

## **FAQs on Teacher Professional Preparation Grant (TPPG)**

1. Will special schools benefit from TPPG?
  - Special schools will also benefit from TPPG as other schools. The rate of calculation of TPPG for special schools is the same as ordinary schools.
  - There is commitment to develop further details on the curriculum and assessment framework for SEN. Further consideration will be given to the professional preparation needs of special schools when those details are settled.
2. If it is anticipated that schools will close down in the following years (not offering new senior secondary classes), will they be eligible for the TPPG?
  - These schools will still be eligible for TPPG as teachers may teach senior secondary classes in other schools in future and they should not be deprived of the opportunities to receive professional development in preparation for NSS.
  - The projected decline in student population will impact on some schools which may mean merger or transformation into senior secondary schools and their teachers will also need to be trained in preparation for NSS.
3. Will new secondary schools be eligible for TPPG?
  - New secondary schools that start operation between the 2006/07 school year and the 2008/09 school year will be eligible for TPPG for the relevant years.
4. When will the TPPG be disbursed to schools? Can it be used to employ more than 1 teacher?
  - TPPG has been released to schools starting from August 2005 for a period of 4 years.
  - The aim of this grant is to help schools create space for teachers to attend the professional development programmes and prepare for the implementation of “3+3+4”. Schools can use the grant flexibly by following this principle.
5. Can schools use this grant to employ a teacher to be an NSS coordinator?
  - It would be more appropriate to provide some release from current duties for an experienced member of staff who has an understanding of the school context and students’ needs. In addition, he/she should share some teaching load so as to create space for teachers to attend professional training.
6. Can the grant be used in different ways every year?
  - The aim of this grant is to help schools create space for teachers to attend the professional development programmes and prepare for the implementation of “3+3+4”. Schools can use the grant flexibly by following this principle and take into consideration the school context to suit the needs of schools.

7. Is this grant restricted to creating space for teachers who teach senior secondary levels?
  - In principle, this grant is provided for the professional development of senior secondary teachers and preparation for the NSS curriculum. Therefore, teachers who will teach senior secondary levels (no matter they are teaching junior or senior secondary levels now) can also benefit.
8. Can the surplus of TPPG be rolled over to the next year?
  - Yes, until the end of the 2011/12 school year, i.e. 31 August 2012.
9. Can TPPG be used in conjunction with Capacity Enhancement Grant (CEG)?
  - The aim of TPPG is to help create space for teachers and school leaders to take part in professional development programmes that prepare them for the implementation of the NSS reform. CEG provides schools with the funding to create space for teachers so that they have enhanced capacity to concentrate on the implementation of three key tasks in education reform: (i) curriculum development, including the integration of information technology in teaching; (ii) enhancing students' language proficiency; and (iii) coping with the diverse learning needs of students.
  - As the ambits of the two grants are different, it is not advisable to combine the two.
10. TPPG is calculated on the basis of the total number of classes. However, as class structure may vary from year to year, on which year is it calculated?
  - This grant is calculated on the basis of actual number of operating secondary classes in September of the school year concerned. For example, the grant released to aided and caput schools in Nov 2008 will be based on the actual class structure in Sept 2008.
11. Can TPPG be used for the procurement of learning and teaching materials or alteration work/minor adjustment/expansion of school facilities?
  - As TPPG is provided to help schools create space for teachers to attend Professional development programmes and prepare for the implementation of "3+3+4", it cannot be used for the procurement of learning and teaching materials or alteration work/minor adjustment/expansion of school facilities.
  - Schools should not use TPPG to cover the following:
    - Purchase of furniture and equipment
    - Cost of electricity, repairs, replacement, maintenance and related expenditure of air-conditioners or any other equipment purchases by schools own fund.
    - Cost of traveling and related expenses for their teaching staff for local/overseas visits.

12. Some schools may organize special programmes (e.g. Yi Jin/Secondary Schools Collaboration Project) to cater for the different needs of students. Will the classes concerned be counted in the calculation of TPPG?
  - For schools which have opted for the class grant mode, classes concerned will be counted in the calculation of TPPG. On the other hand, those opted for the cash grant mode will not be counted as additional money has been provided to them and they should not be counted as “normal class”. The same funding arrangement is used in Yi Jin/Secondary Schools Collaboration Project and CEG.
13. Can schools make claim for the Substitute Teacher Grant or Supply Teacher Grant to employ teachers attending NSS-related professional development programmes?
  - Schools should charge to the TPPG all expenditure relating to employment of supply teachers to provide relief for teachers attending NSS-related professional development programmes. They need not make claims for payment.
  - Substitute Teacher Grant or Supply Teacher Grant is not applicable to supply teachers for the above purposes.
14. Why isn't TPPG adjusted as a result of the salary increase in 2008?
  - TPPG is a non-recurrent cash grant to be disbursed to schools to support the implementation of NSS. It is calculated based on the number of operating classes. It will not be adjusted for inflation over time but will vary with changes in the number of operating classes as stated in the circular in the past two years. Hence, it will not be adjusted as a result of the salary increase. However, if schools encounter difficulties in providing professional development opportunities due to the salary increase, they could contact respective School Development Officer of EDB. It will be considered on a case by case basis.
15. Paras. 11.44 – 11.47 of the Report mentioned “Senior Secondary Curriculum Support Grant” and “Diversity Learning Grant”. When will they be disbursed?
  - The Senior Secondary Curriculum Support Grant (SSCSG) will be disbursed one year earlier and its rate increase by 50% during the 4-year transitional period (i.e. 2008/09 to 2011/12 school years). In the 2008/09 and 2009/10 school years, schools are ensured that the amount of SSCSG is at least equivalent to the mid-point salary of one GM for each secondary school offering the NSS curriculum. However, the cash provision will revert to the original stated, i.e. 0.1 GM per senior secondary class after the 2011/12 school year.
  - The Diversity Learning Grant will be disbursed to schools in 2009/10. Schools will be informed of the arrangement in September 2008. Application for the Diversity Learning Grant is needed.

16. Will there be grants to support the provision of Applied Learning) courses?
- A recurrent provision for Diversity Learning Grant (DLG) will be provided when the NSS system is in place to enable and support schools to offer ApL to meet the learning needs of students.
  - Before the full implementation of the DLG, it is proposed to pilot a funding model for pilots such as ApL and other curriculum modes to accumulate experiences to inform future planning. Schools will be informed of the details in due course.