

Disbursement of One-off Grant to Needy Students in the 2009/10 School Year

In face of the steep economic challenges, the Government announced additional relief measures to counter the financial crisis and help the community tide over the difficulties. One of these relief measures is to disburse, outside existing financial assistance schemes and on a non-accountable basis, a one-off grant of \$1,000 each for needy students from kindergarten to post-secondary education in the 2009/10 school year to alleviate the financial burden of parents/students.

Eligibility

Students from kindergarten to post-secondary education who are eligible to receive means-tested financial subsidies in the 2009/10 school year under various student finance schemes administered by the Student Financial Assistance Agency (SFAA), or students from kindergarten to secondary education who are eligible in the same school year for the flat-rate grant for school-related expenses under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme administered by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) are eligible for the one-off grant.

Insofar as SFAA is concerned, students eligible for the one-off grant include:-

- (a) Post-secondary students eligible to receive assistance under the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes or the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students;
- (b) Students of designated evening adult education courses eligible to receive the Full or Half Fee Reimbursement under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Designated Evening Adult Education Courses;
- (c) Full-time students of the Vocational Training Council or Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education eligible to receive assistance under the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme (STSS);
- (d) Full-time/Part-time students of Project Yi Jin (PYJ) eligible to receive the Full Fee Reimbursement under PYJ and/or assistance under STSS;
- (e) Primary and secondary students eligible to receive assistance under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme, STSS and/or the Examination Fee Remission Scheme; and
- (f) Kindergarten students eligible to receive fee remission under the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme.

Ways to receive the one-off grant

It is **not** necessary to apply for the one-off grant. Once the students are found eligible to receive assistance under any of the means-tested student financial assistance schemes of SFAA or flat-rate grant for school-related expenses under the CSSA Scheme, they will automatically become eligible for the one-off grant. SFAA will issue written notification to applicants/students informing them of their eligibility for the one-off grant individually.

Payment arrangement

SFAA will disburse the one-off grant to eligible students from primary to post-secondary education through bank transfer. Parents of needy children attending kindergarten will receive the grant by way of crossed cheque mailed to the correspondence address of the applicants. Regardless of the level of assistance (as long as the student is found eligible for student finance), each student will receive the \$1,000 one-off grant once.

Timing for disbursement of the one-off grant

Similar to the disbursement of the one-off grant in the 2008/09 school year, SFAA will effect payment of the one-off grant to applicants who have passed the means test for financial assistance under SFAA schemes in 2009/10 school year from around October 2009. Applicants who pass the means test after October 2009 would be given the one-off grant and their normal financial assistance under the relevant schemes within the 2009/10 school year. The SWD will also make available the one-off grant of \$1,000 to eligible students under its scheme in the new school year.

Enquiries

Parents or students may make enquiries about the eligibility and disbursement arrangements of the one-off grant at SFAA through the following telephone numbers:

Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes	2150 6000
Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students	2152 9000
Full or Half Fee Reimbursement under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Designated Evening Adult Education Courses	3101 9004
Full Fee Reimbursement under Project Yi Jin	3101 9017
School Textbook Assistance Scheme, Student Travel Subsidy Scheme or Examination Fee Remission Scheme	8226 7067
Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme	2154 2130

Parents/students receiving assistance under the CSSA Scheme may make enquiries with the SWD at 2343 2255.