

100 private secondary schools want
higher fees to improve standards

\$400 SHOCK FOR PARENTS

by
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ABOUT 100 private secondary schools will ask the Education Department for permission to increase fees by about \$400 for the next academic year.

The request will be formally made at a meeting scheduled for October 30.

They will work out details of the procedure for applying for fee increases at the meeting between representatives of the Hongkong Private Anglo-Chinese Schools Association and the Director of Education Kenneth Topley.

The association is also reviewing the status and how to improve the quality of education in private schools.

The review, which is near completion, will be submitted to Umelco and the Board of Education.

President of the association, Cheng Ming-to said yesterday the schools had applied for similar increases for this year in

May but were allowed to raise fees by only \$100. "The usual increase is \$60 annually," he said.

Mr Cheng said he hoped that the amount for a "bought place" in junior forms could be raised to \$1,400 from the present \$1,100.

He pointed out that such places in aided schools cost the Government about \$2,290 while a place in a government school is more than \$3,000.

"There is a wide discrepancy in the value of education as can be judged by these figures," he said.

QUALITY

The increase that we will ask for can be justified if we hope to improve the quality of teaching and the educational standard in our schools, Mr Cheng said.

It has been pointed out by the Government that the quality of education in private schools is not ideal, Mr Cheng said.

In the review, Mr Cheng said, "we shall stress that the need for improvement can only be obtained if we have more resources."

Mr Cheng said the association hopes to obtain this increase from the junior forms as it will not hurt the pockets of parents with children in the senior forms.

Mr Cheng said the \$100 increase this year helped some schools to survive the threat of closure but 10 schools were still forced to close because of the financial situation.

"Unless we get a substantial increase, many of our schools may not see another year," he said.