

Section 6 : 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.

Progress

- The various reform measures of the POA system have been implemented smoothly.
- P1 places for the 2006/07 school year have been allocated to applicants through the Discretionary Places Admission stage and the Central Allocation stage in accordance with the POA mechanism recommended by the EC. Taking into account the discretionary places and the number of children allocated to schools of their first three choices, the overall satisfaction rate was nearly 90%.
- The number of POA school nets has been adjusted from 47 for the 2004/05 school year to 37 for the 2006/07 school year.

Tasks Ahead

- 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 criteria for admitting S1 students.

Progress

- The interim SSPA mechanism was implemented in the 2004/06 allocation cycle for the last year. A record high satisfaction level was attained, with 81% students being allocated to their first three choices.
- The EC has completed the review of the SSPA mechanism and MOI arrangements for secondary schools. The review report was submitted in December 2005, and the recommendations were accepted by the EMB.
- Under the revised SSPA mechanism, the discretionary places quota and school choices will be increased. These will enhance parents' choice of schools, and at the same time promote diversified development of schools and students. The revision of the scaling mechanism will also help avoid increasing the pressure of public examinations on students.
- After seeking the views of the school sector and stakeholders, the EMB announced the implementation details of the revised SSPA mechanism in March and June 2006.

Tasks Ahead

- The revised SSPA mechanism will be implemented with effect from the 2005/07 allocation cycle. The mechanism will apply to students proceeding to S1 in September 2007 and thereafter.

(3) "Through-train" Mode

Target

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

Progress

- Experience-sharing sessions for "through-train" schools have been conducted to consolidate and disseminate experiences.
- The number of public sector schools adopting the "through-train" mode has increased from 16 groups in the 2004/05 school year to 25 groups in the 2006/07 school year.
- Following the recommendations made by the EC, a school circular was issued in March 2006 to inform schools that the deadline for feeder and nominated schools complying with the "through-train" principles to decide whether or not to form "through-trains" has been deferred from 31 May 2006 to 31 May 2012.

Tasks Ahead

- To continue to facilitate the implementation of the "through-train" mode and provide professional support to "through-train" schools through the Regional Education Offices and the Curriculum Development Institute of the EMB.
- To continue to work together with those feeder and nominated schools which do not comply with the "through-train" principles to formulate appropriate development plans before the deadline in 2012.

(4) University Admission

Target

Local higher education institutions (HEIs) are encouraged to review their 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.

Progress

- Since the 2005/06 school year, the eight HEIs funded by the UGC have already implemented their students' self-recommendation scheme under the Joint University Programmes Admissions System to take into account non-academic achievements of applicants.
- HEIs have exercised greater flexibility in admitting students of varied backgrounds and study levels. Sub-degree graduates of self-financing community colleges and other post-secondary institutions have been admitted into senior years of undergraduate study.
- The eight UGC-funded HEIs announced on 5 July 2006 the general entry requirements and programme specific requirements for admission to undergraduate programmes starting from the 2012/13 school year under the NSS and higher education academic structure.

Tasks Ahead

- The 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.