

80,000 PRIMARY 6 DROP-OUTS IN 3 YEARS: CLAIM

THERE were 85,483 primary 6 students who failed to continue with their secondary education during the last three years, it was claimed yesterday.

In a statement, the Hongkong Christian Council reiterated its call that the white paper on education be implemented without further delay in order that all youths will have forms one to three education by 1980.

"We admit that while this figure, 85,483, does not tell the complete story (there might have been many drop-outs before reaching primary six), it at least gives some indication of the number of young people who may not be getting forms one to three education," it said.

The council also reported that there

were 32,500 youths in the 12 to 14 year age bracket not receiving education. The council earlier reported that nearly 100,000 young people do not receive form 1 to 3 education.

"The Education Department's figure does not give the total picture since many 12 to 14 year old youths are not in secondary school, but in primary 5 and 6 (because of high failure rate or because they began school late).

"The point in question is not how many of these do not have education. The issue is how many young people do not have forms one to three education," it said.

No comment was available from the Education Department.