



BY EMAIL

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Ref.: DSE/94-8/2012

12 March 2012

To: Principals of HKDSE/HKAL Examination Participating Schools

Dear Principal

**Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education / Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination 2012
Important Notes for the Use of Screen Reader by Special Needs Candidates**

I refer to the Application Guide - Applications from Special Needs Candidates for Special Examination Arrangements issued in August 2011.

For those special needs candidates who have been approved to use the text-to-speech software in the 2012 HKDSE/HKAL Examination, schools are reminded that the **Specific Guidelines on Allowing Candidates to use Screen Reader** have been updated and included in the Application Guide (revised in February 2012).

School principals are requested to copy this email to the Centre Supervisors and the Special Examination Arrangements (SEA) Application Officers concerned:

- (a) Centre Supervisors are advised that the HKEAA Standard Chinese Character Set should be installed in the computer to be used with the text-to-speech software so that the special Chinese characters adopted by the HKEAA examination papers can be displayed on the computer screen. Nonetheless, similar to some other symbols/objects, special Chinese characters may not be recognized/read out by individual text-to-speech software and candidates are advised to always refer to the printed copy of the question papers in case of doubt.
- (b) Two additional text-to-speech software, namely NVDA and Dolphin-Supernova, have been included in the approved list of screen readers for use in the HKDSE/HKAL Examination. Interested parties may find out more details with the Special Education Resource Centre, Education Bureau and the respective service providers.

For details on the Application Guide for Special Examination Arrangements and the abovementioned Specific Guidelines, please visit the HKEAA website: http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/tc/Candidates/Special_Needs_Candidates/ and the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination Online Services - Special Examination Arrangements.

Should you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at 3628 8917.

Yours faithfully

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