

Section 5: Admission Mechanism

(1) Reform of the Primary One Admission System

Target

To avoid using children's abilities as the admission criteria and to enhance fair opportunities for parents in choosing schools.

Last Year's Progress

- Primary 1 places for the 2004/05 school year have been allocated to applicants through the Discretionary Places Admission stage and Central Allocation stage in accordance with the short-term POA mechanism recommended by the EC.
- The number of POA school nets for the 2004/05 school year has been adjusted to 47.
- Following the EC's recommendations, the Government has sought the views of key stakeholders on the way forward for the POA mechanism. As the existing mechanism has been implemented smoothly over the past few years, they generally found it acceptable. The EC therefore recommended and the Government accepted that status quo should be maintained. The current POA mechanism continues to be adopted from the 2005/06 school year.

Tasks Ahead for the Coming Year

- To continue to review the POA school nets where appropriate.

(2) Reform of the Secondary School Places Allocation System

Target

To reduce the labeling effects of the allocation bands on schools and pupils, and to promote the adoption of more diversified admission criteria for allocating Secondary 1 places.

Last Year's Progress

- The various reform measures of the SSPA system were implemented smoothly. The number of students being allocated to their first three choices has been increasing.
- A Working Group was set up under the EC in July 2003 to review the interim SSPA mechanism and MOI for secondary schools.
- As both SSPA and MOI are highly complex and important education issues, the EC endorsed the proposal of the Working Group in May 2004 that more time was required to complete the review. To tie in with the proposed time frame for reviewing SSPA and MOI, the existing interim SSPA mechanism will continue to be adopted in the 2004/06 allocation cycle. Currently, the Working Group has largely completed the review and will launch a public consultation in early 2005.

Tasks Ahead for the Coming Year

- To consult the public on the Working Group's proposals on the SSPA mechanism and MOI for secondary schools, and thereafter finalize the long-term SSPA mechanism and MOI arrangement for secondary schools.

(3) "Through-train" Mode

Target

To strengthen collaboration between primary and secondary schools having the same education philosophy so as to provide students with a coherent learning experience.

Last Year's Progress

- 16 pairs of aided primary and secondary schools have been adopting the "through-train" mode.
- The arrangements for implementing the "through-train" mode were revised to give "through-train" schools flexibility in the deployment of teachers and submission of internal assessment results under the SSPA system.
- School visits and experience-sharing sessions for "through-train" schools were conducted.

- Due to the revised time frame of the review of the SSPA mechanism, the deadline for feeder/nominated schools complying with the principles for forming "through-trains" to indicate their decision was postponed from 31 May 2005 to 31 May 2006. The schools were informed of the new deadline through a circular memorandum.

Tasks Ahead for the Coming Year

- To continue to promote "through-train" mode.
- To continue to provide professional support to "through-train" schools through the Regional Education Offices and CDI.
- To work together with those feeder and nominated schools which currently do not comply with the "through-train" principles to formulate feasible solutions from now until 2012.


(4) University Admission

Target

Local higher education institutions (HEIs) are encouraged to review their own admission criteria and procedures so as to give due consideration to students' all-round performance and select the most suitable candidates for the relevant programmes.

Last Year's Progress

- HEIs have reviewed their own admission criteria and procedures and will continue to do so in the coming year.
- Four HEIs have already implemented their students' self-recommendation scheme to take into account non-academic achievements of applicants. For HEIs which have not yet implemented the self-recommendation scheme, they would make use of the non-academic information collected through the Joint University Programmes Admissions System as appropriate for the purpose of interviews or selection.
- HEIs exercised greater flexibility in admitting students of varied backgrounds and study levels. Graduates of community colleges and other post-secondary institutions were able to be admitted into senior years of undergraduate study.



Tasks Ahead for the Coming Year

- UGC will continue to encourage local HEIs to broaden their admission criteria and be more flexible in allowing entry at different levels. HEIs are also encouraged to strengthen their communication with the secondary school sector in this aspect.