

Various Grants provided by the EDB for the Implementation of the NSS Curriculum

(1) Teacher Professional Preparation Grant

A Teacher Professional Preparation Grant (TPPG) was provided to schools in the 2005/06 to 2008/09 school years to enable schools to release teachers to undergo professional development. Depending on the number of classes, the grant ranges from \$100,000 to \$500,000. Schools may keep the balance of the TPPG until the end of the 2011/12 school year. As at the end of March 2012, the total expenditure on the TPPG was around \$813 million.

(2) New Senior Secondary Curriculum Migration Grant

The New Senior Secondary Curriculum Migration Grant (NSSCMG) disbursed in the 2006/07 to 2008/09 school years provided schools with a grant that ranges from \$30,000 to \$110,000, depending on the number of classes. Schools may keep the balance of the NSSCMG until the end of the 2011/12 school year. Schools with financial difficulties may also apply for an additional NSSCMG, subject to a ceiling of \$300,000. As at the end of March 2012, the total expenditure on the NSSCMG was about \$137 million.

(3) Enhanced Senior Secondary Curriculum Support Grant

The EDB advanced the disbursement of the SSCSG by one year in the 2008/09 school year and enhanced the SSCSG during the 4-year transitional period (i.e. from 2008/09 to 2011/12 school years) by increasing the rate of the grant from a cash provision equivalent to 0.1 Graduate Master/Mistress (GM) to 0.15 GM per NSS class. The SSCSG received by each secondary school offering the NSS curriculum in the 2008/09 to 2009/10 school years was at least equivalent to the mid-point salary of a GM. Starting from the 2012/13 school year, this recurrent grant will be disbursed at its original rate, i.e. the provision will be equivalent to 0.1 GM per NSS class. The SSCSG received by a school operating 15 NSS classes in the 2011/12 school year was about \$1 million. As at the end of March 2012, the total expenditure on the SSCSG was about \$965 million.

(4) Diversity Learning Grant

Apart from the LSCSG that I have just mentioned, starting from the 2009/10 school year, the EDB has provided, upon application, a Diversity Learning Grant (DLG) to schools to support their offer of a diversified curriculum, including Applied Learning (ApL) courses, Other Languages courses (e.g. French, German, Hindi) to cater for students' different learning needs under the NSS curriculum. To alleviate the financial burden of schools, the EDB has reviewed the funding arrangements of the DLG for ApL courses and increased the rate of the DLG starting from the third cohort (i.e. the 2012-14 cohort). As at the end of March 2012, the total expenditure on the DLG was about \$136 million.