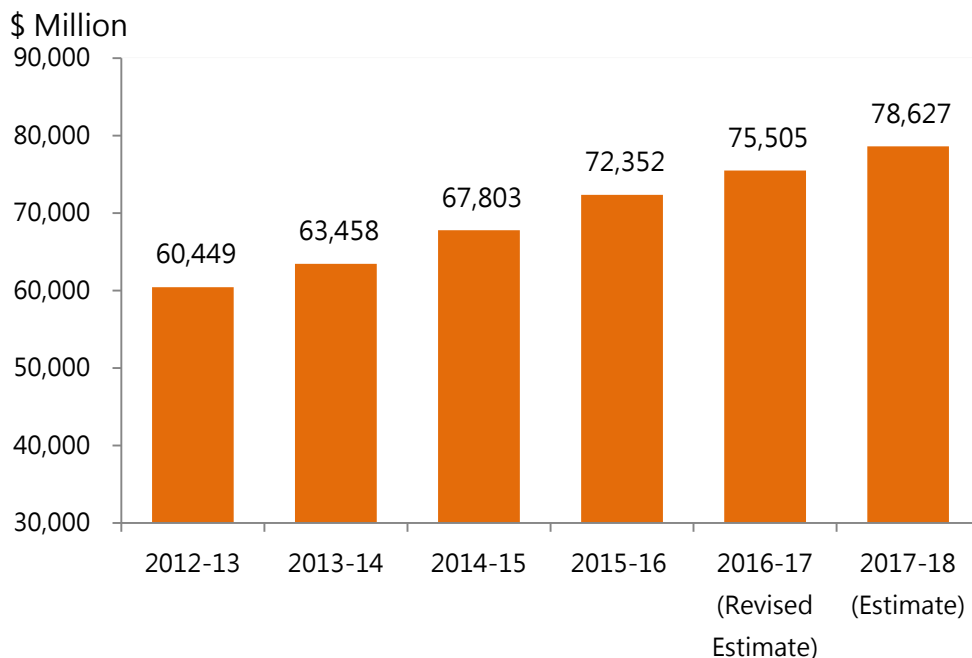


Education and Youth Development

Education

- Invested heavily in education. The recurrent expenditure has increased by 30% in the past five years.

Recurrent Education Expenditure



- At present, 45% of the relevant age cohort pursues degree programmes, representing an increase of around 15 percentage points as compared with five years ago. Participation rate of publicly-funded degree programmes has also increased from 21% to 28%.
- Implemented the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors on a pilot basis for three cohorts since the 2015/16 academic year to subsidise about 1 000 students per cohort to pursue designated self-financing undergraduate programmes. It was announced in 2017 that the scheme would be regularised from the 2018/19 academic year with an

increased number of subsidised places to about 3 000 per cohort. It is expected that about 13 000 students will benefit from the scheme each academic year.

- Increased the articulation opportunities for sub-degree graduates. Announced in 2014 that the number of University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded undergraduate senior year intake places would progressively increase from 4 000 to 5 000 per annum by the 2018/19 academic year, so that meritorious sub-degree graduates could articulate to subsidised degree programmes.
- Established the Belt and Road Scholarship. To enhance the exchanges between Hong Kong students and countries along the Belt and Road, proposed in 2016 to further increase the number of scholarships offered to outstanding students from regions along the Belt and Road to about 100 in phases. Launched the Hong Kong Scholarship for Belt and Road Students (Indonesia) in the 2016/17 academic year. Also, by making use of private donations, the Belt and Road Scholarships are made available for students from Malaysia and Thailand in the 2017/18 academic year. In April 2017, EDB and the Vietnamese Government agreed in principle to follow up and work towards the objective of launching the Hong Kong Scholarship for Belt and Road Students (Vietnam) in the 2018/19 academic year.
- Introduced the Scheme for Subsidy on Exchange for Post-secondary Students in 2015 to subsidise financially needy students with grant up to \$15,000 per student so as to encourage their participation in exchange programmes outside Hong Kong. The Scheme has been expanded from 2016 with the ceiling of the subsidy raised to \$60,000. At the same time, the Scheme for Subsidy on Exchange to Belt and Road Region for Post-secondary Students was introduced. Each eligible student can apply for subsidies up to around \$50,000 in total under the Scheme.
- Launched the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme in 2014 to support three cohorts of up to 100 outstanding local

students per cohort in their pursuit of studies in world-renowned universities outside Hong Kong starting from the 2015/16 academic year. 185 students have been offered Scholarships in the first two cohorts.

- In the 2015/16 academic year, the aggregate expenditure on research of the UGC-funded institutions amounted to \$9.55 billion, representing an increase of more than 10% as compared with the previous year.
- In 2016, the former Hong Kong Institute of Education was retitled as the Education University of Hong Kong and became the tenth university and the eighth publicly-funded university in Hong Kong.
- Established in 2014 the Qualifications Framework (QF) Fund of \$1 billion to support the sustainable development of QF.
- Free quality kindergarten education policy will be implemented starting from the 2017/18 school year with a view to greatly enhancing the quality of kindergarten education. About 70% to 80% of subsidised half-day kindergarten places will be free. As for whole-day kindergarten places, the overall school fees will be maintained at a low level. The current 12 years of free education will be extended to 15 years.
- The Government's recurrent expenditure on pre-primary education is estimated to be increased from about \$2.8 billion in 2012-13 to about \$6.7 billion in the 2017/18 school year.
- The number of overseas tertiary institutions which have indicated acceptance of students with the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) qualification increased from 130 in 2012 to 260 to date. Also, Hong Kong students could be admitted to 90 Mainland higher education institutions without the need to take the Joint Entrance Examination for Universities on the Mainland.
- Injected a sum of \$5 billion into the Language Fund in the form of seed capital in 2014, with a view to facilitating long-term planning and sustaining funding support to worthwhile initiatives for improving Hong Kong people's proficiency in Chinese (including Putonghua) and English.

- In June 2016, the Finance Committee of the LegCo approved \$800 million for setting up the Gifted Education Fund to continue supporting the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education in nurturing exceptionally gifted students aged between 10 and 18, and to strengthen the development of school-based gifted education to enrich the talent pool and enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong.
- Released the Report on Promotion of STEM Education - Unleashing Potential in Innovation in 2016 to set out the strategies for the promotion of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.
- In the 2015/16 school year, a one-off grant of \$100,000 per school was released to primary schools for purchasing equipment, resource materials and a kick-start of school-based STEM-related learning activities to promote STEM education. In the 2016/17 school year (March 2017), a similar one-off grant of \$200,000 per school was disbursed to secondary schools. The two grants were received by a total of about 1 000 primary and secondary schools.
- To put forward the vision of setting up WiFi campus in some 1 000 public sector primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong by phases starting from 2015/16 school year. As at to-date, about 80% of schools have successfully set up WiFi campus.
- To address the temporary decline of the Secondary One student population, a number of relief measures have been implemented in public sector secondary schools aiming at stabilising the sector and facilitating the sustainable development of secondary schools. As a result, from the 2012/13 to 2016/17 school years, the number of secondary students reduced by about 25% while that of operating classes and secondary school teachers just by about 10% and 6% respectively.
- In the past five years, EDB has, through the School Allocation Exercise, allocated six new/vacant school premises for reprovisioning or extension of secondary and primary school

premises. And, funding approval has been obtained for a total of 10 school building projects for the purposes of reprovisioning or redevelopment/expansion of existing secondary and primary schools.

- In the past five years, the total actual spending/revised estimates for school premises maintenance works amounted to \$4.687 billion.
- Improve the facilities of the 26 “matchbox-style” school premises.
- Since the 2014/15 school year, eligible public sector schools have been provided with a recurrent Career and Life Planning Grant (CLPG) to support the implementation of life planning education (LPE) in a holistic and systematic manner.
- Through the Business School Partnership Programme, more business organisations and government departments have been encouraged to collaborate with schools to support students in career exploration. Since the implementation of LPE in the 2014/15 school year to the end of February 2017, EDB has cooperated with about 280 enterprises and organisations in organising over 2 150 activities with the participation of over 655 000 students.
- Starting from the 2015/16 school year, the ratio of graduate teacher posts in public sector primary schools would be enhanced progressively in three years from 50% to 65%.
- Schools may turn the existing Senior Secondary Curriculum Support Grant (SSCSG) as well as CLPG into regular teaching posts from the 2016/17 school year. This will provide about 1 000 additional regular teaching posts. In the 2016/17 school year, about half of the public sector secondary schools have turned either or both of SSCSG and CLPG into some 370 regular teaching posts.
- Subsidise students to join at least one Mainland exchange programme each in the primary and secondary stages as promulgated in 2015, more than 90 000 subsidised quotas are provided by EDB in 2016/17.

- Continue to promote Belt and Road related exchange activities, including the increase of quota to 5 600 for students' Mainland exchange programmes along the Silk Road in 2016/17.
- Allocated five vacant school premises and three greenfield sites for development of international schools through the two School Allocation Exercises held in 2012 and 2014 respectively. The schools concerned have gradually come into operation from the 2014/15 school year onwards and will provide some 6 000 school places in total.
- It is projected that there will be no shortfall in the provision of international secondary and primary school places for six school years starting from the 2017/18 school year.
- Proposed in 2017 to introduce a paid non-local study leave scheme on a pilot basis for serving secondary school teachers to broaden their perspectives and enrich their experience by allowing them to take part in specific courses or on-site experiential learning attachment programmes for about one to three months. The 3-year scheme is expected to benefit some 150 teachers.
- From the 2014/15 school year onwards, various measures have been introduced to enhance the quality of special education services in special schools, including the provision of additional teacher assistants, progressive reduction of the number of students per class in the school for children with visual impairment and schools for social development, improvement of the staff establishment of the boarding section of special schools, and provision of an additional grant for the boarding section of special schools to enhance the support for boarders with medical complexity.
- Starting from 2017, an additional grant has been provided for schools for children with severe intellectual disability, schools for children with physical disability and schools for children with visual impairment cum intellectual disability to enhance the care for 24-hour ventilator-dependent students.
- In the 2016/17 school year, the estimated additional expenditure on support and services provided for public sector

primary and secondary schools in catering for students with special educational needs is \$1,417 million, which represents an increase by around 65% as compared to the expenditure in the 2008/09 school year.

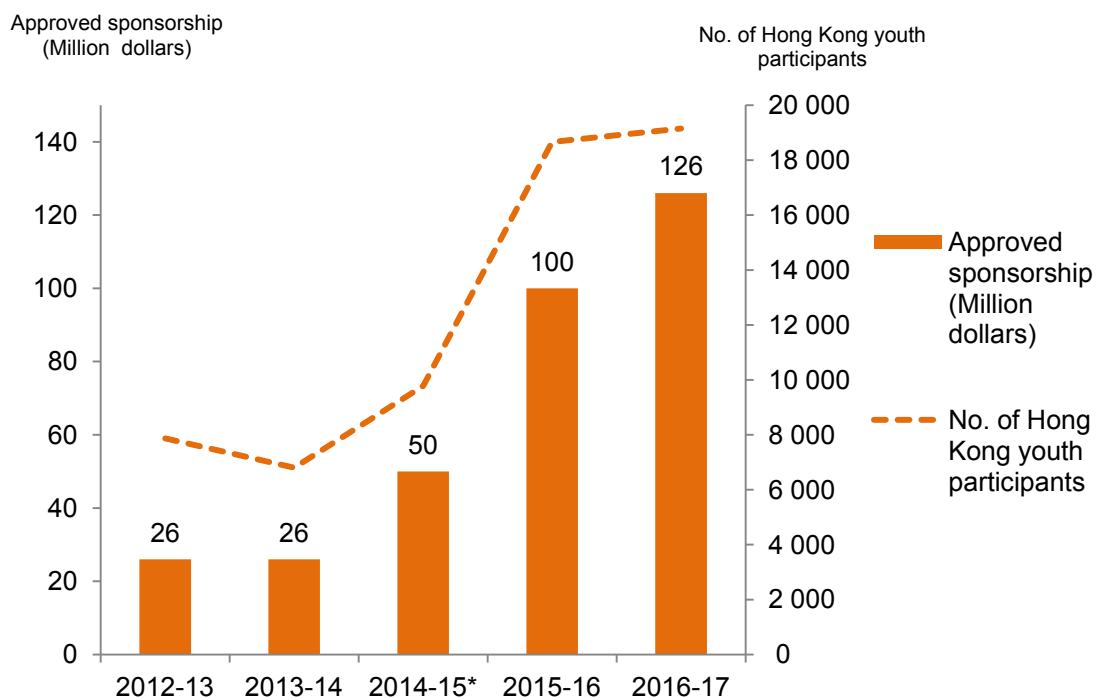
- From the 2013/14 school year, the ceiling of Learning Support Grant has been raised to \$1.5 million; whereas the grant rates have been increased by 30% in the 2014/15 school year. Starting from the 2017/18 school year, the Learning Support Grant will cover students with mental illness.
- From the 2016/17 school year, the School-based Educational Psychology Service has been extended to cover all public sector primary and secondary schools. For schools with a large number of students with special educational needs, the service has been progressively enhanced by improving the ratio of educational psychologist to schools to 1:4.
- Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (ApL(C)) is introduced at the senior secondary level to provide an additional channel exclusively for non-Chinese speaking students to obtain an alternative Chinese language qualification. The results of ApL(C) are reported in the HKDSE. In addition to the HKDSE qualification, ApL(C) is also pegged at the Qualifications Framework Levels 1-3 to prepare students for further studies and work. The first batch of graduates will complete ApL(C) by 2017.

Youth

- In 2016, a \$300 million Youth Development Fund was set up to collaborate with NGOs, in the form of matching funds, to assist young people in starting up their own business. In 2016-17, \$24 million has been approved for sponsoring nine NGOs to implement their youth entrepreneurship projects.
- Since 2014-15, the recurrent subvention for 11 youth uniformed groups (UGs) has been doubled and the provisions for the Assistance Scheme for Needy Students have also been increased, benefiting more than 110 000 UG members a year.

- During 2015-16 to 2017-18, an additional provision of over \$200 million was allocated for the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland and the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland. Community organisations are sponsored to organise youth exchange and internship programmes in the Mainland, so as to enhance the awareness and understanding of Hong Kong young people of their home country. It is estimated that 56 000 Hong Kong young people will benefit from the 800 exchange programmes and 293 internship programmes sponsored under the two funding schemes in these three years.

Youth Exchange and Internship in the Mainland



* Before 2014-15, sponsorship for both youth exchanges and internships in the Mainland was granted under the same funding scheme. Since 2014-15, sponsorship for youth exchange and internship in the Mainland are provided by two separate funding schemes.

- In 2016-17, the Funding Scheme for Exchange in Belt and Road Countries was introduced on a trial basis, providing funding support to non-profit-making organisations to organise exchange programmes to those countries. It aims to promote

in-depth exchange between the young people in Hong Kong and those from the Belt and Road countries to foster the “people-to-people bond”. In 2016-17, about 630 Hong Kong young people were sponsored to visit over 20 Belt and Road countries.

- In 2017-18, an additional \$100 million has been allocated to enhance support for overseas youth exchange activities.

**Destinations of Youth Exchange Activities
Organised by the Home Affairs Bureau In the past five years**



- The Funding Scheme for Youth Life Planning Activities was launched in 2014. More than \$50 million has since been provided to sponsor NGOs under 37 projects to jointly organise life planning activities with secondary schools, with a view to enhancing the understanding of students, parents and teachers of life planning and multiple pathways. So far, over 300 secondary schools have participated in the scheme. More than 200 000 participants of students, teachers and parents have benefited from the scheme.
- In 2014, the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship was launched to promote a culture of multi-faceted excellence. It supports local universities and tertiary institutions in admitting a total of about 20 secondary school students who excel in sports,

arts and community services to pursue undergraduate studies. In 2017-18, an additional \$200 million has been pledged for allocation to expand the scholarship.

- In 2015, the United Nations Volunteers – Hong Kong Universities Programme was launched in collaboration with the United Nations and local volunteer organisations, enabling local university students to take up voluntary work for six months in various UN agencies in South East Asia. In the first two years, 22 students participated in the pilot programme. Starting from 2017/18, the quota for participants will be doubled to 20 participants a year.
- The Service Corps Programme provides young people with an opportunity to perform voluntary teaching service or serve as volunteers in the Mainland for six or 12 months. So far, over 110 young people have participated in the Programme. Since 2015-16, the programme has been included in Government recurrent funding programmes so that more young people may benefit from it.