



channelnewsasia.com

A MEDIA CORP Interactive Media

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Bring the best of Channel NewsAsia with you on your iPhone

Visit iTunes or SMS "app" to 75500 for a quick download to your iPhone



HOME

ASIA PACIFIC

SINGAPORE

WORLD

BUSINESS

SPORT

TECHNOLOGY

ENTERTAINMENT

HEALTH

SPECIAL REPORTS

BLOGS

YOURnews

7 Day News Archive
M T W T F S S

Search

 GO

- iPhone App
- BlackBerry App
- Android App
- Mobile News
- RSS
- eNewsletter

TWITTER

Follow us on Twitter

FACEBOOK

Find us on Facebook

Eyp on Business

[Video](#) [Finance](#) [Lifestyle](#) [Travel](#) [Weather](#) [Discussion](#) [TV Shows](#)

LIVE

938 LIVE

About Us

Home >

SINGAPORE NEWS

A- A+

450 more places at special education schools

By Sharon See | Posted: 12 September 2011 12:19 hrs

Recommend +54

15

15



SINGAPORE: The government is adding a total of 450 places to two special education (SPED) schools by 2013.

It's also pumping in S\$30 million to refurbish these schools, including the the Delta Senior School, which will move to its purpose-built premises at Choa Chu Kang Grove next year.

This is in addition to the S\$120 million that the Education Ministry has invested in building and upgrading the other 17 SPED schools in the past decade.

Pathlight School, which provides mainstream education to autistic students, receives more than 200 applications for its limited vacancies each year.

But in two years, the intake will be ramped up by about 50 per cent, with the school looking at an annual enrolment of 900 students.

The other SPED school expanding its capacity is the Metta School - a vocational school for children with intellectual disabilities.

It will take in another 150 students from 2013 after its extension block is completed at the end of next year. Metta School currently has 400 students.

Delta School, which is also a vocational school for students with intellectual disabilities, will move to its purpose-built premises at Choa Chu Kang Grove next year.

The changes are part of efforts to better support the special education sector, which Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong highlighted at the recent National Day Rally.

At the moment, the 20 SPED schools in Singapore are run by voluntary welfare organisations.

"It's important for us to continue with this 'Many Helping Hands' approach because the needs of students with special needs are very diverse and complex. And it's not just something that schools alone can deliver," said Education Minister Heng Swee Keat.

"What MOE is committed to doing is to raise the quality of their education, and that means looking at issues of support. We're looking at support in terms of curriculum and teachers' training," Mr Heng added.

Mr Heng also announced that Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Education, Sim Ann, will lead a review over the next six to nine months, to identify areas for further improvement.

Ms Sim said she has visited five SPED schools since June, and she plans to visit all 20 schools during the review period.

She noted that there is a strong desire among the SPED community to have society accept special needs students for who they are.

Ms Sim also said she hopes to look into retaining and professionally developing teachers as well as providing adequate support for families with special needs children as many of them face significant emotional and financial burdens.

The review will also look at challenges faced by special needs students who are enrolled in mainstream schools.

- CNA/ck/cc

OTHER SINGAPORE NEWS

- [3 more detained under ISA](#)
- [450 more places at special education schools](#)
- [Haze worsens in Singapore](#)
- [S\\$1.2m boost to help pre-schools promote innovation culture](#)
- [US ambassador calls for S'pore-US ties to be "institutionalised"](#)
- [Some 2,700 real estate agents may lose licence by year-end](#)
- [More employers hiring ex-offenders: DPM Teo](#)
- [New dual four-lane road in Bukit Brown to ease traffic](#)
- [J Y Pillay reappointed chairman of Council of Presidential Advisors](#)
- [Restaurants awarded BCA Green Mark certification](#)
- [MP Halimah Yacob, Hillary Clinton to foster women's empowerment](#)
- [Lui Tuck Yew in San Francisco for transport & energy meetings](#)
- [S'pore scientists develop building blocks for cartilage repair](#)



Photos

1 of 1



Pathlight School uses different teaching methods to prepare autistic students for vocational jobs and the mainstream PSLE and GCE Education examinations

Video


[450 more places at special education schools](#)