Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 53/2013

From: Secretary for Education
To: Heads of all Primary and Secondary Schools (excluding ESF and International Schools)
Date: 15 May 2013

Territory-wide System Assessment of Chinese, English and Mathematics at P3 and S3 in 2013/14

(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 P3 and S3 levels for the 2013/14 school year.

Implementation of TSA

2. In accordance with the document “Education Commission’s Reform Proposals for the Education System in Hong Kong” released in 2000, the TSA aims to help schools and 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 positively on the learning and teaching planning of schools and the 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 expected at key learning stages at the website http://cd1.edb.hkedcity.net/cd/eap_web/bca/index3.htm.
Assessment Schedule for TSA in 2013/14

**Primary Schools**

3. The Chinese audio-visual (CAV) assessment and speaking assessments for Chinese Language and English Language will be conducted on a sampling basis on **7 or 8 May 2014 for P3** (with 12 May as respective fallback dates.) The HKEAA will advise nearer the time on which one of the two days mentioned each school will conduct the CAV and speaking assessments for P3 students. Schools shall assume normal schooling on the days the CAV and speaking assessments are conducted.

4. The written assessments for Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics at P3 level will take two days. Schools are requested to reserve **17 and 18 June 2014** (with 20 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 P3 students are involved, 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**

5. The speaking assessments for Chinese Language and English Language at S3 level will be conducted on a sampling basis on **28 or 30 April 2014** (with 2 May as the fallback date.) The HKEAA will advise nearer the time on which one of the two days mentioned each school will conduct the speaking assessments.

6. The written assessments for Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics at S3 level will take two days. Schools are requested to reserve **24 and 25 June 2014** (with 27 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.
Enquiries
7. 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 Florence CHAN of the Education Bureau at 2921 8943.

Reminder
8. Schools are reminded to communicate the schedule of 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.

9. According to our announcement made in November 2011 (Circular Memorandum No.168/2011), P6 TSA will be suspended in 2014. When P6 TSA is suspended, individual schools can take part in P6 assessment on a voluntary basis, and make use of the marking and reporting services provided by the HKEAA. As this is not a territory-wide system assessment participated by all P6 students, no system level data will be provided. The HKEAA will inform primary schools of the relevant arrangements of 2014 P6 assessment in late May.

(Ms Jenny CHAN)
for Secretary for Education

cc: Heads of Sections - for information