



Private schools registering early

By KOH CHUIN YING

ABOUT half of the private schools here have applied to register with the Council for Private Education (CPE), the private schools' regulator, more than a year ahead of the deadline.

The CPE has received "a strong flow" of 308 applications since it began accepting them last December, said its chief executive officer, Mr Henry Heng.

It expects a similar number to come forward from now until the deadline next June.

This would bring the total tally of private schools here to slightly more than 600 – a huge drop from about 1,000 last year.

The drop is due to the merger of private schools with one another and the withdrawal of services by some organisations, Mr Heng said.

Of the 63 applications that it has evaluated so far, it has rejected only one, but declined to elaborate on the reasons because it was "not appropriate".

But it stressed that private schools are welcome to reapply for registration as many times as needed.

Mr Heng said: "So long as the private institution is not egregious and wants to make an

STATE OF PLAY

ENHANCED REGISTRATION FRAMEWORK

◆ Number of applications: **308**

◆ Number of complete applications with all documents submitted: **164**

◆ Number of applications evaluated: **63**

◆ Number of schools given four-year registration: **36**

◆ Number of schools given one-year registration: **26**

◆ Number of schools rejected: **1**

attempt to be a good institution, we will facilitate."

All private schools have to register with the CPE under an enhanced registration framework, which includes schools having to buy insurance to protect students' fees if they close down.

This is part of the Private Education Act, which was passed last September to better regulate the private-education sector here, after a spate of private-school closures left students high and dry.

The CPE was set up to oversee the sector.

So far, 13 of the registered

EDUTRUST CERTIFICATION

◆ Number of applications: **114**

◆ Number of complete applications with all documents submitted: **68**

◆ Number of applications evaluated: **18**

◆ Number of schools awarded four-year EduTrust status: **6**

◆ Number of schools awarded one-year EduTrust Provisional status: **7**

◆ Number of schools rejected: **5**

schools have also been given EduTrust certification, which has higher requirements than basic registration.

This certification is mandatory for those schools that want to enrol foreign students.

Of them, six received EduTrust for four years, for having satisfactory management and educational services.

The remaining seven were given a one-year EduTrust Provisional certification, which means that they met the minimum level of performance in two key areas.

Five schools were turned down. Like the enhanced registration scheme, private schools

can reapply for EduTrust certification if they fail the first time.

By the end of February, the EduTrust Support Scheme – designed to assist private schools in meeting the EduTrust criteria – had received 23 applications.

Mr Christophe Megel, chief executive officer of private culinary school At-Sunrice Academy, said that the school's successful registration and attainment of EduTrust "shows that our governance is reliable".

"We are very proud to be a part of this framework," he said.

The Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) has also been successfully registered and been awarded EduTrust status.

Mr Lee Kwok Cheong, SIM's chief executive officer, said that the school "looks forward to working with CPE and other government agencies to further raise the quality as well as the international reputation of Singapore's private-education sector".

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HELPDESK 我的字典

Deadline: 截止日期 jié zhǐ rì qī

Oversee: 监督 jiān dū

Scheme: 方案 fāng àn

Culinary: 烹饪的 pēng rèn de