

Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 76/2023

From: Secretary for Education

To: Heads of all Primary and
Secondary Schools (excluding
ESF and International Schools)

Date: 3 July 2023

Territory-wide System Assessment of Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics at Primary 3 (P3) and Secondary 3 (S3) in 2023/24

(Note: This circular memorandum should be read by Heads of all primary and secondary schools, excluding ESF and International Schools, for necessary action.)

Purpose

The purpose of this circular memorandum is to inform schools of the arrangements of the Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA) of Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics at P3, P6 and S3 for the 2023/24 school year.

Background

2. Based on the document “*Reform Proposals for the Education System in Hong Kong*” released by the Education Commission in 2000, the aim of TSA is to help schools and the Government gauge students’ attainment of Basic Competencies in Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics at the end of different key learning stages, so as to provide feedback for the planning of school-based learning and teaching and for reviewing education policies with the information obtained. The Government has commissioned the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) to administer TSA, which has been implemented at P3, P6 and S3 since 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively. TSA is a **low-stake assessment** that does not assess students’ individual results. TSA does not report on individual students’ results and does not determine their advancement in studies. It is also by no means a basis for allocating school places for admission to Secondary 1. Schools may browse the following website for information about the Basic Competency Assessment: http://cd1.edb.hkedcity.net/cd/eap_web/bca/index3.htm.

3. Since the implementation of TSA, the Education Bureau (EDB) has maintained communication with various stakeholders to learn about its

implementation. Among others, in response to the public's concerns about TSA, the Coordinating Committee on Basic Competency Assessment and Assessment Literacy (the Committee) conducted a comprehensive review of the Basic Competency Assessment in 2015 after gauging the views of different stakeholders and experience from schools through various channels. The EDB accepted the review conducted by the Committee in 2018¹, and announced that the feedback for P3 TSA at the territory-wide and school levels would be handled separately in 2018 and onwards: at the territory-wide level, TSA will be conducted every year on a sampling basis, with around 10% of P3 students sampled from each public sector and Direct Subsidy Scheme school; at the school level, schools which would like to arrange all P3 students to participate in TSA and to obtain detailed school reports may approach the HKEAA direct. The HKEAA will issue school reports to the schools directly. The EDB will not obtain school reports of individual schools from the HKEAA. Details are set out in EDB Circular Memorandum No. 37/2018.

TSA in 2023/24 School Year

Primary 3

4. The Chinese audio-visual (CAV) assessment and speaking assessments for Chinese Language and English Language at P3 will be conducted on a sampling basis on **7 May 2024 (Tuesday) or 8 May 2024 (Wednesday)** (with 10 May 2024 (Friday) as the fallback date). The HKEAA will inform each school nearer the time the assigned date for the speaking assessments. Meanwhile, the assessment for Mathematics, and the written assessments for Chinese Language and English Language at P3 will be conducted on a sampling basis on **12 June 2024 (Wednesday) and 13 June 2024 (Thursday)** (with 17 June 2024 (Monday) as the fallback date). The HKEAA will later issue letters to inform schools of the details on arranging P3 students to participate in TSA and also on the related school reports.

Primary 6 (voluntary participation in 2024)

5. Since 2015, P6 TSA has been conducted in odd-numbered years but not in even-numbered years. That said, individual schools can still take part in P6 assessment on a **voluntary basis** in 2024 and make use of the marking and reporting services provided by the HKEAA. As this is not an assessment participated by all P6 students in Hong Kong, the HKEAA will not provide system level data (including the territory-wide performance on sub-papers and individual items). For schools which are interested in participating in P6 assessment, please note that the CAV assessment

¹ _ Details of the review were set out in the *Report on Review of the Primary 3 Territory-wide System Assessment 2015-2017* (March 2018):
<http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/curriculum-development/assessment/about-assessment/2015-17-tsa-report-en.pdf>

and speaking assessments for Chinese Language and English Language at P6 will be conducted on a sampling basis on **14 May 2024 (Tuesday) or 16 May 2024 (Thursday)** (with 20 May 2022 (Monday) as the fallback date). The HKEAA will inform each school nearer the time the assigned date for the speaking assessments. The assessment for Mathematics, and the written assessments for Chinese Language and English Language at P6 will be conducted on **12 June 2024 (Wednesday) and 13 June 2024 (Thursday)** (with 17 June 2024 (Monday) as the fallback date).

Secondary 3

6. The speaking assessments for Chinese Language and English Language at S3 will be conducted on a sampling basis on **23 April 2024 (Tuesday) or 24 April 2024 (Wednesday)** (with 26 April 2024 (Friday) as the fallback date). The HKEAA will inform each school nearer the time the assigned date for the speaking assessments. The assessment for Mathematics, and the written assessments for Chinese Language and English Language at S3 will take two days. Schools are requested to reserve **19 June 2024 (Wednesday) and 20 June 2024 (Thursday)** (with 24 June 2024 (Monday) as the fallback date) for administering TSA.

Participation of NCS and SEN students

7. TSA provides not only objective data on territory-wide students' Basic Competencies for the Government, but also data for schools on their students' overall performance in different learning dimensions. In 2024, schools are requested to arrange all students (including Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) students and students with special educational needs (SEN)) to participate in S3 assessments; while all P3 students (including NCS and SEN students) will participate on a sampling basis at the territory-wide level.

8. As in the past years, the HKEAA will provide schools participating in P6 or S3 TSA with detailed school reports. Schools which arrange all their P3 students to participate in TSA will also be provided with detailed school reports. Besides, if the above-mentioned schools engage five or more NCS students **or** five or more SEN students in TSA, the HKEAA will also provide reports on the overall performance of the relevant student groups. In addition, the HKEAA also provides assessment support measures to accommodate NCS and SEN students in need, and will later inform schools of the related details.

Enquiries

9. For enquiries, please contact the following persons:

Enquiry on administration of TSA:

- Dr Tenny LAM, Head of Education Assessment Services of the HKEAA at 3628 8100

Enquiry on general policy of TSA:

- Ms Cassia YU, Assistant Secretary for Education at 3165 1197

- Ms Cecilia LAW, Senior Curriculum Officer (Assessment and Support / Chinese) at 3168 3006 / cecilialaw@edb.gov.hk

- Ms Connie HUI, Senior Curriculum Officer (Assessment and Support / English) at 3168 3005 / connielyhui@edb.gov.hk

Reminder

10. Schools are reminded to inform parents of the schedule for the assessments and the contingency arrangements during adverse weather (including the fallback dates) to facilitate the smooth implementation of TSA.

Ms Wendy AU
for Secretary for Education

cc: Heads of Sections – for information