

## EDUCATION BUREAU CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 48/2026

From: Secretary for Education  
Ref.: 1123-2005-8070-9020-00214-P001  
Date: 31 March 2026

To: Heads of Government, Aided  
(including Special Schools), Caput  
and Direct Subsidy Scheme Primary  
and Secondary Schools

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### 2026/27 Students Exchange Programme Subvention Schemes

#### Summary

This circular memorandum invites primary, secondary schools (including special schools) to participate in the captioned scheme.

#### Details

2. The Students Exchange Programme Subvention Schemes (the “Schemes”) include the Junior Secondary and Upper Primary School Students Exchange Programme Subsidy Scheme: “Understanding Our Motherland” and the Senior Secondary School Students Exchange Programme Subvention Scheme. The Schemes aim to subsidise schools to organise school-based exchange activities for upper primary, junior and senior secondary students to enhance their understanding of the history, culture and development of our country and broaden their horizons.

3. The school-based exchange activities organised for students can be conducted in Hong Kong or the Mainland. Mainland activities may include learning activities in the Macao Special Administrative Region. The Schemes provide different subsidy ceilings for the activities conducted in Hong Kong, within or beyond the Guangdong Province to cater for the learning needs of students. Please refer to the “Application and Funding Guidelines” (Chinese version only) for details. To better facilitate the arrangement of school-based exchange activities for the whole school year, school applications for the Schemes will be accepted and processed in the following two batches.



Batch	Period of Submission of Application	Period of Subsidised Activity	Notification of Result (Month)	Release of Funding (Month)*
1	Immediate – 15/5/2026	1/10/2026 – 31/8/2027	9/2026	10/2026
2	24/8/2026 – 2/10/2026	1/2/2027 – 31/8/2027	12/2026	1/2027

\* Release of funding to schools is subject to the approval for the applications and the usage of the quota of the Schemes.

4. Successful schools are required to plan and organise the activities with reference to the “Guidelines on Outdoor Activities” (for Hong Kong activities) or the “Guidelines on Study Tours Outside Hong Kong” and the “Guidelines on Students Mainland Exchange Programmes and Mainland Study Tours of the Subject of Citizenship and Social Development” (for Mainland exchange activities including Macao) accordingly. The schools are also required to follow the standing guidelines on quotation and procurement procedures relevant to their respective school types when commissioning service providers to organise the activities. They should supervise and monitor the planning and organisation of the activities. In addition,

the schools should introduce the learning objectives and content of the activities to the parents of student participants. **Participation of students is on a voluntary basis.**

5. For interested schools, please return the completed Application Form(s) according to the dates listed in the table above by email ([lwme2\\_subvention@edb.gov.hk](mailto:lwme2_subvention@edb.gov.hk)) to the Life-wide Learning and Mainland Exchange Section 2 of the Education Bureau (EDB), with the name of the subvention scheme clearly stated in the email subject. **Late submissions will not be considered.** The Application Form, Activity Report and other relevant documents can be found in the “Application and Funding Guidelines” (Chinese version only). Schools may also download the documents from the “Passing on the Torch” Website.



### **Enquiry**

6. For enquiries, please contact the Life-wide Learning and Mainland Exchange Section 2 of the EDB on 2892 6405/ 2892 5730 (Junior Secondary and Upper Primary School Students Exchange Programme Subsidy Scheme: “Understanding Our Motherland”) or 2892 5762 / 2892 6430 (Senior Secondary School Students Exchange Programme Subvention Scheme). For more information about the Mainland exchange programmes for students, please visit the “Passing on the Torch” Website (<https://www.passontorch.org.hk/en/index.html>).

Ms Vanessa LEE  
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections – for information