

Section 4: Professional Development

Target

Frontline education workers are the key players in implementing the Education Reform. To support the reform, the Government strives to enhance the quality and professionalism of the teaching force, through providing training and support as well as formulating appropriate professional standards for teachers. In realizing the vision of providing quality education, school principals play a very vital role. The Government places much emphasis on promoting the continuing professional development among school principals, and assisting them in enhancing their professional leadership so that they can lead teachers and students in facing the changes and challenges of the new millennium. We also encourage sharing among school principals.

Last Year's Progress

(1) Teachers' Professional Development

- A draft Teacher Competencies Framework (TCF) was endorsed by the Advisory Committee on Teacher Education and Qualifications (ACTEQ) in March 2003.
- A Task Force was set up under ACTEQ to review pre-service teacher education. The Task Force has completed a preliminary review on the content and processes of pre-service teacher education.
- ACTEQ is deliberating on a proposal to introduce internship requirement on beginning teachers, who will be given mentoring support throughout the internship period and be required to meet accreditation standards prior to their professional registration.
- An amendment bill on raising entry qualification requirements of teachers was introduced to the Legislative Council in April 2003.
- Different institutes of early childhood teacher education have been providing a variety of training courses, including Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Bachelor of Early Childhood Education programmes, to enable qualified kindergarten teachers to further their studies and raise their professional competency.

(2) Principals' Professional Development

- Principals' Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Framework has been implemented from September 2002.
- For appointment to principalship, aspiring principals would have to attain the Certification for Principalship (CFP) from the 2004/05 school year.
- The EMB and the SWD are jointly arranging an abridged course in Certificate in Early Childhood Education for qualified serving kindergarten principals and child care centre supervisors.

Tasks Ahead for the Coming Year

(1) Teachers' Professional Development

- Upon further refinement of the TCF, consultation with the education sector will begin.
- Liaison with teacher education institutions to map out action plans in reforming pre-service teacher education.
- Setting out accreditation standards and operational details of internship for consultation with the education sector, and launching training programmes for internship mentors.
- The EMB will continue to provide/ commission training programmes on the education/ curriculum reform and other policy-related initiatives.
- The District Teachers' Network (DTN) Scheme Secretariat will continue to co-organise the second Teachers' Experience Sharing Month in March 2004 with the QEF, Hong Kong Teachers' Centres, Regional Education Offices and other educational organisations.

(2) Principals' Professional Development

- To implement the CFP in the 2004/05 school year.
- From the 2002/03 school year, serving principals will have to undertake CPD activities in a 3-year cycle. The EMB will organise a series of CPD programmes for serving principals on such issues as curriculum and leadership training.