



Parliament of the Cayman Islands

Parliamentary Question No. 21

Answered on 28th April, 2023 -
Third Meeting 2022-2023 Session – Third 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 what changes are planned, if any, to improve the quality of teaching in Cayman's public schools?

ANSWER: The report from the Office of Educational Standards titled The National Schools Progress Report of the Chief Inspector for School Inspections between 2018 and 2022, indicates an improvement in the quality of teaching in government schools. It is noteworthy that in the last inspection cycle in 2022, there were no government school lessons that were observed categorised as a weak lesson.

The government education system has continued to place a strong focus on the impact of quality teaching, as it is identified by research the world over to have critical impact on student attainment and progress. The largest impact is seen in collective teacher efficacy, where teachers believe that through their collective actions, student outcomes are positively influenced.

Some of the measures already in place include:

- A modified recruitment strategy: Recruitment of teachers has always focused on getting the best teachers available; however, more recently, there has been a drive to hire Assistant Teachers (ATs) who are also trained teachers. This allows for personnel

that can lead a lesson if the teacher is absent for any reason, providing the classroom with multiple staff members that are trained to support and lead instruction to students.

- Teacher professional development with focuses on:
 - Developing and communicating high expectations to students
 - Developing a sense of “I can and I will” within students and helping them to transfer knowledge and skills across subjects
 - Implementation of responses to intervention with fidelity for students with the need for such programmes
 - Helping students to talk about and express their learning that took place
 - The effective use of cross-curricular planning, particularly in technology, numeracy, literacy and science
- Facilitation of collaboration opportunities within schools and across learning hubs, to allow teachers to learn with and from each other.
- The introduction of subject experts where relevant to provide direct information to students and improve teachers’ content knowledge in areas that benefit from direct expert interactions (e.g. carpenters; accountants; culture and heritage experts; engineers; doctors; etc.).

From August 2023

- Mathematics Specialist Teachers will be introduced at the primary level to deliver mathematics lessons to students and provide exemplars for primary teachers to observe and develop.
- Additional Assistant Teachers will be supporting classes from Key Stage 1 through 3, providing additional opportunities in classes for teachers to organize specific and targeted support for students in class and through “pull-out” sessions.