

Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 18/2026

From : Secretary for Education
Ref : 1258-2005-8055-9090-00003
Date : 6 May 2026

To: Heads of all government and
aided primary schools

Understanding Adolescent Project (Primary)

2026/27 School Year

Summary

This circular memorandum aims to invite government and aided primary schools to join the Understanding Adolescent Project (Primary) (hereinafter referred to as “UAP”) implemented by the Education Bureau (EDB) in the 2026/27 school year. Schools intending to join the UAP should apply for the UAP Grant online via the UAP Portal.

Background

2. EDB has launched the UAP since the 2004/05 school year. The UAP is a comprehensive support programme for personal growth. It aims at enhancing primary school students’ resilience in coping with the challenges they face as they grow up. Findings from students’ evaluation questionnaires indicated that students who have participated in the UAP generally made progress in emotion management, conflict resolution, goal setting and interpersonal relationship. Parents and teachers considered that the project could cultivate in students an optimistic and positive attitude, sense of belonging towards their families and schools, communication skills and cooperation with others.

Implementation Details



Content of the UAP

3. The UAP includes Universal Programme (UP) and Intensive Programme (IP), aiming at helping students acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes when facing adversities. The UP is a guidance curriculum on resilience, targeting at all Primary 4 to 6 students. The IP is a series of small group and parent-child adventure-based activities, targeting at Primary 4 students identified to have greater need for guidance.

Universal Programme (UP)

4. All schools are encouraged to implement the UP to enhance students’ resilience and integrate the UP into Personal Growth Education of the Comprehensive Student

Guidance Service. A resource package on the UAP (including the implementation strategies, teaching plans and teaching demonstration of the UP as well as the rationale and a series of school activities on resilience culture) and the resources of the Comprehensive Student Guidance Service and Personal Growth Education have been uploaded to EDB website for schools' reference.

<p align="center">UAP Resource Package and other Relevant Information</p> <p align="center"><i>【EDB website > Teachers Related > Student Guidance and Discipline Services > Projects and Services > Understanding Adolescent Project (Primary)】</i></p>	
<p align="center">Resources of Comprehensive Student Guidance Service and Personal Growth Education</p> <p align="center"><i>【EDB website > Teachers Related > Student Guidance and Discipline Services > Projects & Services > Student Guidance Services > Comprehensive Student Guidance Service】</i></p>	

Intensive Programme (IP)

5. Schools are encouraged to provide a 3-year IP for students with greater needs for guidance¹ starting from Primary 4 level. Schools are required to make use of the web-based Hong Kong Student Information Form (HKSIF)² to identify target students for IP. Under normal circumstances, schools should arrange all students who are screened as having greater needs for guidance by the HKSIF to join the IP. Upon completion of the IP in Primary 4, these students should further be arranged to join the Booster Programmes in their Primary 5 and Primary 6 levels so as to consolidate their resilience. To enhance the efficacy of the Booster Programmes in students and their parents, starting from the 2019/20 school year, the Primary 5 and Primary 6 Booster Programmes of the approved Primary 4 IP group should each be enhanced through the addition of three group sessions for students and one group session for parents. Schools are also encouraged to promote the project among the parents and invite them to actively participate in the IP parent training and parent-child activities at different levels. Continuous training for teachers should also be provided with UAP resources. Schools could refer to the details of the IP in the resource package as listed in paragraph 4 mentioned above.

Application procedures for the UAP Grant

6. Government and aided primary schools approved to operate two or more Primary 4 classes in the 2026/27 school year are eligible to apply for the UAP Grant to

¹ The “Hong Kong Student Information Form (HKSIF)” is a set of validated tool to be completed by students and teachers, and processed by a computer aided analysis system. Schools should identify students with greater guidance needs by using the HKSIF on the UAP Portal. The online system will automatically analyse the data collected and identify students meeting the criteria for the “Intensive Programme” as “positive” to facilitate schools’ provision of appropriate guidance and follow-up for these students.

² The web-based HKSIF is available on the UAP Portal (<https://uap.edb.gov.hk>).

run the 3-year IP for Primary 4 students with greater needs for guidance. For Direct Subsidy Scheme primary schools, the UAP Grant has been subsumed under the unit subsidy and they do not need to apply separately. The UAP Grant consists of Basic Grant and Additional Grant as follows:

(i) Basic Grant

- Schools wishing to apply for the Basic Grant are required to submit application online via the UAP Portal during the period from **6 May to 15 June 2026**. **Late submissions will not be considered.** Application procedures, disbursement of the Grant and accounting arrangements are provided at Annex. EDB will notify the schools concerned of the application results through the UAP Portal (<https://uap.edb.gov.hk>) by **22 June 2026**.
- Schools with the Basic Grant application accepted should, upon obtaining parental consent, conduct screening for the 2026/27 Primary 4 students-to-be/Primary 4 students with the web-based HKSIF on the UAP Portal during the period from **22 June to 27 November 2026**. To ensure the effectiveness of the IP groups, the optimal size for a group is 12 to 23 students.

(ii) Additional Grant

- If 24 or above Primary 4 students-to-be/Primary 4 students are identified as having greater needs for guidance, schools may apply for the Additional Grant to conduct one or two more IP groups³. Application for the Additional Grant should be made on the UAP Portal during the period from **22 June to 4 December 2026**. **Late submissions will not be considered.** EDB will notify the schools concerned of the results of application by **11 December 2026**.

“UAP Guides” Award Scheme

7. EDB has set up the “UAP Guides” Award Scheme, aiming at encouraging and recognising the Primary 5 and Primary 6 students who have participated in the IP for their active services in the school/community and extension of their experiential learning on personal growth. Schools are encouraged to establish a school-based “UAP Guides Service Team” where members can wear “UAP Guides” badges provided by EDB when participating in regular school-based activities and services or those under the Comprehensive Student Guidance Service, which would further promote a positive school culture. By the end of the school year, individual members with outstanding performance would be commended openly and awarded the “UAP Guides Certificate of Merit” issued by EDB. The award scheme would help consolidate students’ positive and optimistic attitude as well as further enhance their sense of competence and belonging to their school, families and the community. Details of the award scheme have been uploaded to the UAP Portal and EDB website.

³ If the number of Primary 4 students-to-be / Primary 4 students identified as having greater needs for guidance reaches 24, the school may apply for 2 IP groups; if it reaches 36, the school may apply for 3 IP groups.

Evaluation

8. Schools receiving the UAP Grant are required to incorporate their review of the effectiveness of the IP and the use of the Grant into the Evaluation Report of Comprehensive Student Guidance Service. Schools may make use of the post-activity assessment questionnaires in the UAP Resource Package to collect views of students, teachers and parents on the IP.

Enquiries

9. For enquiries, please contact the Guidance and Discipline Section of EDB at 2863 4782.

Ms Vickie LI
for Secretary for Education

c.c.: Heads of Direct Subsidy Scheme primary schools, private primary schools
and Heads of Sections – for information

Understanding Adolescent Project (Primary) Grant 2026/27
Application Procedures, Disbursement of the Grant and Accounting Arrangements

(I) Application Procedures

6 May 2026 to 15 June 2026	Schools submit application of the Basic Grant via the UAP Portal
On or before 22 June 2026	EDB notifies schools of the Basic Grant application results via the UAP Portal
22 June 2026 to 27 November 2026	All schools with the Basic Grant application accepted should, upon obtaining parental consent, conduct screening for the 2026/27 Primary 4 students-to-be/Primary 4 students with the web-based Hong Kong Student Information Form (HKSIF) on the UAP Portal
22 June 2026 to 4 December 2026 (if applicable)	Schools apply for the Additional Grant to conduct TWO or THREE IPs ^{note} via the UAP Portal
On or before 11 December 2026 (if applicable)	EDB notifies schools of the application results for the Additional Grant via the UAP Portal
2 October 2026 to 31 December 2026	Schools submit the Mid-year Survey via the UAP Portal
5 May 2027 to 31 August 2027	Schools submit the Year-end Survey via the UAP Portal


Note:

Schools should identify students with greater guidance needs by using the HKSIF. The online system will automatically analyse the data collected and identify students meeting the criteria for the IP as “positive”. To apply for operating TWO or THREE IPs, the number of eligible students must reach 24 or 36 respectively.

(II) Rates and Disbursement of UAP Grant

(1) UAP Grant Rates

UAP Grant has been one of the constituent items in the Special Domain of Operating Expenses Block Grant (OEBG)/the School Specific Grant of Expanded OEBG for aided schools or the Expanded Subject and Curriculum Block Grant (ESCBG) for government schools. For the latest grant rates, schools may refer to the relevant circular memorandum issued by EDB and the reference materials uploaded on EDB website.

<p style="text-align: center;">Reference Materials on E/OEBG 【EDB webpage>School Administration and Management>Financial Management>Information on Subsidy>Reference Materials on E/OEBG and CFEG】</p>	
---	---

(2) Use of the UAP Grant

Schools should state the use of the UAP Grant with a clear breakdown of all expenses in the implementation of the IP in their annual plans and evaluation reports of the Comprehensive Student Guidance Service. Examples of how the UAP Grant can be used are listed below for reference:

- Organising IP-related activities (the activities must be carried out in Hong Kong)
 - Hiring external service providers^{note} to implement the IP
 - Subsidising students, parents and teachers to join IP-related training camps or group activities (exclusive of expenses on meals)
 - Organising staff training activities to facilitate the implementation of the UAP (exclusive of expenses on meals)

Note: When hiring services to implement the IP, schools are advised to hire service providers with experience in youth services or registered social workers with practical experience / educational psychologists / clinical psychologists / professionals with equivalent qualifications and experience.

- Purchasing reference materials on student guidance or materials in support of the IP such as prizes or gifts for IP-related training camps or group activities (not exceeding 5% of the rate for the first year)
- Other expenses such as promotional activities/materials for launching the UAP (not exceeding 5% of the rate for the first year)

(III) Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme

To further safeguard the well-being of students so as to protect students against sexual abuse, schools are advised to take great importance to the professional conduct of the staff providing services for children. Schools must adopt “Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme” operated by the Police in their appointment procedures, requesting prospective employees (including those directly hired by service providers) to undergo Sexual Conviction Record Check at the advanced stage of the employment process for verifying the sexual conviction records as declared for protection of students' safety. Schools can refer to the website of SCRCs (<http://www.police.gov.hk/scrc/en>) and EDBC No. 14/2023 on “Measures for Strengthening the Protection of Students: Appointment of Teaching and Non-teaching Staff in Schools” for details.

(IV) Financial and Accounting Arrangements

When purchasing goods and services, government schools should observe the Stores and Procurement Regulations, Financial and Accounting Regulations, Standing Accounting Instructions and other related rules and regulations. IMC/Non-IMC aided schools should observe the relevant financial regulations set out in the updated circular memorandum on OEBG and Expanded OEBG each year. When hiring external services for the provision of the IP under the UAP (Primary), aided schools should observe EDBC No. 4/2013 on “Procurement Procedures in Aided Schools”.