

Part B Project Summary

Project Title: <i>(Please fill in the blank)</i> Enhancing School Engagement: Fact-finding and Interventions	Project Number: 2007/0115 (revised) (To be assigned by the EPMS)
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Name of Organization: Department of Psychology, University of Hong Kong

- (1) **Goals:** The goal of this applied project in educational psychology is to promote students' school engagement. The project has the following objectives
- (i) To investigate the antecedents of school engagement among junior secondary students (Form 1 to Form 3) in Hong Kong.
 - (ii) To develop and evaluate intervention programs that address these antecedents and promote school engagement among junior secondary students
- (2) **Targets:**
The project will be conducted in three secondary schools in Hong Kong. We shall track longitudinally the changes and development of school engagement in students. In addition, three student intervention programs will be conducted in each school, one each on learning motivation, learning skills, and on social competence. Forty students will take part in each program at each school, totalling 360 students. We shall also operate a teacher development program in each school, involving 180 teachers in total.
- (3) **Implementation Plan:**
- (i) **Duration:** April 1, 2008 to December 31, 2010
 - (ii) **Process / Schedule:** We expect to start our longitudinal research on school engagement in the second semester of the academic year 07/08. We shall develop a survey to examine the antecedents and consequences of school engagement. Form 1 and Form 2 students from 28 classes of the three participating schools will complete the inventory at the end of the second semester. We shall follow the Form 1 students for 2.5 years and the Form 2 students for 1.5 years through Form 3. In the academic year 08/09, we shall recruit a new cohort of Form 1 students and follow them for 1.5 years through Form 2. We shall start the development of the intervention programs in the academic year 08/09, based on success of past programs and preliminary findings of the present study. The programs will be launched in the academic year 09/10. We shall also conduct the teacher development program after the last wave of data collection when the longitudinal study is completed.
 - (iii) **Collaboration with other parties / partners:** This project is collaboration between the Department of Psychology at the University of Hong Kong and three secondary schools in Hong Kong (Lok Sin Tong Young Ko Hsiao Lin Secondary School, YWCA Hioe Tjo Yoeng College, and Kwai Chung Methodist College).
- (4) **Products:**
Upon the successful completion of the intervention programs, we shall prepare manuals of the programs developed and tested in the present project. The manuals should be useful guidelines for Hong Kong educators in promoting school engagement. We shall also hold a public seminar at the end of the project in 2010 to share our experiences and findings with the participants.
- (5) **Budget:**
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| Staff Costs | \$600,868 |
| Equipment | \$35,332 |
| General Expenses | \$78,300 |
| Contingency | \$4,000 |
| HKU Overhead | \$60,000 |
| Total | \$778,500 |
- (6) **Evaluation:**
For the longitudinal study, we shall compile and report the preliminary results within three months after each wave of data collection. We shall also make an annual report that tracks progress. For intervention programs, we shall employ a quasi-experimental design with pre- and post-test measurement and two groups (experimental vs. control). For the teacher development program, we shall conduct an evaluation survey to solicit teachers' perception of the effectiveness.