



Parliament of the Cayman Islands

Parliamentary Question No. 14

Answered on 15th December, 2022 -
Second Meeting 2022-2023 Session - Fifth Sitting

Parliamentary Question asked by Ms. Barbara Conolly,
Elected Member for George Town South
To

The Honourable Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, Minister responsible for
Education

QUESTION: Can the Honourable Minister advise the House what role she expects teaching assistants to play in improving education standards?

ANSWER: The role of Assistant Teachers in improving education standards is critical. Through collaborative planning with the classroom teacher, Assistant Teachers provide support and assistance to in-class teaching through small group or individual student support.

Assistant Teachers are also utilised to conduct before, in-class “pull-out”, or after class sessions for students if there is a requirement for support for students exhibiting a greater need for targeted support through interventions, whether in mathematics or English. Interventions are best proven to work when they are implemented with fidelity, i.e. within the time period recommended and with the frequency recommended. Assistant Teachers provide significant additional capacity to guarantee the fidelity of the interventions and ultimately, their success.

The key role of preparing the class for learning as a task for Assistant Teachers cannot be understated. Preparation and allocation of resources to support the lesson, is expertly done by quality Assistant Teachers, who may oftentimes themselves be qualified teachers.

The Ministry of Education and the Department of Education Services are pleased to report that in January 2023, forty (40) new Assistant Teacher posts will be filled for government primary schools as per the government's

Strategic Policy Statement. An additional 40 Assistant Teachers will be hired for the start of the 2023-2024 academic year.

The additional hires for our government schools are multi-intentioned:

- To ensure every government classroom in primary schools, and provisioning up to Year 9 in high schools, benefit from an Assistant Teacher supporting the classrooms;
- To ensure relevant interventions to support students in their acquisition of knowledge and skills in core subject areas are conducted with fidelity;
- To provide options for qualified cover when teachers are out sick or absent from the respective classroom.