

EDUCATION BUREAU CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 21/2019

From: Secretary for Education

To: Heads of Government, Aided (including special schools) and Caput schools as well as schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme and Private Day Schools offering formal local curriculum at primary and secondary levels

Ref. : EDB(LE)/P&R/MISC/35 VIII

Date: 8 March 2019

Professional Enhancement Grant Scheme for Chinese Language Teachers (Teaching Chinese as a Second Language)

Summary

This circular memorandum informs school heads and Chinese Language teachers of all government, aided (including special schools) and caput schools as well as schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) and private day schools offering formal local curriculum at primary and secondary levels on the following:

- (i) the “Professional Enhancement Grant Scheme for Chinese Language Teachers (Teaching Chinese as a Second Language)” (the Scheme) will be further extended up to the 2021/22 school year; and
- (ii) the basic subsidy will be raised with effect from the 2019/20 school year (that is, from 30% to 50% of the tuition fee, alongside with its maximum amount upwardly adjusted from \$34,000 to \$64,000 per teacher¹).

Serving Chinese Language teachers are invited to apply for the grant under the Scheme.

Background

2. With the support of the Language Fund, the Education Bureau (EDB) launched the 3-year pilot run of the “Professional Enhancement Grant Scheme for Chinese Language Teachers (Teaching Chinese as a Second Language)” in the 2014/15 school year and extended it to the 2018/19 school year. Through the provision of a grant under the Scheme, serving Chinese Language teachers are encouraged to take structured part-time

¹ Applicable to applicants who will commence the relevant programmes of studies **in the 2019/20, 2020/21 or 2021/22 school year**.

programmes that aim to enhance their pedagogical knowledge and skills in teaching Chinese to non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students. According to the views collected from the graduates of the recognised programmes, key objectives of the Scheme had been met. Besides, it was projected that serving Chinese Language teachers' demand for pertinent professional development opportunities continues to exist. With the positive impact of the Scheme and the continued demand for the recognised programmes, the Scheme will be further extended up to the 2021/22 school year. As a further incentive to eligible Chinese Language teachers, the basic subsidy will be raised from 30% to 50% of the tuition fee alongside with its maximum amount upwardly adjusted from \$34,000 to \$64,000 per teacher.

The Scheme

Objectives

3. The Scheme aims to encourage serving Chinese Language teachers at primary and secondary levels to pursue structured part-time programmes on teaching Chinese to NCS students so as to equip them with the necessary pedagogical knowledge and skills as well as inter-cultural understanding in teaching Chinese to NCS students.

Eligibility

4. The Scheme will be open to all registered or permitted teachers² who are employed in government, aided (including special schools) and caput schools as well as schools under the DSS and private day schools at primary and secondary levels which offer formal local curriculum. Applicants, irrespective of their terms of appointment and posts, must be teaching Chinese Language at the time of application.

5. The Scheme is one with specific purpose to enhance teachers' qualifications in teaching Chinese to NCS students. Therefore, those teachers who have applied for grant under the "Professional Development Incentive Grant Scheme for Language Teachers" (PDIGS)³ are still eligible to apply for the grant under the Scheme. However, an applicant can only apply for the grant either under the Scheme or PDIGS to pursue a programme of study that is recognised under both funding schemes.

² Teachers in government schools who possess equivalent qualifications as registered or permitted teachers can also apply for the grant.

³ "Professional Development Incentive Grant Scheme for Language Teachers" (PDIGS) was launched in April 2004 to encourage serving language teachers (i.e. those who joined the teaching profession before the 2004/05 school year) by providing financial incentives for them to enhance their subject knowledge and pedagogy in the language they teach. Details of the Scheme have been uploaded onto the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research (SCOLAR) website through the following link:
<http://www.scolar.gov.hk>

Programmes of Study

6. The recognised programmes of study under the Scheme focus on enhancing teachers' qualifications in teaching Chinese to NCS students and helping teachers to cope with the practical pedagogical challenges of teaching NCS students. The programmes lead to an academic award in the form of a Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma and/or Master's Degree programme in part-time mode. Programmes accepted for the grant under the Scheme have been uploaded onto the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research (SCOLAR) website (<http://www.scolar.gov.hk>).

Amount of Grant

7. The provision of grant is of two tiers, including a basic subsidy and an extra subsidy:

(i) Basic Subsidy

A basic level of subsidy will be offered at 50% of the tuition fee of a programme of study recognised under the Scheme, subject to maximum of \$64,000 per teacher, upon successful completion of programme of study without any undertaking.

(ii) Extra Subsidy

In order to encourage more Chinese Language teachers teaching Chinese to NCS students to apply for the grant and continue to teach in schools offering formal local school curriculum upon successful completion of programme of study, **an extra 30% of the tuition fee of a programme of study**, subject to an additional maximum of \$30,000 per teacher, will be offered to those teachers who continue to teach NCS students Chinese in schools offering formal local curriculum for a total of three years within the five years upon successful completion of programme of study. To apply for this extra 30% of the tuition fee, teachers are required to submit their applications with the principals' certification.

Application

8. The Scheme is open to application for eligible Chinese Language teachers who will commence pursuing the recognised programmes offered by local higher education institutions under the Scheme in the 2019/20, 2020/21 or 2021/22 school year. Should there be more applications received than the number of places offered by local higher education institutions, these institutions will consider according higher priorities to those teachers teaching in schools with higher concentration of NCS students. Applicants should forward their applications within six months from the commencement of the programme. Late applications will not be processed. The completed application form

should be sent by post or by hand to:

Language Education and SCOLAR Section
Education Bureau
Room 1702, 17/Floor
Skyline Tower
39 Wang Kwong Road
Kowloon Bay, Kowloon

Enquiries

9. For enquiries, please contact the Language Education and SCOLAR Section at 3527 0180 or 3527 0182. Soft copies of the application form, notes to applicants and programmes accepted for grant under the Scheme can be downloaded at the SCOLAR website (<http://www.scolar.gov.hk>).

Frankie WAN
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Head of Sections – for information