



## Career and life planning education, how effective are schools?

*What do youth and teachers think about the career advice currently offered by schools and how well trained are teachers to give it?*

The aim of career and life planning education (CLP), offered in its current form by schools since 2014, is to help students set personal goals, reflect, gain self-understanding and then progress towards career pathways. This survey asks for views on the value and effectiveness of CLP today, whether a whole-school approach is adopted and whether multiple pathways for future careers are promoted.

### Key points from respondents

- Nearly 30% of youth worry that CLP is inadequate and/or do not think current CLP helps them understand the multiple pathway approach.
- They say teachers stress further study heavily as a career pathway.
- Neither teachers nor youth think CLP helps students manage the transition from school to work or adapt to the work environment.
- 74% of teachers and 63% of youth think that career-related job experience is the most important and effective form of CLP.
- 82.2% of youth say their parents are the biggest influence on career pathway planning.

Interviews with teachers working on CLP confirm that they receive support from stakeholders such as NGOs who partner schools to provide career-related services. Former students also sometimes encourage current students to focus on CLP as do companies that provide opportunities for career-related experience. All of these can be keys to successful CLP. However, in each of the schools surveyed, fewer than seven teachers were involved in CLP and on average fewer than half of them (3.14) had done any relevant professional training provided by the Education Bureau.

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**Respondents** 751 HKFYG members aged 12-24; 103 CLP teachers

**More details** [in Chinese] [yrc.hkfyg.org.hk/2019/01/30/yi038/](http://yrc.hkfyg.org.hk/2019/01/30/yi038/)

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### Comments from Youth I.D.E.A.S. think tank members

**David Wong, deputy convener** “Teachers are the major executors of CLP so it is essential that they understand concerns of stakeholders. The government should consider making CLP mandatory in teacher training and require all teachers to complete training progressively. This should enable schools to adopt a ‘whole-school approach’.”

**Jason Cheung, group member** “There is a huge demand for job-related experience from students so the government could consider subsidizing companies that offer it.”

**Allison Chan & Darren Lam, group members** “Although teachers understand the importance and value of career-related experience, they face difficulties when gathering information about the opportunities. The government should consider allocating a specific unit to handle related matters to lighten the teachers’ load.”

