

Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 135/2020

From : Secretary for Education

To : Heads of Secondary Schools, Primary
Schools, Special Schools and
Kindergartens

Ref. : EDB/QEF/65/6

Date : 28 August 2020

Quality Education Fund Funding Programmes for 2020/21

Summary

The purpose of this circular memorandum is to inform secondary schools, primary schools, special schools and kindergartens of the details on various funding programmes under the Quality Education Fund (QEF) for 2020/21.

Details

Priority Themes for 2020/21

2. The QEF has been supporting the development of quality education in Hong Kong since its establishment in 1998. It aims to support projects that are innovative and capable of enriching students' learning experiences and encouraging school-based initiatives. To tie in with the development trend and direction of the local education sector and to cater for the changing needs of society and schools, the seven priority themes introduced in 2019/20 will continue to be adopted in 2020/21 with some refinements made. The list of priority themes for 2020/21 is at [Annex 1](#).

Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools

3. The QEF Steering Committee, on a recommendation made by the government, has set aside \$3 billion for the implementation of the Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools for four school years starting from 2018/19. Publicly-funded schools¹ and kindergartens joining the kindergarten education scheme can apply for funding under the Programme to launch school-based curriculum development and/or student support measures, as well as relevant school improvement works and/or procurement of supplies. The fifth call will be open for applications from October 2020 to January 2021 while the sixth call will be open from April to July 2021.

"My Pledge to Act – Be Grateful and Treasure What We Have, Stay Positive and Optimistic" Funding Programme

4. As promulgated in the Education Bureau (EDB) Circular Memorandum No. 104/2020, the EDB will continue to implement "My Pledge to Act – Be Grateful and Treasure What We Have, Stay Positive and Optimistic" Funding Programme in the 2020/21 school year. Publicly-funded schools¹ and kindergartens joining the kindergarten education scheme may apply to the QEF for a funding of not exceeding \$200,000 to conduct diversified learning activities and create a learning environment conducive to cultivating positive values and attitudes.

¹ Publicly-funded schools include government schools, aided schools (including special schools), caput schools, and schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme.

Briefing Sessions

5. Two identical online briefing sessions will be held on **18 November 2020** (p.m.) and **20 November 2020** (p.m.) to introduce the application details of the funding programmes. Schools are invited to nominate representatives to join the online briefing sessions and enrol through the Training Calendar System [Course ID: EI0020200209].

Enquiry

6. Schools may visit the QEF website (www.qef.org.hk) for details of the funding programmes. For enquiries, please contact the QEF Secretariat on 2921 8833.

Ms Wendy Au
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections – for information

Quality Education Fund Priority Themes for 2020/21

1. **STEM Education**
Projects under this theme should aim at cultivating students' ability to integrate and apply knowledge and skills within and across Key Learning Areas (KLAs) of Science Education, Technology Education and Mathematics Education, and developing their creativity, collaborative skills and competence in solving problems with innovative thinking.
2. **Information Technology in Education**
Projects under this theme should aim at promoting e-learning by means of information technology (IT) and associated learning, teaching and assessment strategies, with a view to enhancing learning and teaching/pedagogical innovations, catering for learner diversity, and encouraging students to use IT for self-directed learning, thus achieving the goal of lifelong learning.
3. **Assessment Literacy**
Projects under this theme should aim at promoting assessment literacy at school, KLA/subject and classroom levels by using data/evidence provided by diversified assessments to develop school-based curricula and teaching strategies to better suit the needs and abilities of students and enhance the effectiveness of learning and teaching as well as promoting "assessment as learning" to enable students to monitor their learning progress and reflect on their learning performance.
4. **Life-wide Learning**
Projects under this theme should aim at enriching or extending students' learning experiences and broadening their horizons through experiential learning activities/programmes (including visits to countries and regions along the Belt and Road, educational exchanges, community service and workplace experience programmes) or modes of learning outside the classroom which are complementary to various curriculum areas, such as humanities education, physical and aesthetic development, and moral and civic education.
5. **Positive Values**
Projects under this theme should aim at nurturing students' positive values and attitudes, such as perseverance, respect for others, responsibility, national identity, commitment, integrity and care for others, as well as fostering a supportive and harmonious school environment conducive to the promotion of positive values and correct attitudes among students through strengthening support for and collaboration among stakeholders, including teachers, parents, school staff and community members.
6. **Students' Balanced Development**
Projects under this theme should aim at promoting students' whole-person development, including a balanced physical and mental development, as well as conducting education activities on positive parenting to promote the importance of fostering children's healthy and happy development and avoiding excessive competition.
7. **Effective Leadership and School Management**
Projects under this theme should aim at helping school leaders (including school sponsoring bodies, school managers, principals and middle managers) to develop effective leadership and good practices which are conducive to boosting morale, fostering collegial working relationships and pursuing shared vision.