

**Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 94/2023**

From : Secretary for Education  
Ref. : EDB(EID/ITE)/IT/PRO/189  
Date : 29 May 2023

To : Heads of Government, Aided  
(including Special Schools),  
Caput and Direct Subsidy  
Scheme Secondary Schools

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**Office of the Government Chief Information Officer  
Extension of “IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools” Programme**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this circular memorandum is to inform publicly-funded secondary schools that the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) will launch a new round of the “IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools” programme in the 2023/24 school year and organise an online briefing session in June 2023.

**Details**

2. The new round of the “IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools” programme running for the three school years from 2023/24 to 2025/26 will open for application from 1 September 2023. The OGCIO will organise an online briefing session on 23 June 2023. Please refer to the appendix for the details. In addition, the current round of the “IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools” programme will end by the close of the 2022/23 school year. Interested schools are required to submit applications on or before 30 June 2023.

**Enquiry**

3. For enquiries, please contact the IT Innovation Lab One-stop Support Centre of the OGCIO at 2116 9083 or by email to [it-lab@ogcio.gov.hk](mailto:it-lab@ogcio.gov.hk).

P W YAN

for Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections – for information

## **Extension of “IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools” Programme**

### **Purpose and Details**

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) launched the “IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools” programme in December 2020 for three school years. The programme aims to strengthen students’ interest in information technology (IT) and enhance their innovative abilities and digital skills, thereby promoting popular IT education and nurturing innovation and technology talent at school age. Each publicly-funded secondary school can apply for a funding of up to \$1 million for organising IT-related extra-curricular activities (ECAs) for their students, and procuring IT equipment or professional services required for the ECAs.

2. Since the launch of the programme, more than 90% of publicly-funded secondary schools have applied for funding. In view of the overwhelming responses, the Financial Secretary proposed in the “2023-24 Budget” to allocate an additional funding of \$300 million to extend the existing “IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools” programme for another three school years from 2023/24 to 2025/26. All eligible schools can seek additional funding support of up to \$1 million during the three year period for IT-related ECAs.

3. The new round of the “IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools” programme will open for application from 1 September 2023. To expedite proposal processing during the school year commencement, interested schools may submit a draft application proposal in advance to the One-Stop Support Centre in July-August 2023 for technical advices. We will provide suggested amendments, where applicable, in respect of the draft application proposal with the aim of meeting the vetting criteria and thus expediting the vetting process.

4. In addition, OGCIO will organise an online briefing session on 23 June 2023 to disseminate information on the new round of the programme. Schools which are interested in applying for the new round of the programme are welcome to enroll. Details of the online briefing session are as follows:

<b>Date:</b>	23 June 2023
<b>Time:</b>	4:00pm – 5:00pm
<b>Registration Deadline:</b>	16 June 2023

Principals and teachers who are interested in joining the online briefing session can complete the registration form at [http://www.it-lab.gov.hk/briefing\\_202306\\_en.htm](http://www.it-lab.gov.hk/briefing_202306_en.htm). Successful registration will be notified by email.

5. The current round of the “IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools” programme will end by the close of the 2022/23 school year. Interested schools should submit their applications on or before 30 June 2023. The approved activities should be implemented and completed in accordance with the schedule specified in the application. Should a school be unable to complete the activities as scheduled, it should submit a change request at <https://www.it-lab.gov.hk/en/crform.php> to amend the activities’ completion date(s). Upon approval of the change request, the school can continue to implement the proposed activities with the approved funding.

### **Enquiry**

6. For enquiries on the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools programme, please contact the IT Innovation Lab One-stop Support Centre of the OGCIO at 2116 9083 or by email to [it-lab@ogcio.gov.hk](mailto:it-lab@ogcio.gov.hk).