

## **International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS) 2016**

### **Press Release**

The International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS) 2016, under the aegis of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), released its international report on November 7, 2017 in Brussels.

The key objective of ICCS 2016 is to investigate how young people are prepared to undertake their roles as citizens in the 21st century. The Education Bureau has commissioned Policy 21 Limited in partnership with Centre for Civic Society and Governance, the University of Hong Kong to undertake the ICCS 2016 in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong consulting team is led by Dr. LAM Wai-Man from the Centre for Civic Society and Governance and Mr. YIP Hak-Kwong from Policy 21 Limited.

The study, which surveyed over 94,000 Secondary 2 or equivalent level students from 24 countries/places in 2016, aims to assess secondary students' understanding, competencies and dispositions with respect to citizenship and civic education. Findings of the Hong Kong study are derived from 2,653 Secondary 2 students from 91 schools.

The international scores on the civic knowledge scale ranged from 381 to 586 scale points and the average international score of the ICCS 2016 was 517. Hong Kong maintained at the level of the average international score with a score of 515, reflecting students' civic knowledge reached the international level.

Civic knowledge can be described at five levels. In the Hong Kong study, 35% of participating Secondary 2 students attained Level 3 (highest proficiency level, at which students demonstrated a holistic knowledge and understanding of civic and citizenship concepts and demonstrate some critical perspective). Besides, 32% of participating Secondary 2 students attained Level 2 (second highest proficiency level, at which students typically demonstrated some specific knowledge and understanding of the most pervasive citizenship and civic institutions, systems, and concepts). Taken together, 67% of Secondary 2 students from 91 participating schools in Hong Kong reached the top two proficiency levels (out of five) of civic and citizenship knowledge in the international survey. The international average was 66%.

We are aware that the ranking of Hong Kong in ICCS 2016 is lower than that in 2009. Due to the difference in many aspects, such as the number of participating

countries/places, the categories and numbers of questions, and the number of participating schools and students, etc. We do not recommend the public to simply use ranking to judge the performance of students. We would study the international report and make recommendations to the government if necessary.

### **Enquiries**

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