From: Secretary for Education
To: Heads of all Primary and Secondary Schools (excluding ESF and International Schools)
Date: 13 May 2014

Territory-wide System Assessment of Chinese, English and Mathematics at P3, P6 and S3 in 2014/15

(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, P6 and S3 levels for the 2014/15 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 2014/15

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 5 or 6 May 2015 for P3 and, 12 or 13 May 2015 for P6 respectively (with 8 and 15 May as respective fallback dates.) The HKEAA will advise nearer the time on which two of the four days mentioned each school will conduct the CAV and speaking assessments for P3 and P6 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 both P3 and P6 levels will take two days. Schools are requested to reserve 16 and 17 June 2015 (with 19 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 students at two levels 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 21 or 22 April 2015 (with 24 April 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 23 and 24 June 2015 (with 26 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 Sandy CHEUNG 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. We wish to re-iterate that the TSA serves to provide not only objective territory-wide data on students’ basic competency for the Government but also school level data and information on overall students’ performances in different learning dimensions for schools to feedback learning and teaching. Hence, schools should arrange all students to participate, especially Non-Chinese Speaking students to take part in TSA Chinese Language assessments, with a view to assisting the Government in conducting related research and reviewing policies.

(Ms Jenny CHAN)
for Secretary for Education

cc: Heads of Sections - for information