

Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 37/2018

From: Secretary for Education

To: Heads of all primary schools
(excluding ESF and
international schools)

Date: 19 March 2018

Primary 3 Territory-wide System Assessment in 2018

(Note: This circular memorandum should be read by heads of all primary schools, excluding ESF and international schools, for necessary action.)

Purpose

The purpose of this circular memorandum is to inform schools of the arrangements for the Primary 3 Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA) in 2018.

Background

2. On 16 March 2018, the Coordinating Committee on Basic Competency Assessment and Assessment Literacy (the Committee) submitted to the Education Bureau (EDB) recommendations following the comprehensive review of TSA. Related report has been uploaded to the EDB website¹.

3. The Committee points out that from the perspective of the education profession, at the territory-wide level, TSA is an objective tool to provide the Government with territory-wide information for reviewing the effectiveness of education policies and the arrangements for curriculum planning; and at the school level, TSA is a realisation of the concept of “assessment for learning”. TSA school reports provide reliable and valid information to help schools understand the overall performance of students and enable teachers to provide feedback and take follow-up actions in a focused and timely manner for the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of learning and teaching.

¹ <http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/curriculum-development/assessment/about-assessment/2015-17-tsa-report-en.pdf>

Primary 3 TSA

Four Enhancement Measures

4. In the report, the Committee affirms the function and importance of TSA in providing feedback to learning and teaching at both the territory-wide and school levels, comments favourably on the effectiveness of the four major enhancement measures, and reaffirms the intent and positioning of TSA as “a low-stake assessment with emphasis on feedback”. The four enhancement measures include:

- improving assessment papers and question design;
- enhancing school reports;
- strengthening professional support measures; and
- including a questionnaire survey on students’ learning attitude and motivation.

The Committee recommends that **the four major enhancement measures be implemented on a regular basis**. The EDB has accepted the Committee’s recommendations.

Administrative Arrangements

5. If considered only from the perspective of the education profession, the Committee regards that the enhancement measures have effectively alleviated public’s concerns about drilling and risks induced by TSA. However, the Committee also takes into account the community’s understanding of TSA, the different pace among schools’ development in the use of assessment information to improve learning and teaching, and perceptions of some members of the community on the existing arrangements. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the feedback at the territory-wide level and the school level be handled separately. The EDB has accepted the Committee’s recommendations. At the territory-wide level, the Primary 3 TSA will be conducted every year on a **sampling basis**, with about 10% of students sampled from each public sector and Direct Subsidy Scheme school. In addition, to understand the overall learning performance of non-Chinese speaking students and students with special educational needs and provide appropriate support, a certain number of students from these two student groups have to be separately sampled to meet the statistical requirements. **Students’ performance will only be counted as territory-wide data**. Since only a small number of students in each school will participate in the assessment, **school reports will not be provided**.

6. At the school level, the education sector generally agrees with the concept of assessment for learning in the review. A considerable number of schools would like their Primary 3 students to participate in TSA and obtain detailed school reports so that they can draw reference from the analysis to improve learning and teaching in a focused manner. **The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) will cater for the needs of these schools and make arrangements to enable all Primary 3 students to participate in the assessment and to provide school reports. Schools with such plans may approach the HKEAA directly. The HKEAA will make relevant arrangements and issue school reports to schools directly. The EDB will not obtain school reports of individual schools from the HKEAA.**

Assessment Dates

7. The audio-visual assessment for Chinese Language and the speaking assessments for Chinese Language and English Language at Primary 3 level will be conducted on a sampling basis on **2 or 3 May 2018** (with 8 May as the fallback date). The HKEAA will inform schools nearer the time on which of these two days the speaking assessments will be conducted.

8. The written assessments for Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics at Primary 3 level will be conducted on a sampling basis on **12 and 13 June 2018** (with 15 June as the fallback date) (the HKEAA will provide each school with a list of participating students on the assessment day). The written assessments at Primary 3 and Primary 6 levels will be conducted on the same day. Details are set out in EDB Circular Memorandum No. 106/2017 issued in June 2017.

Briefing Session

9. To familiarise primary schools more with the arrangements for the Primary 3 TSA in 2018, including the implementation details, selection of assessment reports and relevant information, and related support measures, the HKEAA will conduct a briefing session in the afternoon of **23 March 2018 (Friday)**. For details, please refer to the letter on Primary 3 Territory-wide System Assessment in 2018 issued by the HKEAA to all primary schools today.

Other Recommendations

10. The Committee has also made a number of recommendations, including enhancing the assessment literacy of schools and teachers as well as their abilities to make good use of assessment information, strengthening support for schools,

continuing the development of quality online learning-teaching-assessment resources, exploring greater transparency of students' performance data, encouraging schools to organise parent education activities and fostering the community's understanding of assessment literacy. The EDB will study the recommendations in detail and implement them as soon as possible.

Home-school Cooperation

11. Schools should, through regular channels, maintain good communication with parents to familiarise them with school mission and policies and encourage them to approach schools directly should they have any views and suggestions for improvement. To facilitate and assist schools in communicating TSA's objectives and design to parents of Primary 3 students, the EDB has designed two leaflets entitled "Territory-Wide System Assessment" and "Understanding TSA". The leaflets are intended for Primary 3 students and their parents, and schools are advised to distribute them to all Primary 3 students and their parents. The leaflets are available for collection, on producing the enclosed form duly completed by school heads, at the Regional Education Offices of the EDB from 26 March to 20 April 2018. Meanwhile, the electronic versions of the two leaflets have been uploaded to the EDB website².

12. The EDB would like to thank schools for their continuous efforts in providing quality education. We will continue to work together with schools in making good use of assessment information to improve learning and teaching, facilitate students' learning and thus help students rise to challenges ahead with positive attitudes and pursue lifelong learning and holistic development.

Enquiries

13. Contact persons for enquiries:

Enquiries on implementation of TSA (subjects):

Dr Tenny LAM of the HKEAA at 3628 8100

Enquiries on administrative arrangements for TSA:

Ms Fanstina TSE of the HKEAA at 3628 8181

² Territory-Wide System Assessment

(<http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/curriculum-development/assessment/about-assessment/bca-en.pdf>)

Understanding TSA

(<http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/curriculum-development/assessment/about-assessment/understanding-tsa-en.pdf>)

Enquiries on general policies of TSA:
Ms Eunice CHAN of the EDB at 2921 8943

Ms Jenny CHAN
for Secretary for Education

cc: Heads of Sections – for information

教育局
教育基建分部
Education Infrastructure Division
Education Bureau

領取表格
Collection Slip

(只適用於小學)
(Applicable to primary schools only)

地點:	<p>港島區域教育服務處 香港太古灣道14號太古城中心第3期3樓 電話：2863 4646</p> <p>九龍區域教育服務處 九龍塘沙福道19號教育局 九龍塘教育服務中心東座平台 電話：3698 4108</p> <p>新界西區域教育服務處 新界荃灣青山道荃灣段457號華懋荃灣廣場19樓 電話：2437 7272</p> <p>新界東區域教育服務處 新界上水龍琛路39號上水廣場22樓 電話：2639 4876</p>	Venue:	<p>Hong Kong Regional Education Office 3/F, Cityplaza 3, 14 Taikoo Wan Road, Hong Kong Tel: 2863 4646</p> <p>Kowloon Regional Education Office Podium, East Block, EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon Tel: 3698 4108</p> <p>New Territories West Regional Education Office 19/F, Chinachem Tsuen Wan Plaza, 457 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories Tel: 2437 7272</p> <p>New Territories East Regional Education Office 22/F, Landmark North, 39 Lung Sum Avenue, Sheung Shui, New Territories Tel: 2639 4876</p>
日期:	2018年3月26日至2018年4月20日	Date:	26 March 2018 to 20 April 2018
時間:	<p>星期一至五 上午九時三十分至十二時三十分 及下午二時三十分至五時三十分 (星期六、日及公眾假期休息)</p>	Time:	<p>Monday – Friday 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays)</p>

本校有小三學生 _____ 人，請向持表格人提供下列物品：

The number of Primary 3 students enrolled is _____. Please issue the bearer the following materials:

1. 《全港性系統評估》單張 (中文版) “Territory-Wide System Assessment” Leaflet (Chinese Version)	各 _____ 張 _____ copies each
2. 《TSA面面觀》單張 (中文版) “Understanding TSA” Leaflet (Chinese Version)	
3. 《全港性系統評估》單張 (英文版)(供非華語學生參閱) “Territory-Wide System Assessment” Leaflet (English Version)(For non-Chinese speaking students)	各 _____ 張 _____ copies each
4. 《TSA面面觀》單張 (英文版)(供非華語學生參閱) “Understanding TSA” Leaflet (English Version)(For non-Chinese speaking students)	

學校名稱：

Name of school: _____

學校電話：

Telephone: _____

校長姓名：

Name of School Head: _____

校長簽署：

Signature of School Head: _____

日期：

Date: _____

