

# A Respectable Profession as a Teacher - The Engineer of the Human's Soul

## **Education Reform**

*In 2000, the Education Commission proposed a series of reforms in Hong Kong's education system, which has been systematically put in place over the last 10 years. The reform covers school curricular, assessment mechanisms, and admissions systems for different stages of education. The reform has implications for those who consider to become teachers as they will change the requirements, expectations, and more importantly, the day-to-day school activities of teachers.*

### **Curricular reform**

In the 2006, the Education Reform Progress Report suggests that many schools have now adopted the 4 key tasks as entry points to education. The 4 tasks can be described as follows:

- Moral–Civic education
  - This constitutes the general direction and focus of teaching and learning in schools
- Reading to learn
  - One of the key emphases is learning through self-initiated reading.
- Project learning
  - Students will also learn by working through projects.
- IT for interactive learning
  - Students are to acquire IT skills and understanding that will act as means for independent learning.

## Assessment mechanisms

In place of a subject based assessment mechanism, the reformed mechanism will be competencies based, and it will involve student competencies in the areas of Chinese, English, and mathematics. Assessments will take these major forms:

- SA
  - Student assessment assesses student competencies in the Chinese and English languages and in mathematics online.
- TSA
  - Territory-wide student assessment allows comparisons to be made between schools and regions.
- SBA
  - School based assessment shifts the weightings of public examinations to schools allowing students to be assessed in-school through a variety of tasks with emphasis on independent and critical thinking.

## New academic structure or the '334' structure

- Primary schooling 6 years
- Junior secondary schooling 3 years
- New senior secondary schooling 3 years
  - NSS curriculum began in 2009
  - First NSS graduate cohort in 2012
- University 4 years