

Council for Private Education





PRIVATE EDUCATION INDUSTRY IN SINGAPORE

In recent years, the private education sector has grown rapidly in tandem with the public education sector, driven by the rising demand for lifelong learning and upgrading of knowledge and skills. Private education institutions play a role in developing human capital, and providing opportunities for Singaporeans who wish to upgrade themselves, including those who aspire to pursue programmes leading to degrees and higher qualifications.

Besides serving local needs, the private education industry caters to a large and growing number of international students who wish to pursue an education in Singapore. In the long term, they contribute to the growth of Singapore's talent pool, supporting the growth of Singapore's economy, and strengthening its position as a global education hub.

Today, there are more than 1,000 private education institutions in Singapore enrolling more than 100,000 students.

The rapid growth of the private education sector in Singapore has led to uneven quality of provision across the sector, resulting in the need for higher standards and stricter rules to be established. In October 2009, the Private Education Act was gazetted to strengthen the existing registration framework and enforcement provisions. The Act also provided for the establishment of the Council for Private Education to oversee the new regulatory regime and promote best practices among private education institutions to raise standards in the private education sector over time.

COUNCIL FOR PRIVATE EDUCATION (CPE)

Established under the Private Education Act, the Council for Private Education is a statutory board empowered with the legislative power to regulate the private education sector. In addition to its role as the sectoral regulator of private education institutions, the Council facilitates capability development efforts to uplift standards in the local private education industry.

The Council is governed by a Board, helmed by Mr Lin Cheng Ton, Chief Executive Officer of Nanyang Polytechnic International, and comprises experienced individuals from the fields of education, quality assurance and business, as well as economic agencies involved in the promotion of the private education sector. Overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Council is the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Henry Heng.



VISION

.....

The Council for Private Education envisions a private education sector which is credible, inspires confidence in stakeholders, and able to deliver quality education to fulfil the aspirations of students seeking to upgrade themselves. This vision is embodied in our vision statement – “A trusted and well-regarded private education sector”.

MISSION

.....

In support of its vision, the Council for Private Education adopts a three-pronged strategy to strengthen and uplift the private education sector through:

- putting in place a robust regulatory framework, as provided for in the Private Education Act;
- stepping up efforts in consumer education to promote greater public and consumer awareness; and
- working with industry associations and private education institutions to develop the private education sector and raise its quality of education and student welfare services.

These three strategic thrusts are encapsulated in the Council's mission statement – "Raising standards in the private education sector through effective regulation, industry development and consumer education".

VALUES



Underpinning the Council for Private Education's work are four core values: **Integrity**, **Care**, **Professionalism** and **Excellence**, or ICPE in short.

As the regulator of the private education sector, the Council for Private Education staff would need to uphold **integrity** and **professionalism** in their conduct when carrying out their duties. **Care** for the students and for the overall development of the private education sector exemplifies the staff's passion for the organisation's work. Underpinning these is the staff's constant pursuit of **excellence** in driving all of the Council for Private Education's policies and initiatives.

PRIVATE EDUCATION ACT

Under the Private Education Act, the Council for Private Education will implement two schemes — a mandatory Enhanced Registration Framework (ERF) and a voluntary quality assurance scheme called EduTrust.

Under the Enhanced Registration Framework, legal requirements pertaining to courses, managers, teachers, premises and advertisements are stipulated in the Private Education Act.

The Private Education Act provides the Council for Private Education with the powers to impose a range of graduated penalties on errant private education institutions to match the severity of their non-compliance with the regulatory requirements.

The regulatory measures range from a direction by the Council to take remedial action, to laying down additional conditions for registration, and even censure, financial penalty, suspension, and non-renewal or revocation of the errant private education institution's registration or EduTrust certification. The most serious cases of non-compliance or criminal offences may lead to prosecution in a court of law.

MANDATORY ENHANCED REGISTRATION FRAMEWORK

Private education institutions which have a significant impact on the Singapore education brand are required to be registered under the Enhanced Registration Framework (ERF). These institutions fall under the following three categories:

- Private education institutions offering education leading to the award of a diploma or degree, or full-time post-secondary education leading to the award of a certificate;

- Private education institutions offering full-time preparatory courses for entrance / placement tests for joining the Ministry of Education's (MOE) mainstream schools, or for external examinations; and
- Foreign System Schools (FSS) offering full-time primary or secondary education wholly or substantially, in accordance with an international curriculum.

The four aims of the Enhanced Registration Framework are to:

- raise corporate and academic governance standards;
- enhance student protection measures;
- compel disclosure of key information by private education institutions; and
- require private education institutions to seek renewal for their registration.

EDUTRUST CERTIFICATION SCHEME

The EduTrust certification scheme provides a trust mark of quality. Private education institutions need to achieve higher and more comprehensive standards in their corporate governance and administration, academic processes, student protection and support services, and financial viability. The EduTrust certification scheme enables them to differentiate themselves as of a higher quality by achieving certification awards that correspond to their standards in these key areas of management and student services.

Photos on the cover and page 3 are by courtesy of the Ministry of Education (MOE).

For further information, please visit the Council for Private Education's website at www.cpe.gov.sg.

Council for Private Education

2 Bukit Merah Central #05-00

SPRING Singapore Building

Singapore 159835

Tel: (65) 6499 0300

Fax: (65) 6275 1396

E-mail: CPE_CONTACT@cpe.gov.sg

www.cpe.gov.sg

The information contained in this brochure is correct
as of December 2009.