

EDUCATION BUREAU CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 152/2026

From : Secretary for Education	To : Supervisors/Heads of Government, Aided (including special schools), Caput, Private Secondary Schools, and Secondary Schools under the Direct Subsidy Schemes offering the local senior secondary curriculum
Ref. : 1125-2015-8075-9030-00007-P001- 0001	
Date : 24 August 2026	

(Please circulate this Circular Memorandum to panel heads and teachers of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.)

Science Education Key Learning Area: Updated Curriculum and Assessment Frameworks of Senior Secondary Science Subjects (Consultation Drafts)

Summary

This circular memorandum announces the release of the updated curriculum and assessment frameworks of senior secondary science subjects (consultation drafts) and informs schools of the arrangements for the related school questionnaire survey.

Background

2. The Chief Executive's 2025 Policy Address sets out relevant measures to strengthen the nurturing of students studying Science and Mathematics at the senior secondary level, with a view to promoting innovation and technology (I&T) and digital education. The Education Bureau (EDB) is now updating the curriculum and assessment frameworks for senior secondary Biology, Chemistry, and Physics to enhance students' scientific literacy and innovation capabilities, thereby laying a solid foundation for their future studies in advanced science and I&T.

3. In line with the launch of the updated Science (Secondary 1-3) curriculum in the 2025/26 school year, the CDC-HKEAA Committees on senior secondary Biology, Chemistry, and Physics have been reviewing the relevant curriculum and assessment frameworks. Following thorough deliberation and consultation with various stakeholders, including experienced secondary school principals and teachers, and academics from tertiary institutions, the updated curriculum and assessment frameworks (consultation drafts) of the respective subjects have been completed. The consultation drafts for Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, together with the related consultation arrangements, were submitted to the Curriculum Development Council (CDC) in June 2026 and endorsed for consultation with schools.

Details

4. The updated curriculum and assessment frameworks of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics have been revised in response to the latest developments in science and I&T education. The key updates to these curricula are as follows:

Strengthening Scientific Inquiry and Cross-disciplinary Learning

- The updated senior secondary Biology, Chemistry, and Physics curricula all place an emphasis on the practice of scientific inquiry and cross-disciplinary learning to enhance students' scientific literacy and spirit of innovation. Each of the three updated curricula includes topics related to Scientific Inquiry and incorporates cross-disciplinary learning foci such as Science, Technology, Society and the Environment; Sustainable Development; Nature of Science; and Computational Physics.

Enriching I&T Learning

- In terms of learning content, the senior secondary Biology, Chemistry, and Physics curricula have each incorporated subject-specific I&T learning content. For example, the Biology curriculum strengthens students' learning of "gene editing technology", "DNA sequencing" and "principle of vaccination"; the Chemistry curriculum enriches learning content such as "recycling of rechargeable batteries", "critical minerals applied in industries and technologies", and "use of hydrogen fuel cells for transportation"; while the Physics curriculum adds content such as "quantum physics" and "special relativity".

Integrating Artificial Intelligence

- In line with the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into learning and teaching, the senior secondary Biology, Chemistry, and Physics curricula have each newly added a chapter entitled “The Use of Digital Education Tools and Artificial Intelligence for Learning, Teaching and Assessment”, providing teachers with teaching guidelines on the use of AI, including considerations for applying AI in teaching and examples of using digital education tools such as AI to design lessons.

Strengthening Articulation with the Junior Secondary Curriculum and Enhancing Connections across Senior Secondary Science Subjects

- To enhance articulation with learning at the junior secondary level and strengthen the connections across senior secondary science subjects, the senior secondary Biology, Chemistry, and Physics curricula have been revised in response to the updated junior secondary Science curriculum content. The updated senior secondary Science curricula also divide the curriculum content appropriately into “Core Component” and “Extension Component”, enabling teachers to make suitable teaching arrangements to better cater for students’ diverse learning needs. In addition, each updated curriculum has newly added a chapter entitled “Connections across Learning of Senior Secondary Science Subjects”, which sets out the fundamental scientific concepts and principles common to Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, and explains the synergy in the learning of scientific and mathematical skills, including experimental manipulation, data processing and scientific reasoning.

Briefing Session

5. The updated curricula of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics are scheduled for implementation at the Secondary 4 level starting from the 2029/30 school year, and will apply to the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination in 2032 and thereafter. For details of the updated curriculum and assessment frameworks of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics and the summaries of the updates for the respective curricula, please refer to the updated curriculum and assessment frameworks (consultation drafts) of the relevant subjects issued by EDB to schools via the EDB Fast Information Transmission System – School Messaging Module (SMM). To help schools understand

the content of the updated curriculum and assessment frameworks of the senior secondary science subjects (consultation drafts) and the related support measures provided by EDB, briefing sessions will be organised. Details are as follows:

	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Date:	7 September 2026 (Monday)	11 September 2026 (Friday)	5 September 2026 (Saturday)
Time:	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Venue:	Lecture Theatre, 4/F, West Block, EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre	Lecture Theatre, 4/F, West Block, EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre	NLSI Lui Kwok Pat Fong College
TCS Course ID:	ITED20270186	ITED20270129	ITED20270076

Schools are cordially invited to nominate teachers to attend the relevant briefing sessions. Teachers may enrol through the Training Calendar System (TCS) of EDB.

School Questionnaire Survey

6. Schools are invited to give their views on the updated curriculum and assessment frameworks (consultation drafts) of the senior secondary Science subjects. The PDF e-questionnaires for Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, the relevant updated curriculum and assessment frameworks (consultation drafts), and the HKDSE examination sample questions prepared by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority in respect of the above updated curricula will be sent to schools via the SMM on 24 August 2026. The panel heads of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics are requested to complete the respective questionnaires and submit the completed PDF e-questionnaires to the Science Education Section, EDB, via the SMM **on or before 30 September 2026 (Wednesday)**.

Enquiries

7. For enquiries, please contact the following officers of the Science Education Section of EDB:

Subject	Contact person	Telephone number
Biology	Dr CHEUNG Ching-wa, Richard	3698 3434
Chemistry	Mr CHAN Ka-wai, Michael	3698 3453
Physics	Mr LEUNG Yat-yin, Leon	3698 4351

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for Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections – for information