Ref: DSE/94-4
17 May 2010

To: Principals of participating schools

Dear Principal

2012 Hong Kong Diploma of Education Examination (HKDSE)
Special Treatments for Candidates taking Applied Learning (ApL) subjects

Following the issue of the 2012 HKDSE Examination Regulations and Assessment Frameworks in August 2009, the Authority has recently discussed and approved the regulations in respect of the special considerations for candidates taking the Applied Learning subjects. Details are as follows:

An ApL subject is a two-year course offered by a Course Provider and is taken by S5 students who enroll for the subject through schools. Entries from private candidates will normally not be accepted. In general, the first year of study (Y1) is in S5 and the second year (Y2) in S6. However, special considerations will be given to the following ApL candidates who do not follow the HKDSE S6 curriculum but are allowed to proceed to Y2 by the Course Provider:

(a) **S5 repeaters**
Y2 students repeating S5 may enter for the HKDSE as school candidates for “ApL subjects only” in the repeat S5 year, with the support of the school principal and Course Provider. Special approval must be sought from the Authority prior to registration.

(b) **Students who have dropped out from schools at the end of S5**
Y2 students who have left the school may enter for the HKDSE as private candidates for “ApL subjects only” with the support of Course Providers. Such applications are subject to the special approval of the Authority.

(c) **S6 students who have entered for the HKDSE as school candidates but left school before the completion of S6**
For Y2 students who do not meet the entry requirement for private candidates in HKDSE may enter as private candidates for “ApL subjects only”, with the support of Course Providers. Such applications are subject to the special approval of the Authority.

The Authority has also approved the special arrangements in respect of S6 repeaters re-taking ApL subjects in 2013 as follows:

(a) S6 repeaters may re-take the HKDSE as school candidates for the same ApL subjects with the support by Course Providers who should submit only the Y2 ApL assessment results to HKEAA for moderation.
(b) Repeating ApL subjects as private candidates is not allowed.

For other details of the examination regulations, please refer to the Regulations and Assessment Frameworks of 2012 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination.

In case of enquiries, please contact Ms Bessie Leung of this office at 3628 8988.

Yours sincerely

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