

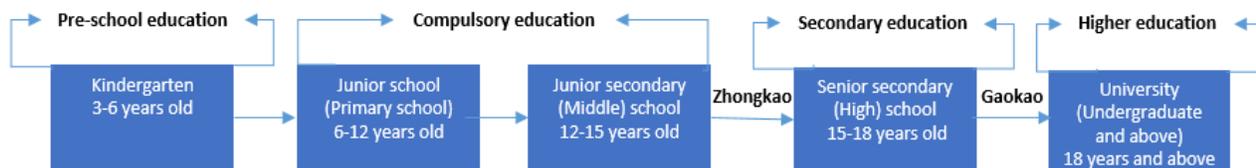
Overview of the education system in the nine Mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area

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Driven by the development of the GBA, many Hong Kong citizens are beginning to contemplate the development possibilities within the nine GBA cities. As Hong Kong citizens highly value education, one of their main concerns is how to arrange for schooling for their accompanying children in the Mainland. According to the Outline Development Plan for Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“Outline Development Plan”) promulgated in February 2019, the children of Hong Kong and Macao residents who are working and living in the nine cities in the Pearl River Delta may be given the same rights as Mainland residents regarding compulsory education and senior secondary education. The Outline Development Plan also sets out a large number of supportive policies, including the enhancement of school infrastructure, expanding the number of school places, further improving the schooling policies for children accompanying parents who take up cross-regional employment, implementing the policy of providing students with equal access to pre-school, compulsory and senior secondary education, and ensuring that accompanying children who meet eligibility requirements will be able to take university entrance examinations smoothly at their places of residence.

Introduction to the Mainland education system

The Mainland education system generally begins from kindergarten and ends at university, comprising 5 stages in total, including: kindergarten, primary school, junior high school, high school and higher education. All Chinese citizens are required to complete the nine-year compulsory education, which generally consists of six years of primary school and three years of junior high school. Upon graduation from junior high school, graduates are required to take a high school entrance examination (i.e. Zhongkao) in order to be admitted into high school. High school takes three years and graduates shall take National College Entrance Examination (i.e. Gaokao) to gain admission into their preferred university.



Depending on the nature of the operation, schools are mainly classified as public or private. There are also international schools specifically targeting children of foreign personnel.

Pre-school education

Children of Hong Kong citizens who wish to study in kindergarten within the nine GBA cities may either enroll in kindergartens within close proximity or enroll in kindergartens run by international schools. The admission period usually begins in April each year (please refer to the exact dates announced by each kindergarten). Prior to the admission process, each kindergarten would publish the admission details including enrolment quota, number of classes, age limit, tuition fees and admission requirements on the kindergarten’s bulletin board, website or official WeChat account.

Kindergartens generally operate on a full-day basis. An academic year begins in September, with two school terms each year. Tuition fees are charged per term. Public kindergarten tuition fees are determined according to the “Interim Measures for Management of the Collection of Kindergarten Fees”, which

normally include tuition, boarding and other service charges or collection charges (such as catering fees) approved by the provincial government.

Compulsory education

In April 2019, the Department of Education of Guangdong Province issued a notice on the 2019 admission matters for general primary and secondary schools based on the Outline Development Plan. It implemented a “welcome for study, equal treatment and study in close proximity” policy for the children accompanying parents with Hong Kong and Macao Residence Permits who are taking up cross-regional employment. They will be subject to the same admission standard as other Mainland children accompanying their parents taking up employment in Guangdong.

Using Guangzhou as an example, the Department of Education in Guangzhou provides that the children accompanying their parents with Hong Kong and Macao Residence Permits may enroll in compulsory education in accordance with the compulsory education policy for migrant workers in Guangzhou. The Department of Education is also required to coordinate and arrange for an optimized and safeguarded admissions system for compulsory education according to local requirements, as well as including guardians who have Hong Kong and Macao Residence Permits for a year into the grade-point system. The Guangzhou government also launched a pilot program known as “Hong Kong and Macao Children Classes” in 2019 in selected schools, targeting school-aged children of Hong Kong and Macao residents with residence permits who have started businesses or work in Guangzhou. The Hong Kong and Macao residents and their children are required to have valid residence permits, a legal and stable residence in Guangzhou, while they or their spouses are also required to have a legal and stable job in Guangzhou.

Since the grade-point admissions system for accompanying children of Hong Kong and Macao residents varies among cities within the GBA, Hong Kong citizens may refer to the official government websites of their respective local municipalities or districts for details including the grade-point assessment scale, admission criteria and procedures. Web links to admissions guides are enclosed in Appendix I, which provides a brief understanding and reference of the respective grade-point system for each municipality and district. Besides, the Hong Kong Education Bureau and the Shenzhen Education Bureau have agreed to set up operating classes for Hong Kong students in qualified private schools in Shenzhen. Together with the two “Hong Kong Children Schools” in Shenzhen, these schools offer bridging courses as recommended by the Hong Kong Education Bureau, facilitating eligible Hong Kong students to join the Secondary School Places Allocation System or further study in Hong Kong. In addition, the lists of current Hong Kong Children Schools and schools with operating classes for Hong Kong students are enclosed in Appendix II, while the latest school list may be found on the Hong Kong Education Bureau’s official website. Meanwhile, Hong Kong citizens can contact their local government service hotline (86-local area code-12345) for the details on the admission system and implementation measures, and may transfer to the relevant local government education departments or personnel for enquiries on the enrollment status of compulsory education in each district.

The academic year for compulsory education begins in September each year. Admission to compulsory education schools is generally determined based on proximity, and Hong Kong citizens can obtain details regarding the admission requirements, enrolment timeline and procedures via the website or WeChat ID of each school, in order to compare and choose their preferred compulsory education school in advance. If they would like to opt for international schools, they can enroll directly in accordance with the specific requirements of each school, who would admit students on a case-by-case basis. The implementation rules of the Compulsory Education Law stipulate that primary and middle school students under the stage of compulsory education shall be exempted from tuition fees, and further states that incidental fees shall be exempted and textbooks shall be provided free of charge from 2016 onwards. However, service fees and collection fees may be charged when required, such as catering fees, uniform, and insurance etc. Such fees will be charged on a voluntary basis and under a non-profit principle.

Senior secondary (high) school education

Upon completion of compulsory education and passing of the high school entrance examination, students may proceed to high school. There are two types of high schools: general high school and secondary vocational school. The former focuses on knowledge-based learning, while the latter focuses on fostering technical talents. Both programmes generally last for three years.

According to the senior secondary school education requirements in the Outline Development Plan, the Department of Education of Guangdong Province further stipulated that the administrative departments of education of each municipality should practically carry out their respective management responsibilities in accordance with the “one city one policy” principle. They should formulate or optimise the relevant policies to facilitate Hong Kong and Macao Residence Permit holders in entering senior secondary school. Hong Kong citizens can contact the local government service hotline (86-local area code-12345) for the details on the admission system and implementation measures for senior secondary school, and may transfer to the relevant local government education departments or personnel for enquiries on the enrollment status of secondary schools in each district.

Higher education

Hong Kong citizens who would like to enroll in universities in the Mainland may apply for the Joint Entrance Examination For Universities in PRC (for Overseas Chinese, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan students). The details and requirements of the examination can be found in the “Joint Entrance Examination For Universities in PRC – Science Syllabus” and “Joint Entrance Examination For Universities in PRC – Arts Syllabus” published by the Ministry of Education.

Hong Kong secondary school students who have taken or will take the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education and would like to enroll in Mainland universities may apply for the Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong Students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions (including Qinghua University and Peking University). As the entrance requirements vary among institutions, Hong Kong citizens may visit the Education Bureau’s website (<https://www.edb.gov.hk/tc/edu-system/postsecondary/policy-doc/pilot-scheme/index.html>) for enquiries regarding the details of the admission scheme (such as the handbook on the admission scheme, list of participating institutions and programme information) for each school year.

Meanwhile, in order to further encourage Hong Kong and Macao youths to study in the Mainland, the Outline Development Plan has continued to support the development of an international demonstration zone for education, bringing in world-renowned universities and specialized colleges, and pursue the establishment of world-class universities and academic programmes. Further, the Outline Development Plan specifies that concessionary policies applicable to Mainland students such as transport and admission to tourist attractions are equally applicable to Hong Kong and Macao students studying on the Mainland and holding Mainland Travel Permits for Hong Kong and Macao Residents.

Conclusion

Apart from education policies, the Outline Development Plan also proposed exploring the feasibility of linking up kindergartens in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao as “sister kindergartens” and primary and secondary schools among the three regions as “sister schools”, and setting up schools or providing specific classes for the admission of Hong Kong and Macao children in Guangdong with boarding services. These policies can help solve the schooling problems for the children accompanying parents who take up cross-regional employment. At the same time, these policies can lay a strong foundation for them in settling into the GBA and seeking for further development opportunities in the future.

Appendix I – Application guide on the grade-point admission system for accompanying children of migrant workers in the nine GBA cities (Some municipalities and districts) (only Chinese version of websites are available)

Guangzhou

Application guide on the service management of the grade-point system for migrant workers in Guangzhou

http://www.zc.gov.cn/gk/xxgk/xxgkml/qjsj/201807/t20180725_186959.html

2019 application guide on the grade-point admission system for accompanying children of migrant workers in Tianhe District

<http://www.thnet.gov.cn/thxxw/gbxxzszc/201906/f4995552dad43a6a72c80141e81e7dc.shtml>

Promotional pamphlet on compulsory education for accompanying children of migrant workers in Zengcheng District of Guangzhou (2019)

http://www.zc.gov.cn/fw/ztfw/grfw_1742/jyfw/jfrx/gsgg/201904/W020190416632322930316.pdf

Shenzhen

2019 fall application guide for first grade admissions in Yantian District, Shenzhen

http://www.yantian.gov.cn/cn/service/zdywly/xwsq/qjcyxwsqzn/201611/t20161108_6708483.htm

2019 application guide for public secondary one admissions in Futian District, Shenzhen

http://sso.sz.gov.cn/pub/ftqzf/bmxx/qjyj/tzgg/201904/t20190416_16971493.htm

Dongguan

Circular from the Dongguan Municipal People’s Government on issuing the “Proposal for admitting accompanying children of migrant workers into compulsory education in Dongguan through the grade-point admission system”

<http://www.dg.gov.cn/cndg/zfwj/201705/0bf678e951324b54b09037dfa72fc398.shtml>

Supplementary circular on the measures for the 2019 grade-point admission for accompanying children of migrant workers in Dongguan

<http://zwgk.dg.gov.cn/007330010/0202/201905/9abbe4548e32486391bf59ed1b0859cf.shtml>

Zhongshan

Circular of the Zhongshan Municipal People’s Government on issuing the administrative requirements for grade-point admission for mobile workers in Zhongshan

<http://www.zs.gov.cn/main/zwgk/newsview/index.action?id=512862>

Foshan

Service guide on the grade-point system for new residents in Chancheng District, Foshan

http://fslgb.foshan.gov.cn/zcfg/201904/t20190410_7455584.html

Appendix II – List of schools for Hong Kong Children Schools and schools with operating classes for Hong Kong students in Shenzhen

The school information listed below is obtained from the public website of the Hong Kong Education Bureau (https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/tc/student-parents/newly-arrived-children/scheme-for-hk-students/leaflet_tc.pdf) and official website of the Shenzhen schools, which are for reference only. Please note that the Hong Kong Education Bureau will update its website information regularly. For the latest detailed information on Hong Kong Children Schools and schools with operating classes for Hong Kong students, please visit the official website of the Hong Kong Education Bureau.

| Name of school | Address | Telephone | Website |
|---|--|------------------|---|
| Shenzhen Luohu School For Hong Kong Children | 2012 Yijing Road, Luohu District, Shenzhen | 0755-25427638 | WeChat ID: SZLHSCHOOLFHKC |
| Shenzhen Dongfang School for Hong Kong Children | Xuefu Road, Bao'an Education City, Shenzhen (North of Bao'an Airport) | 0755-27516669 | Website under maintenance |
| The Affiliated High School of Peking University Shenzhen Nanshan Branch | 3002 Yueliangwan Avenue, Nanshan District, Shenzhen | 0755-26499700 | WeChat ID: wmjy_sz |
| Tsinghua Experimental School in Shenzhen | Tao Yuan Ju, Zhonghua Shangmao City, Bao'an District, Shenzhen | 0755-27451820 | Website under maintenance |
| Shenzhen Yaohua Experimental School | 99 Jingtian South 5 th Street, Futian District, Shenzhen | 0755-83925790 | WeChat ID: szyh_org |
| Shenzhen Regents Primary School | 1042 Fuqiang Road, Futian District, Shenzhen | 0755-83834610 | http://www.szlxzx-edu.org/cs/ |
| Nankai School in Futian Shenzhen | Meilin Village 2, Meilin Road, Futian District, Shenzhen | 0755-83186820 | http://www.sznankai.com/wz/nankai/ |
| Shenzhen Futian Funful Bilingual School | Goldfield Seaview Gardens, South Xinzhou Road, Futian District, Shenzhen | 0755-23810830 | http://www.funful.com.cn/app/index.php |
| Shenzhen Mingde Foreign Language Experimental School | Fuhe Road, Shajing, Bao'an District, Shenzhen | 0755-29620121 | WeChat ID: szmdwy |
| Shenzhen Chinaus School | 1 Huanguan South Road, Bao'an District, Shenzhen | 0755-23332030 | https://www.thea.cn/zl/meizhong/guanyuan.html |
| Shenzhen Zhanhua Experimental School | 170 Yousong Road, Longhua New District, Shenzhen | 0755-28066112 | WeChat ID: gh_b8ed4c74f1e3 |

*** This report is prepared by the consultant engaged by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government according to the general interpretation and application of the relevant rules and regulations issued as of the date of this report. This Bureau has not verified the accuracy of the contents of this report and does not accept any responsibility or legal liability for any loss arising from the contents of this report. As tax laws and regulations are subject to change at any time, and such changes may be retrospective in effect and may be applicable to this advice, no assurance can be given that such changes would not adversely affect this advice. This Bureau and the consultant will not update the report on the latest changes in the legal application or interpretation after the date of this report. ***