

## Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 82/2016

From: Secretary for Education

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

Date: 27 May 2016

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### **Schedule for the Territory-wide System Assessment of Chinese, English and Mathematics at P6 and S3 in 2016/17**

(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 to reserve dates in their school calendar for the purpose of conducting the Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA) of Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics at P6 and S3 levels for the 2016/17 school year.

#### **TSA**

2. In accordance with the document “Reform Proposals for the Education System in Hong Kong” released by the Education Commission in 2000, the TSA aims to help schools and the Government gauge students’ attainment of basic competencies in Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics at the end of key learning stages. The information obtained will provide feedback on the planning of school-based learning and teaching and improvements of education policies. We have commissioned the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) to administer the TSA. It was introduced to P3 in 2004, P6 in 2005 and S3 in 2006. Schools may make reference to the basic competencies students are expected to acquire at key learning stages at the website [http://cd1.edb.hkedcity.net/cd/eap\\_web/bca/index3.htm](http://cd1.edb.hkedcity.net/cd/eap_web/bca/index3.htm).

#### **Schedule for TSA in 2016/17**

##### ***Primary Schools***

3. The 2016 Tryout Study (P3) is in progress. The Coordinating Committee on Basic Competency Assessment and Assessment Literacy and the Education Bureau will follow up and review the feedback of the 2016 Tryout Study (P3). The feedback would be

suitably adopted in and used for enhancing assessment arrangement for P3 in 2017. At present, the specific arrangements for P3 TSA are still being finalised. Schools are invited to **reserve 4 or 5 May 2017** (with 9 May as the fallback date) for the Chinese audio-visual (CAV) assessment and speaking assessments for Chinese Language and English Language for P3. The dates of written assessments for P3 will be the same as the dates for P6.

4. The Chinese audio-visual (CAV) assessment and speaking assessments for Chinese Language and English Language will be conducted on a sampling basis on **11 or 12 May 2017 for P6** (with 16 May as the fallback date). The HKEAA will advise nearer the time on which one of the two days mentioned will the CAV and speaking assessments for P6 students be conducted. Schools could assume normal schooling on the days the CAV and speaking assessments are conducted.

5. The written assessments for Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics at P6 level will take two days. Schools are requested to reserve **13 and 14 June 2017** (with 16 June as the fallback date in case the assessment has to be deferred due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances) in their school calendar for administering the TSA. Since P6 students will be taking assessment, schools are encouraged to arrange flexibly school learning activities for students at other levels on the days of assessment. For schools which choose to suspend lessons and learning activities for students at other levels on teacher deployment and operational grounds, the two days on which the TSA is conducted will not be counted towards the recommended number of school days.

### ***Secondary Schools***

6. The speaking assessments for Chinese Language and English Language at S3 level will be conducted on a sampling basis on **25 or 26 April 2017** (with 28 April as the fallback date). The HKEAA will advise nearer the time on which one of the two days mentioned will the speaking assessments be conducted.

7. The written assessments for Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics at S3 level will take two days. Schools are requested to reserve **20 and 21 June 2017** (with 23 June as the fallback date in case the assessment has to be deferred due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances) in their school calendar for administering the TSA.

## **Participation of all students (including Non-Chinese Speaking students)**

8. We wish to re-iterate that the TSA is a low-stake assessment, which serves to provide not only objective territory-wide data on students' basic competency (BC) for the Government but also school level data and information on overall student performance in different learning dimensions for schools to feedback learning and teaching. Hence, we request schools to arrange all students to participate, especially Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) students to take part in the TSA Chinese Language assessments, with a view to assisting the Government in collecting data for related research, policy review and provision of relevant support. In order to make good use of the assessment data to feedback schools for learning and teaching, starting from 2015 TSA, in addition to the existing supplementary reports provided for secondary schools having NCS students taking part in the assessment, HKEAA provides secondary and primary schools with five or more NCSs taking part in the assessment with an assessment report on NCS students' performance to enhance teaching and learning. The HKEAA can provide support measures for NCS students to take part in the assessments as needed and will later inform schools of the details concerned.

## **Enquiries**

9. For enquiries, please contact the following persons:

Enquiry on administration of the TSA:

Dr Tenny LAM of the HKEAA at 3628 8100

Enquiry on general policy of the TSA:

Ms Eunice CHAN of the Education Bureau at 2921 8943

## **Reminder**

10. Schools are reminded to communicate the schedule for the assessment and the contingency arrangements during adverse weather (including the reserve dates) to parents early to ensure students' participation in the TSA in order to generate comprehensive and useful information for schools to enhance learning and teaching.

Ms Jenny CHAN  
for Secretary for Education

cc: Heads of Sections – for information