

Chapter 2 : Progress of the Education Reform

Since October 2000, the Government has been implementing a series of reform measures according to a planned timetable. The progress made in various areas is summarized in the following table.

Stage of education	Measures planned to be implemented in the first three years	Progress
Early Childhood Education	2000/01 school year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to examine ways to improve the Kindergarten Fee Remission Scheme • to enhance the self-evaluation and external evaluation mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The enhanced scheme will be implemented in 2002/03. • Performance indicators have been announced. The conducting of quality assurance inspections has started.
	2001/02 school year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to raise the entry qualifications requirement of kindergarten teachers to 5 passes in HKCEE (including Chinese and English) • to relax the minimum age to enter kindergartens from 3 years to 2 years 8 months • to formulate recommendations on the monitoring mechanism, mode of subsidy and teacher training in respect of kindergartens and child care centres (CCC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented as scheduled. • Implemented as scheduled. • The review will be completed soon. Public consultation will be conducted in 2002.

Stage of education	Measures planned to be implemented in the first three years	Progress
School Education	<p>2000/01 school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to progressively reform the school curriculum to provide students with comprehensive learning experiences to abolish the Academic Aptitude Test and to implement the interim mechanism for the Secondary School Places Allocation to set up a working group under the Education Commission to study the feasibility of implementing a 3-year senior secondary academic structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development strategy has been formulated and the implementation of the supportive measures is underway. Implemented as scheduled. The working group is undertaking the review. Public consultation will be conducted in 2002.
	<p>2001/02 school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to develop the Basic Competency Assessments in Chinese, English and Mathematics progressively to abolish the fine grades in the HKCEE and HKALE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action in progress. Pilot run of the Prototype of the Student Assessment at Primary 3 level will be conducted in June 2002. Abolition announced.
	<p>2002/03 school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to implement the interim mechanism for the Primary One Admission System some primary and secondary schools may apply to form "through-trains" to extend the Teacher Assessment Scheme to include students' performance in schools in the results of certain subjects of the HKALE to provide Secondary 4 or training places to all Secondary 3 graduates who have the ability and wish to do so 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented as scheduled. Detailed arrangements have been worked out. Four pairs of schools have formed "through-trains". Preparation work is underway with a view to implementing the scheme in HKALE Physics, Engineering Science and Art in 2004. Six school premises have been allocated for the establishment of senior secondary schools in the 2003/04 school year.

Stage of education	Measures planned to be implemented in the first three years	Progress
Higher Education	<p>2000/01 school year and beyond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to reform the admission criteria progressively to encourage the all-round development of students • to reform the curriculum progressively to cater for the needs of society and to enhance students' quality • to develop a flexible credit unit system progressively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The universities have gradually adopted more diversified admission criteria in order to make a more comprehensive assessment of students' performance. • Being implemented by the universities. • Being examined jointly by the University Grants Committee and the universities.
Continuing Education	<p>2000/01 school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to set up a working group under the Education Commission to examine measures to promote the development of continuing education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The working group is undertaking the review. Public consultation will be conducted in 2002.