

Frequently Asked Questions

TLLM *Ignite!* Programme

TLLM *IGNITE!* PACKAGE

1. What is the TLLM *Ignite!* Package?

The TLLM *Ignite!* package is a suite of *top down support for ground up initiatives* for schools committed to taking on the challenge of school-based curriculum innovation (SCI). SCIs involve teachers in designing, implementing and studying new or improved teaching and learning approaches, and may be in curriculum design, pedagogy and assessment, so long as the school feels these are important and useful in meeting the needs of its students, and engaging them in their learning.

The TLLM *Ignite!* package provides a range of support including know-how, professional development for teachers and funding. It is above the baseline support which MOE will provide to all schools.

2. What happens if I apply for TLLM *Ignite!* and my school is not selected in 2008?

All schools should actively seek ways to facilitate engaged learning in the classroom under the TLLM movement whether they are selected for the TLLM *Ignite!* programme. From 2008 to 2010, MOE HQ has set aside sufficient resources to support up to 100 schools on the TLLM *Ignite!* package. Schools that are not selected for TLLM *Ignite!* in 2008 may wish to re-apply in 2009 or 2010.

3. What happens after I am awarded the TLLM *Ignite!* package?

After you have been selected for TLLM *Ignite!*, your school will be matched to a Project Facilitator who will be your On-Stop point of contact to coordinate and facilitate MOEHQ support. A curriculum partner and consultants (local and overseas), if relevant and available, will be matched to your school to provide curriculum design, pedagogy and assessment know-how to support your school's *Ignite!* work. Your *Ignite!* team of teachers will also be grouped into a TLLM Network with other *Ignite!* schools innovating in similar areas of teaching and learning. One of your teachers will start their journey of research training as a Research Activist attached to CPDD in Jan 2008. MOE will also arrange for customised workshops to build your teachers' capacity in specific areas of expertise. The package of resources will be provided by MOE to TLLM *Ignite!* schools for one school year.

TLLM *IGNITE!* PACKAGE

4. What are TLLM Mentors? Who serves as a TLLM Mentor?

TLLM Mentors are schools or educators with good practices and experience in specific approaches in teaching and learning, e.g. schools which have innovated successfully with Problem-Based Learning. TLLM Mentor schools are therefore schools which are ready to support other schools keen to start innovations in those approaches.

5. Is my school expected to serve as TLLM Mentor to other schools in the future? How would being a mentor benefit my school?

The TLLM mentorship provides opportunities for cross fertilisation of ideas and the development of synergy. Mentorship is by mutual consent and seeks to build on common interests for professional growth and networking.

6. What is a TLLM Network and how will my school benefit from being part of a network?

The TLLM Network involves the grouping of TLLM *Ignite!* schools into similar areas of innovation. These networks will meet 3 times per year for three-hour sessions. Your school's TLLM *Ignite!* Project Facilitator and curriculum partner will also be part of the network. Overseas and local consultants may also be engaged to provide additional perspectives during the Network meetings.

7. For the customised workshops, can I nominate any teacher or will it only be the RA?

The customised workshops are organised to build your teachers' capacity for the SCI. You may wish to nominate teachers from the team driving the SCI, including your RA.

8. Is it compulsory for my school to send a teacher to participate in the Research Activist Attachment Scheme?

The Research Activist (RA) Attachment Scheme is one of the seven areas of support for all TLLM *Ignite!* schools. The aim of the attachment is to provide a platform for teachers to be trained in research. This is to support schools in carrying out research on the *Ignite!* Programme to provide evidence-based findings on student outcomes.

During the Attachment, the RA will:

- focus on carrying out research on the school's TLLM *Ignite!*

TLLM *IGNITE!* PACKAGE

programme;

- attend research training which leads to accreditation towards a Masters degree, and receive guidance from academics and research partners; and
- collaborate with other RAs on common areas of research in their schools' TLLM *Ignite!* programme.

As an RA, your teacher will be part of a research community of practice. It is intended that the RAs be a multiplier force back in their schools, and be better equipped to lead Action Research teams back in school more confidently and effectively.

All TLLM *Ignite!* schools are to nominate a teacher for the RA programme as this research-cum-attachment model will jumpstart a reflective practice culture in our schools, and give a boost to developing capacity.

9. What criteria should I use to select a teacher for the RA programme?

As RAs will be a key influencer and multiplier force back in schools, it would be appropriate if RAs are teachers holding leadership posts in schools, e.g. Senior Teachers, or key personnel. More importantly, the RA must be passionate and interested in understanding the outcomes of the *Ignite!* Programme through conducting research. Prior experience in research methods is not required as training will be provided.

10. Will I be given extra teachers if I am to offload my teacher to two days a week to participate in the Research Activist Programme?

If your school is selected as a TLLM *Ignite!* school, the teacher selected as the Research Activist Programme will need to be offloaded two days a week. We understand that schools will have staffing considerations and MOE will facilitate by giving greater consideration to TLLM *Ignite!* Schools' personnel needs. At the same time, schools should continue to leverage on the 10+10 Above Quota teacher positions.

11. Can I send more than one teacher for the RA attachment scheme?

Schools are in the best position to decide if they are able to support more than one RA for the attachment, as this is determined by the school's resource capacity and priorities.

TLLM *IGNITE!* PACKAGE

12. How should I plan for my RA's schedule?

Each RA will spend two days at MOEHQ on attachment. Upon selection, TLLM Ignite! Schools will be informed of their RA's schedule so that timetabling schedules can be appropriately adjusted.

13. What are the deliverables following the support given by TLLM *Ignite!*?

All TLLM *Ignite!* schools are expected to have the following outcomes:

- Develop and produce a ready-for-use teachers' resource kit on the TMM *Ignite!* programme for sharing with other schools and
- Share the TLLM *Ignite!* programme at relevant MOE platforms;
- Conduct research on the TLLM *Ignite!* programme to produce evidence-based findings on the school-based curriculum innovation; and
- Publish and share research findings with other schools at relevant platforms.

14. A TLLM *Ignite!* fund is provided for schools. What can my school spend the fund on and must we use it up within the financial year? If there are unused funds, must the school return the money?

The TLLM *Ignite!* fund is provided for all schools and is to be ringfenced for *Ignite!* purposes. It is meant to complement the resources that will be centrally provided by MOE for TLLM *Ignite!* Schools, e.g. training, consultancy. The fund aims to 'seed' the way for TLLM by helping schools to clear implementation 'bottlenecks' and to support more school-specific needs in the *Ignite!* programme. Hence, schools have autonomy to plan for the use of this fund.

The TLLM *Ignite!* funds will be provided to schools for two Financial Years, after which any unused funds will be recovered.