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## \$12bn tagged for schooling

The Government is to spend almost \$12 billion to nourish Hongkong's talents, slightly increasing its expenditure on the Education Department and the University and Polytechnic Grants Committee.

Hongkong's five Government-funded tertiary institutions will share \$2,973.5 million.

The rest of the money will go mainly to primary and secondary education.

Provision for the grants committee is \$189.1 million, 6.8 percent higher than the revised estimate for the current financial year.

This reflects an increase of four non-directorate posts by March 1991, a growth in student numbers and additional funding for research.

A total of 7,130 first year first degree places are to be introduced, while the number of tertiary students will hit a record-breaking 41,309.

Based on the advice from the United Kingdom Council for National Academic Awards, 16 new degree proposals were approved for introduction at the Polytechnics and the Baptist College.

With the number of primary pupils and children in the six to 11 age group remaining almost unchanged, expenditure on primary education in both Government and subvented sectors will see a moderate three percent increase to \$3,539.7 million.

Seven new aided primary school buildings are planned for completion during the 1990-91 school year.

With the number of secondary 1 to 3 pupils and subsidised secondary 4 and 5 places slightly increased to 260,900 and 130,160 respectively, the expenditure on secondary education will soar to \$4,683.9 million, 4.7 percent higher than the previous year.

Ten aided secondary school buildings will be completed, six of them to replace unsatisfactory premises at non-standard schools.

Expenditure on pre-primary, special, post-secondary and adult education and the student transport scheme will also increase slightly by figures ranging from 3.9 to 13.6 percent.