

Enhancement to the Opening up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme

In the 2018/19 school year, we implemented various enhancement measures related to the eligibility of sports organisations and schools as well as the subsidy level. We extended the Scheme from public sector schools to schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme; expanded the list of eligible sports organisations; increased the upper limit of subsidy for each participating school; increased the subsidy amount schools receive for each sports programme; and encouraged participating schools to charge sports organisations for their use of facilities based on a preferential or discounted rate to support the development of community sports programmes.

In the 2019/20 school year, participating schools were made eligible to apply for the grant under the "Special Project" category of the Main Fund of the Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation (the Fund). Depending on the results, each application may receive a grant ranging from \$700,000 to \$4 million for constructing or improving sports facilities, or purchasing sports equipment. In order to further expand the list of eligible sports organisations in this Scheme, we allowed non-profit-making organisations with experiences in organising sports programmes to join the Scheme on a pilot basis.

In the 2020/21 school year, we allowed participating schools of the Scheme to apply for grant under the "Capital Works Project" category of the Fund. For each application, a school may receive up to \$700,000 of grant to conduct minor works, or to construct or improve its sports facilities. Furthermore, we gave schools more flexibility in the use of subsidies received under the Scheme to replace or acquire equipment/appliances needed, in addition to the permitted use for hiring extra manpower, strengthening security measures, defraying additional utility costs, and carrying out urgent minor repair works in relation to the approved programmes. Based on their needs, schools may use the subsidies with greater flexibility.