chinese history and Chinese culture in primary and secondary schools, including revising the curriculum of Chinese History (S1-3) to enable students to have a comprehensive understanding of Chinese history; organising learning activities for students to enrich their learning experience; developing learning and teaching resources and strengthening teachers' professional development to enhance learning and teaching effectiveness.

#### **Details**

3. In addition to the above strategies for the promotion of Chinese history and Chinese culture, the Education Bureau (EDB) is going to provide a one-off grant of \$100,000 and \$150,000 respectively to each public sector and Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) primary and

secondary school, including special schools, to help teachers enhance the teaching of General Studies in primary schools, Chinese Literature in secondary schools, as well as Chinese Language and Chinese history in both primary and secondary schools, so as to strengthen Chinese history and Chinese culture education.

4. In accordance with school context and development needs, schools may deploy the one-off grant to support teachers to improve their teaching, and develop school-based activities which are conducive to promoting Chinese history and Chinese culture education. Measures can include:

- developing or procuring high quality electronic or other relevant learning and teaching resources;
- supporting teachers to participate in interflow activities relating to the learning and teaching of Chinese history and Chinese culture in the Mainland;
- organising school-based learning activities that reinforce the learning of Chinese history and Chinese culture; and
- organising or supporting students to participate in joint school activities or competitions relating to Chinese history and Chinese culture between local schools or between schools in Hong Kong and the Mainland to promote interchange and dissemination of good practices.

### **Grant disbursement and accounting arrangement**

5. The one-off grant will be disbursed to all the aided primary and secondary schools<sup>1</sup> (including special schools), caput secondary schools, and also primary and secondary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) in August 2017. Schools can use the one-off grant across years from the 2017/18 school year until the end of the 2019/20 school year. EDB will claw back any unspent balance of the one-off grant as at 31 August 2020 based on the schools' annual audited accounts.

6. For government schools, the one-off grant will be provided in the form of budget allocation in August 2017. The unspent balance can be carried forward for use until 31 August 2020. Any unspent balance as at 31 August 2020 will lapse.

7. If a deficit is incurred on the one-off grant in any year, schools may deploy the surplus under Expanded Operating Expenses Block Grant (EOEBG) or the General Domain of Operating Expenses Block Grant (OEBG) for aided schools, or DSS Subsidy for DSS

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<sup>1</sup> The one-off grant will not be provided to the two local field study centres.

schools, or Expanded Subject and Curriculum Block Grant (ESCBG) for government schools, or Fee Subsidy for caput secondary schools, whichever appropriate, to cover the deficit of the one-off grant. If there is still unsettled deficit, it should be topped up by schools' own fund.

8. Schools are required to comply with the established principles and requirements on the use of public funds as promulgated by EDB when using the one-off grant. The use of the one-off grant will also be subject to monitoring as other purpose-specific grants to schools, including setting out the income and expenditure in its audited accounts to be submitted to EDB annually. Schools should keep a separate ledger account to record the income and expenditure of the one-off grant, with related breakdowns. They should also make available such records and related receipts/invoices to EDB for inspection when necessary.

9. In line with the principle of school-based management, schools should seek the consent of Incorporated Management Committee/School Management Committee on the implementation plan and the usage of the one-off grant. Schools should also report the details of the programmes/activities covered by the one-off grant, including the amount of fund used and the evaluation results, to their Incorporated Management Committee/School Management Committee. Guidelines on the use of the one-off grant are attached in Annex 1 for schools' reference.

## **ENQUIRY**

10. For enquiries, please contact Mr. KONG Siu-cheuk of the Personal, Social and Humanities Education Section of the Curriculum Development Institute on 2892 6512.

Mr Sheridan S L LEE  
for Permanent Secretary for Education

cc: Heads of Sections – for information

**Guidelines on the Use of the One-off Grant for the  
Promotion of Chinese History and Culture in Primary and Secondary Schools**

**1. Ambit of the one-off grant**

- developing or procuring high quality electronic or other relevant learning and teaching resources;
- supporting teachers to participate in interflow activities relating to the learning and teaching of Chinese history and Chinese culture in the Mainland;
- organising school-based learning activities that reinforce the learning of Chinese history and Chinese culture; and
- organising or supporting students to participate in joint school activities or competitions relating to Chinese history and Chinese culture between local schools or between schools in Hong Kong and the Mainland to promote interchange and dissemination of good practices.

**2. Procurement arrangement**

- Schools should observe relevant EDB circulars and guidelines as appropriate when hiring outside services and procuring goods.

**3. Examples of the use of the one-off grant**

- For development and purchase of high quality electronic or other relevant learning and teaching resources
- For expense incurred in organising school-based activities in Hong Kong or the Mainland that reinforce the learning of Chinese history and Chinese culture
- For expenses for students and teachers to participate in joint school activities or competitions related to Chinese history and Chinese culture between local schools or between schools in Hong Kong and the Mainland (e.g. registration fees, fees for travelling and accommodation)
- For subsidising teachers to participate in interflow activities on the learning and teaching of Chinese history and Chinese culture in the Mainland

#### **4. Examples of *inappropriate use* of the one-off grant**

- To hire services from external service providers for organising activities that are irrelevant to the promotion of Chinese history and Chinese culture
- To purchase computer hardware/software for general purposes
- To purchase mobile computing devices
- To serve guests with food and beverage
- To purchase consumables such as flowers or fruit baskets for celebration or ceremony
- To employ teaching and non-teaching staff