

Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 216/2025

From: Secretary for Education To: Heads of Primary, Secondary and
Special Schools (excluding Private
Schools, ESF and International Schools)

Ref: EDB(LE)/P&R/CL/116 c.c. Heads of Sections – for information

Date: 28 November 2025

Fifth Round of Test under the Sponsorship Scheme for Teachers Taking the National Putonghua Proficiency Test

Purpose

This circular memorandum aims to announce the details of the fifth round of test under the Sponsorship Scheme for Teachers Taking the National Putonghua Proficiency Test (PSC), which is sponsored by the Language Fund (LF), and to invite schools to provide indication regarding nomination of teachers for a tailor-made training programme prior to taking the PSC.

Background

2. In response to the Policy Measures of the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address, the Education Bureau (EDB) launched the **Sponsorship Scheme for Teachers Taking the National Putonghua Proficiency Test** in June 2024 with the use of the LF to **fully sponsor eligible serving and prospective teachers**, including but not limited to teachers teaching Chinese Language and Putonghua subjects in local primary and secondary schools, to take the PSC for once on a voluntary basis, with the aim of further encouraging teachers to enhance their mastery of Putonghua.

Sponsorship Scheme for Teachers Taking the National Putonghua Proficiency Test

3. The Scheme is administered by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA), which is offering one-stop registration and test service. Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria set out below may take PSC **free of charge** for once, **without** the need to pay the test fee in advance.

- (i) **serving teachers** who are **full-time teaching staff** employed by publicly-funded secondary/ primary/ special schools in that school year; or

- (ii) **prospective teachers** who are **full-time teaching assistants (or school staff with an equivalent post as officially verified by the school)** employed by publicly-funded secondary/ primary/ special schools in that school year and are **awarded, studying or admitted to the study of** a local Teacher's Certificate or Post-graduate Diploma/Certificate in Education, or possess non-local academic credentials in teaching that are accredited by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications.

An applicant must submit an employment certificate signed by the Principal of the school where the applicant is employed (see **Annex**) for verification of eligibility.

Arrangement of the Fifth Round of PSC

4. The test dates of the fifth round of PSC under the Scheme are scheduled for **31 January and 1 February 2026 (Saturday and Sunday)**. Registration is **open from today** and will **close at 5:30 pm on 16 December 2025 (Tuesday)**. The PSC conducted by the HKEAA will be computer-based. The test results will be released to the test takers via email within approximately four months after the completion of the test. The Certificate of Putonghua Proficiency Test (普通話水平測試等級證書) issued by the State Language Commission (國家語言文字工作委員會) will be mailed to the test takers who attain a corresponding PSC level around six months or later after the completion of the test. During the registration for PSC through the HKEAA, applicants of the Scheme are required to complete an online questionnaire survey related to their use of Putonghua in the workplace and training needs. The data collected from the questionnaire survey will be integrated and analysed by the HKEAA for research purpose only. The research results will **not** contain any personally identifiable information of the teachers. **No** personal information of the applicants will be provided to the EDB by the HKEAA.

Support Measures for the Test Takers

5. To assist test takers in preparing for the test, in addition to the provision of complimentary online mock test, the following support measures will be available in the fifth round of test:

- (i) Pre-test preparatory seminar: A nationally accredited examiner from the State Language Commission's Putonghua and Character Application Training and Testing Centre will conduct an online seminar of about two hours on the morning of 11 January 2026 (Sunday). The seminar will focus on key points of the test scoring criteria and help test takers understand important notes for taking the test; and
- (ii) Post-test feedback report: Each test taker who meets the eligibility criteria for the Scheme will receive an electronic feedback report, highlighting the test taker's major mistakes and providing suggestions for enhancing Putonghua proficiency.

6. For details and arrangements regarding registration, the test and related support measures, please refer to the website of the HKEAA (www.hkeaa.edu.hk/tc/IPE/psc/).

Pilot Programme to Subsidise Teachers for Tailor-made PSC Training

7. In support of the EDB's measures regarding the enhanced Language Proficiency Requirement for Putonghua teachers and to build a reserve of teaching talent for the subject, the EDB plans to pilot a programme in 2026 to subsidise teachers for tailor-made PSC training. The programme is designed to assist **serving teachers and prospective teachers (regardless of the subject taught) who have attained a Grade B Level 2 (二級乙等) in PSC within the past two years** to strive for Grade A Level 2 (二級甲等) or above. Eligible teachers must be full-time serving teachers or prospective teachers in Hong Kong's publicly-funded secondary, primary, and special schools, and **participate voluntarily through school nomination**. Participants meeting specific conditions, including fulfilling training requirements (e.g., attendance) and taking the PSC¹ within six months of training completion, will be eligible for reimbursement of the training fee paid upfront and will be issued a training certificate. The training fee will be subsidised by the LF.

8. To facilitate the planning of the training and align with schools' schedules and teachers' needs, school representatives are now invited to submit the completed questionnaire **by 22 December 2025 (Monday)**. The response will serve as a valuable reference for the planning and implementation of the training programme. A tentative training schedule is provided below for schools' reference and may be refined and adjusted according to actual circumstances.

First quarter of 2026	Announcement of programme details and acceptance of school nominations
May to August 2026	Delivery of the training programme
End of August 2026	Teachers who have completed the training may participate in the sixth round of the PSC administered by the HKEAA ¹
By February 2027	Teachers who are unable to participate in the above test session must complete the test within the deadline (in any official test centre)



**(QR Code for the
Questionnaire – in
Chinese Only)**

¹ Teachers who have previously received test funding under the Scheme will not be eligible for a double subsidy. Therefore, they must bear the cost of the test fees themselves and are required to take the PSC within six months after completing the training.

Enquiry

9. For general enquiries, please contact

International and Professional Examinations Division, HKEAA

Tel: (852) 3628 8787

Email: ie@hkeaa.edu.hk

For enquires about the eligibility of the PSC Scheme and the pilot training programme,
please contact

Language Education and SCOLAR Section, EDB

Tel: (852) 3863 1782

Email: psc@edb.gov.hk

Miss Katharine CHOI
for Secretary for Education

(In Chinese Only)

致： 香港考試及評核局 –
申請報考「國家語委普通話水平測試」

敬啟者：

茲證明_____（中文姓名*）於 2025/26 學年於本校任職，詳情如下：

* 本證明書上的中文姓名須與申請人的香港身份證或護照上及報名表上的相同。如申請人沒有中文姓名，則可填上申請人的香港身份證或護照上的英文姓名。

請在以下 ☐ 剔選適用內容

<u>受聘學校類別</u>			
1.	<input type="checkbox"/> 中學	<input type="checkbox"/> 小學	<input type="checkbox"/> 特殊學校
<u>受聘職位</u>			
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> 教師	<input type="checkbox"/> 教學助理（或出任相同類別職務的教職員）	

<u>受聘學校類型</u>					
1.	<input type="checkbox"/> 官立學校	<input type="checkbox"/> 資助學校	<input type="checkbox"/> 按位津貼學校	<input type="checkbox"/> 直接資助計劃學校	<input type="checkbox"/> 其他
<u>受聘形式</u>					
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> 全職		<input type="checkbox"/> 其他受聘形式		

學校名稱：_____

校長姓名：_____

校長簽署：_____

學校蓋印：_____

日期：_____