

Each year, the Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA) provides schools with highly valid and reliable assessment data. Thus, it serves as a very useful reference for schools and helps schools gauge students' attainment in the corresponding basic competency (BC) level at the end of each of the three key learning stages. Schools can make use of the assessment data to formulate teaching programmes so as to enhance learning effectiveness. With the collaboration and support of schools, the 2015 TSA was conducted smoothly and the results were released to schools.

Accomplishments in TSA 2015

The oral assessments in Chinese Language and English Language were conducted in mid-April (S.3) and early May (P.3 and P.6) using the random sampling method, with the participation of about 64,000 P.3, P.6 and S.3 students. The written assessments were held in mid- and late June, with the participation of about 156,000 students.

The overall attainment rates for BC standards at P.3 and P.6 in Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics are 86.4%, 80.4%, 87.6% and 77.7%, 72%, 84% respectively. For S.3, the attainment rates are: Chinese Language 77.2%, English Language 69.4% and Mathematics 79.9%. When compared with the recent years, the students' performances in the three subjects at each level are steady.

In order to encourage every student to take part in the TSA, the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) has continued to adopt special arrangements to cope with students' varied special educational needs. Moreover, various facilitation measures have been provided to non-Chinese speaking students when taking Chinese Language assessments. It is hoped that the measures could support students to demonstrate their learning outcomes.

Schools can use the login password to access the HKEAA website to obtain their TSA results after the announcement by the Education Bureau (EDB). Schools can download the results in PDF or EXCEL format to cater for the school-based needs. Starting from last year, they can also create accounts for teachers to enter the website and browse the item analysis report. Phase 1 of the online item analysis (OIA) report was launched last year. About 72% of primary schools and 60% of secondary schools created accounts for teachers. This year, more functions were developed (see Chapter 5 for details) so as to enable schools to better understand their students' strengths and weaknesses.

To help teachers understand the overall performance of students, we have arranged for the TSA seminars to be held after the release of TSA results. Presentations on student performance supported with exemplars showing students' strengths and weaknesses can help teachers understand students' overall performance. These presentations will be given by our subject managers and senior officers. It is our hope that teachers can get a better understanding of students' learning performance through participating in the seminars. We will also introduce our newly developed OIA report in the seminars so that teachers can become familiar with the functions of this reporting system, with a view to conducting analyses of students' performance conveniently and facilitating 'assessment for learning'.

The Way Forward

In response to the views from various stakeholders, the EDB announced a series of enhancement measures in April last year (see Chapter 1 for details). Most enhancement measures for the TSA were implemented in 2014. The remaining measures will be implemented this school year. In the future, we will continue to organise various training activities or workshops in collaboration with the EDB to help teachers analyse TSA data. Such analysis enables teachers to adjust their teaching plans to meet students' learning needs. We will consult various stakeholders and listen to their views on TSA to seek continuous improvement on the assessment procedures, content and the provision of data in the hope that the TSA data can facilitate learning and teaching in schools. The EDB has also published leaflets and produced promotional videos to enhance schools' and parents' understanding of the TSA. The leaflets and videos have been uploaded to the HKEAA's BCA website.

Similar to other countries, the TSA is a system-level assessment providing objective data. This serves as a reference for schools and helps the government review the effectiveness of its education policy. We hope schools understand that the basic competencies are only part of the curriculum requirements. They do not cover students' total learning performance and experiences. Therefore, schools need to use the TSA data together with other internal and external assessment information available to achieve a comprehensive understanding of their students' learning performance, thereby enabling them to unleash students' potential in various learning dimensions.