

# Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 111/2025

From : Secretary for Education

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

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Date : 20 June 2025

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## Quality Education Fund Funding Programmes

### 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 the 2025/26 school year (s.y).

### Background

2. QEF was established in 1998 with aims to fund projects that are innovative, capable of enriching students' learning experiences and with school-based initiatives. In addition to the Priority Themes, QEF has launched the Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools (DFP), "My Pledge to Act – Be grateful and treasure what we have, stay positive and optimistic" (MPA) Funding Programme, Enhanced "My Pledge to Act" (EMPA) Funding Programme to provide schools with additional funding to implement school-based projects.

### Details

#### *Priority Themes*

3. 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, QEF refines the priority themes into four themes, including STEAM Education and Digital Education, National Education (NE), Positive Values and Student Well-being, and School Governance and Leadership, and will be adopted from the 2025/26 s.y. The list of priority themes is at [Annex](#).

#### *DFP*

4. QEF will continue to implement DFP until the 2025/26 s.y. Publicly-funded schools<sup>1</sup> and kindergartens joining the kindergarten education scheme (scheme-KGs) can apply for QEF 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 fifteenth call will be open for applications from October 2025 to January 2026 while the sixteenth call will be open from April to July 2026.

#### *MPA Funding Programme*

5. QEF will continue to implement MPA Funding Programme until the 2025/26 s.y. Publicly-funded schools and scheme-KGs may apply for funding of not exceeding \$200,000 to implement diversified learning activities and create a learning environment conducive to cultivating proper values and attitudes.

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

## ***EMPA Funding Programme and EMPA Funding Programme (Phase 2)***

6. EMPA Funding Programme will continue to be implemented until the 2025/26 s.y. Publicly-funded schools which have not submitted any application may submit one project proposal with funding sought not exceeding \$300,000 to the QEF to apply for additional resources for measures to promote NE and national security education (NSE), and media and information literacy education (MILE). Scheme-KGs which have not submitted any application may submit one application with funding sought not exceeding \$150,000 to obtain additional resources to implement measures to promote NE and NSE. The application deadline of the EMPA Funding Programme is 31 August 2026.

7. Meanwhile, QEF will launch EMPA Funding Programme (Phase 2) (EMPA Phase 2) in the 2025/26 s.y. that, in addition to existing themes, the theme of promoting student wellness (SW) will be added to dovetail with the Education Bureau's continuous emphasis on promoting healthy lifestyle among students. Each publicly-funded school may submit an EMPA Phase 2 application with funding not exceeding \$300,000 to the QEF for further promotion of NE and NSE, MILE, and fostering SW. Each scheme-KG may submit an EMPA Phase 2 application with funding sought not exceeding \$150,000 to obtain additional resources to further strengthen NE and NSE, and promote SW. EMPA Phase 2 will be open for application throughout the 2025/26 s.y. to the 2027/28 s.y. Each eligible school can apply an application lasting for 18 to 24 months. Schools cannot implement projects of EMPA and EMPA Phase 2 Funding Programmes concurrently<sup>2</sup>.

## **Workshop and Online Self-learning Programme**

8. To introduce the features of QEF funding programmes and tips of proposal writing, QEF will organise Proposal Writing Workshop for Kindergartens (Course ID.: EI0020240546) and Online Self-learning Programme (Course ID.: EI0020250246) for primary schools and secondary schools. Schools are invited to nominate representatives to join the workshop and online programme by enrolling through the Training Calendar System. For further details on preparation of application, schools may register for consultation sessions on QEF website.

## **Enquiry**

9. Schools may visit the QEF website ([www.qef.org.hk](http://www.qef.org.hk)) for details of the funding programmes. For enquiries, please contact the QEF Secretariat on 2921 8833.

Miss Katharine CHOI  
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections – for information

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<sup>2</sup> Schools which have not yet applied for EMPA Funding Programme may arrange a suitable project period when submitting their application with regard to their school-based circumstances and the needs of their students. However, the chosen project period cannot overlap with the project period of EMPA Phase 2 application.

## Quality Education Fund Priority Themes

<b>STEAM Education and Digital Education</b>
<p>This theme aims at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ promoting STEAM education and digital education in primary and secondary schools;</li> <li>❖ promoting the use of innovation and technologies (I&amp;T) in the education of different areas and in learning as a whole;</li> <li>❖ enhancing students' creativity and competence in solving problems with I&amp;T; and</li> <li>❖ encouraging the use of innovative strategies to enhance the effectiveness of learning, teaching and assessment.</li> </ul> <p>Relevant topics and/or activities including those that could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ enhance the quality of STEAM education and digital education through adopting diversified learning activities;</li> <li>❖ cultivate students' enthusiasm for learning and applying I&amp;T such as artificial intelligence;</li> <li>❖ inspire students' interests in learning cutting-edge I&amp;T;</li> <li>❖ develop creative and innovative solutions for addressing local or global challenges; and/or</li> <li>❖ enhance teachers' capacity in devising strategies to integrate I&amp;T elements into the cycle of learning, teaching and assessment.</li> </ul>
<b>National Education</b>
<p>This theme aims at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ promoting national education covering the Constitution and the Basic Law education, national security education and patriotic education, etc.;</li> <li>❖ enhancing students' understanding of our country, including the history, geography, culture, historical and cultural heritage, the deeds of heroes and role models as well as development and achievements of our country; and</li> <li>❖ cultivating in students a sense of belonging towards our country, national identity and national pride, and fostering their awareness to safeguard our country and society.</li> </ul> <p>Relevant topics and/or activities including those that could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ enhance students' understanding of the importance of national unity and national security as well as the development and achievements of our country through adopting a whole-school approach;</li> <li>❖ enable students to proactively and consciously safeguard national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity;</li> <li>❖ cultivate among students a pride in the richness and profoundness of Chinese culture and a sense of identity with our country through diversified strategies in relevant subjects; and/or</li> <li>❖ enhance teachers' professional capacity in planning and promoting national education including the Constitution and the Basic Law education, national security education and patriotic education.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Positive Values and Student Well-being</b></p> <p>This theme aims at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ promoting the integration of the various cross-curricular domains in values education and the twelve Priority Values and Attitudes (PVAs), namely perseverance, respect for others, responsibility, national identity, commitment, integrity, benevolence, law-abidingness, empathy, diligence, filial piety, unity as well as other proper values and attitudes espoused by schools;</li> <li>❖ enhancing students’ physical, mental and social well-being;</li> <li>❖ promoting active and healthy lifestyle and strengthening students’ resilience and positive attitudes towards life and future; and</li> <li>❖ establishing a school environment conducive to fostering students’ creativity and leadership.</li> </ul> <p>Relevant topics and/or activities including those that could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ enrich students’ learning experiences in values education and relevant PVAs by offering diversified activities through adopting the approaches of “organic integration, natural connection”, “diversified strategies, mutual coordination”, “learning within and beyond the classroom” and “whole-school participation” for all-round and balanced development of students;</li> <li>❖ offer diversified student activities across various domains such as life education, physical and aesthetic education within and beyond the classroom;</li> <li>❖ create a supportive, harmonious and healthy environment with inclusive and caring cultures conducive to the promotion of positive values and student well-being; and/or</li> <li>❖ provide leadership opportunities for students to implement creative ideas that promote caring cultures in school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>School Governance and Leadership</b></p> <p>This theme aims at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ establishing good models for effective school governance and upholding ethical practices;</li> <li>❖ empowering school leaders with the competencies for effective leadership and school management; and</li> <li>❖ promoting schools’ continuous self-improvement and sustainable development for enhancing the effectiveness of student learning.</li> </ul> <p>Relevant topics and/or activities including those that could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ enhance schools’ capabilities to reform and to adapt to changes;</li> <li>❖ enable school leaders to develop effective leadership and ethical practices of school management;</li> <li>❖ foster a culture of continuous self-improvement and sustainable development of schools; and/or</li> <li>❖ promote shared vision and boost morale among staff of the schools.</li> </ul>