Subject Based Banding (SBB)

Student Movement: Subject-Based Banding

End of P4	End of P5	Start of P6
• Overall marks based on whole year assessments. • School recommends a subject combination based on the students' results. • Parents fill up the option form indicating either. A) 4 Standard or B) Given Subject Combination by the school. NOTE: Parents cannot choose to do a Foundation Subject if they are not offered this.	• Students study the subjects based on the combination given at the end of P4. • School assesses students' ability to cope with the current subject combination. • **Final decision** on Standard or Foundation Subjects will be decided based on students' overall results for the year. • **No parental consent required**.	• Students study the subjects based on the combination given at the end of P5.

Year End Student Movement

Primary 4 to Primary 5 Criteria / Considerations

Based on P4 Subject Based Banding (Standard / Foundation Subject Combination).

Students with different subject combinations: 4S / 3S 1 Foundation Mathematics / 3S 1 Foundation Mother Tongue/ 4 Foundation Subjects

- **Students' P4 total marks in English Language, Mathematics and Science were taken into consideration in the allocation of classes.**

- **Students' Mathematics marks were also the primary factor in distributing students to a few selected classes to allow for better pacing and pitching of the lessons to our students.**

Primary 5 to Primary 6 Criteria / Considerations

Enbloc movement from P5 classes.

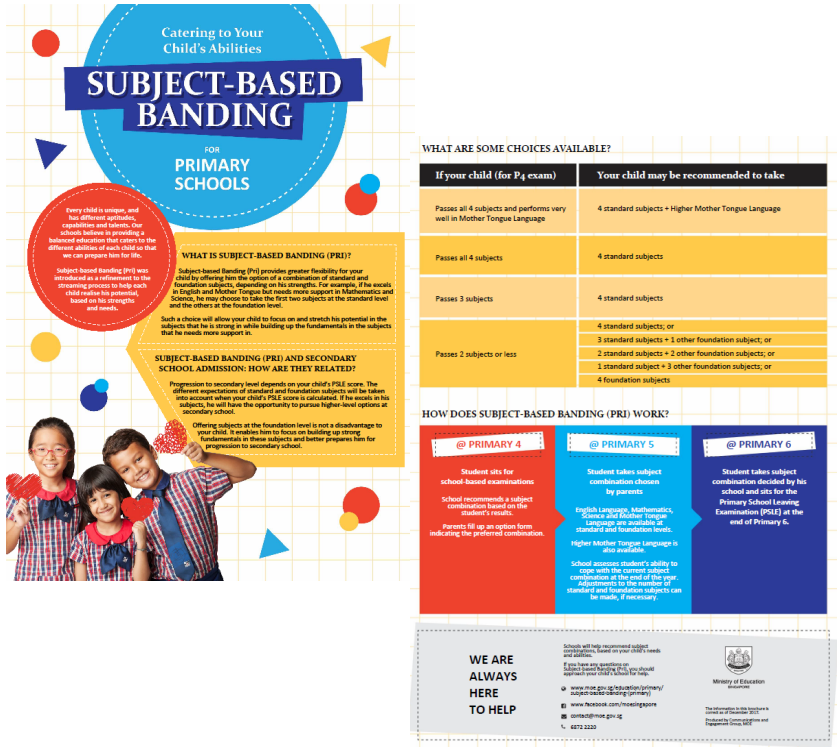
Students are reassigned new classes due to changes in Subject Combinations :

- ✓ **3S 1 Foundation Math**
- ✓ **3S 1 Foundation Mother Tongue**
- ✓ **2S (EL & Science) 2F (Foundation Math & Foundation Mother Tongue)**
- ✓ **4 Foundation Subjects**

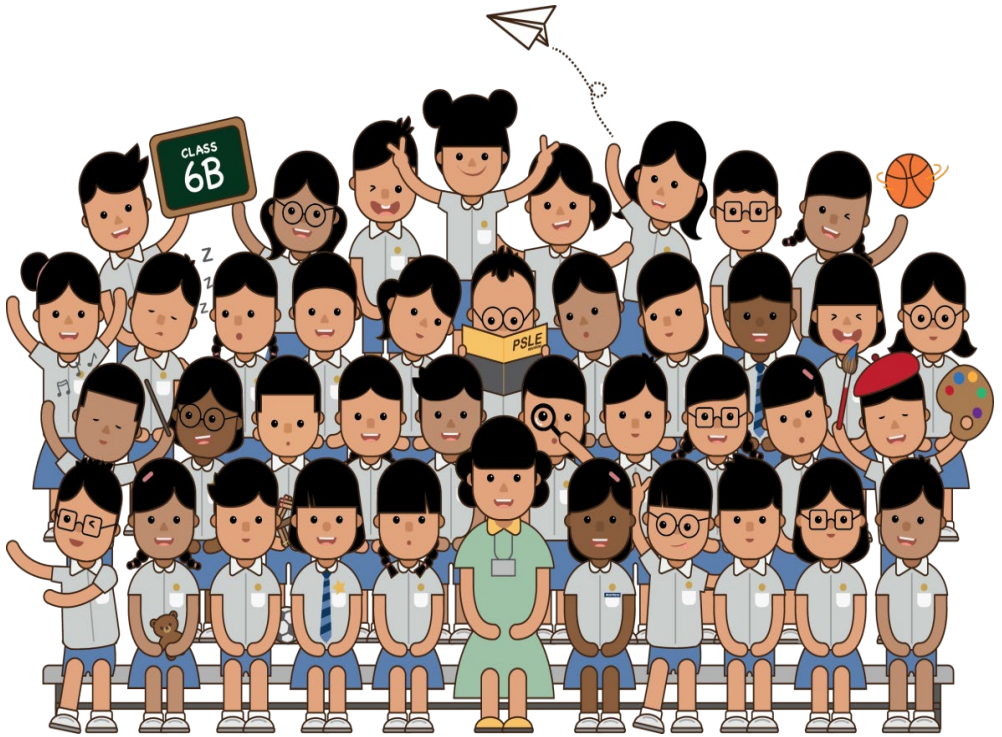
Subject-based Banding (SBB)

You can refer to the website for more details.

https://beta.moe.gov.sg/primary/curriculum/subject-based-banding/



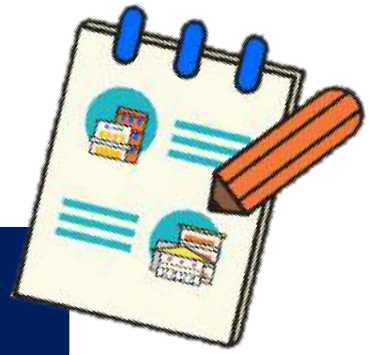
PSLE SCORING & S1 POSTING



What Is the **Intent** of **PSLE?**

A useful checkpoint at the end of primary school

A fair way to determine secondary school posting



Over the years, we have been changing the education system to help our students discover and develop their strengths, interests, abilities and talents, while moving away from an over-emphasis on academic results. Our PSLE Scoring system reduces the over-emphasis on academic results by:

1. Reducing fine differentiation of students' examination results at a young age.
2. Recognising a student's level of achievement, regardless of how his/her peers have done.
3. Encouraging families to choose secondary schools holistically based on students' strengths, interests abilities, talents and learning needs.

HOW THE PSLE SCORING WORKS

FROM T-SCORE TO SCORING BANDS

a) Reduces fine differentiation of students' examination results at a young age

- Students with similar scores in each subject are grouped into scoring bands measured in 8 Achievement Levels (ALs).
- The PSLE Score can range from 4 to 32, with 4 being the best, instead of over 200 possible T-scores.

b) Reflects a student's individual level of achievement

- Students' ALs for each subject reflect their level of achievement, rather than how they have performed relative to their peers.

AL	RAW MARK RANGE
1	≥ 90
2	85 – 89
3	80 – 84
4	75 – 79
5	65 – 74
6	45 – 64
7	20 – 44
8	< 20

GRADING OF FOUNDATION SUBJECT GRADES

- Foundation subject grades are graded in scoring bands from **AL A to C**.
- To derive a student's overall PSLE Score for S1 Posting, AL A to AL C for Foundation level subjects are **mapped to AL 6 to AL 8 of Standard level subjects respectively**.
- This mapping is based on the learning and assessment load of the subjects and informs students of how ready they are for the curriculum in secondary school.

FOUNDATION LEVEL AL	FOUNDATION RAW MARK RANGE	EQUIVALENT STANDARD LEVEL AL
A	75 – 100	6
B	30 – 74	7
C	< 30	8

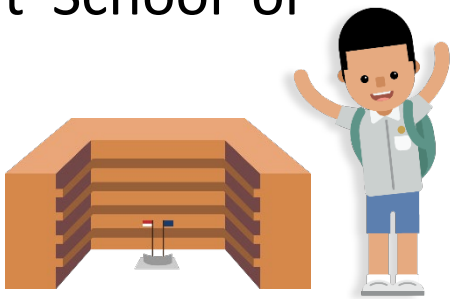
- What is the new passing mark, since AL6 spans across 45-64?

AL	RAW MARK RANGE
1	≥ 90
2	85 – 89
3	80 – 84
4	75 – 79
5	65 – 74
6	45 – 64
7	20 – 44
8	< 20

There is no passing or failing mark.

A student who has scored at least an AL 7 in English Language and Mathematics can progress to Secondary Schools under Posting Group 1.

Students who do not qualify for Posting Groups 1, 2 or 3 would have to repeat the PSLE, or progress to a specialised school such as Northlight School or Assumption Pathway School.



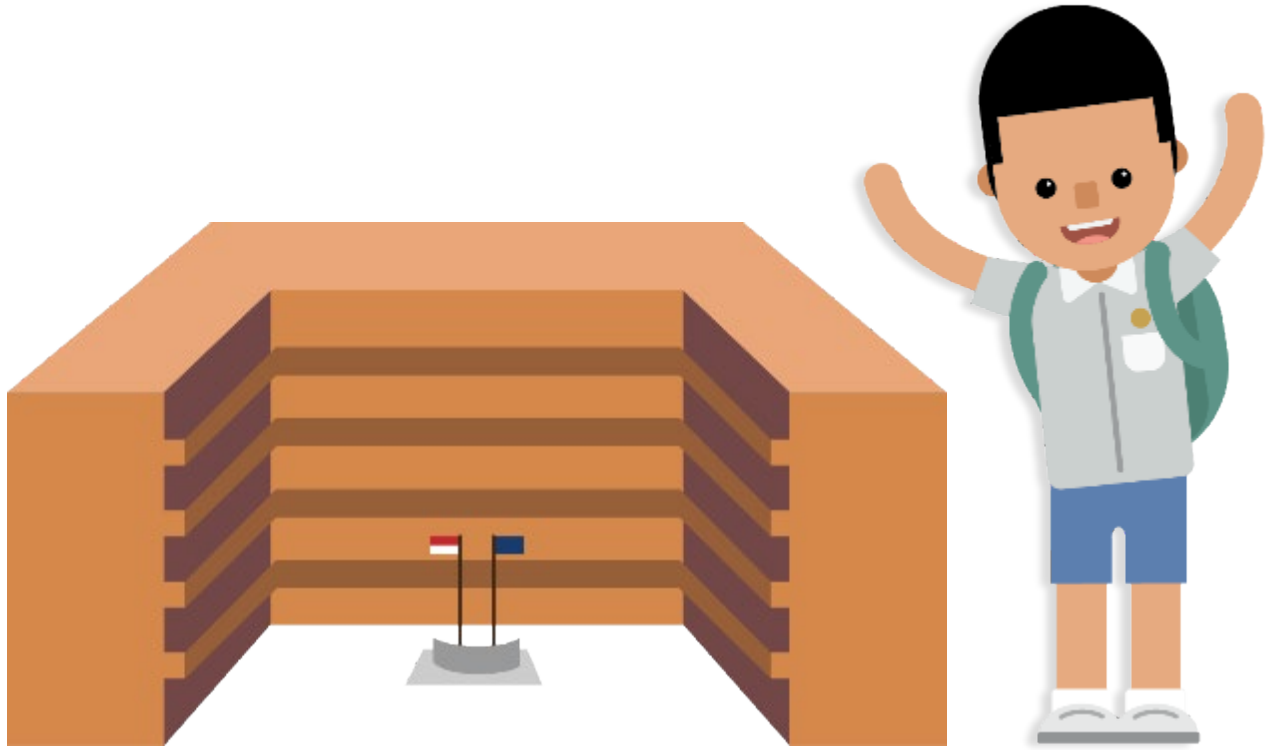
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR HIGHER MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE (HMTL)

- The eligibility criteria for taking HMTL ensures that students can cope with the higher academic load.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR HMTL
(i) An overall PSLE Score of 8 or better or **(ii) An overall PSLE Score of 9 to 14 (inclusive); and attain** • **AL 1 / AL 2 in MTL** or • **Distinction / Merit in HMTL**

- For students who do not meet the above criteria, secondary schools will have the flexibility to offer HMTL to students if they are assessed to have high ability and interest in MTL, and are able to cope with the learning load required.

HOW THE S1 POSTING WORKS



CHOICE ORDER OF SCHOOLS MATTERS MORE

- Students have **six choices** in selecting their secondary schools
- Students are posted to a secondary school based on **academic merit, i.e., PSLE Score**, and their **choice order of schools**.

- If two or more students with the same PSLE Score vie for the last remaining place(s) in a school, the following tie-breakers are used in the following order:

1. **CITIZENSHIP**
2. **CHOICE ORDER OF SCHOOLS**
3. **COMPUTERISED BALLOTING**

- The tie-breaker based on school choice order recognises the different considerations that families have in making school choices.

Tie-breakers

in the new S1 Posting System

Tie-breakers are used only if there is more than one student with the same PSLE Score vying for the last available place(s) in a school. Here's a simplified example.

5 students are vying for the last places in the schools of their choice.

Jane
Singapore Citizen
16 pts
SCHOOL CHOICES:
1) Sch A
2) Sch ...
3) Sch ...
4) Sch ...

Bryan
Singapore Citizen
20 pts
SCHOOL CHOICES:
1) Sch B
2) Sch ...
3) Sch ...
4) Sch ...

Mary
Singapore Citizen
20 pts
SCHOOL CHOICES:
1) Sch A
2) Sch B
3) Sch C
4) Sch ...

Alan
Permanent Resident
20 pts
SCHOOL CHOICES:
1) Sch A
2) Sch B
3) Sch D
4) Sch ...

Rina
Permanent Resident
20 pts
SCHOOL CHOICES:
1) Sch A
2) Sch B
3) Sch D
4) Sch E

Students with better scores will be posted first

Jane has a better PSLE score. She will be posted first, to **School A**.

Bryan, Mary, Alan and Rina have the same score.

As Jane has taken the last available place in School A, Bryan, Mary, Alan and Rina will vie for the last available place in their next choice, **School B**.

Tie-breaker #1: Citizenship

Bryan and Mary are Singapore Citizens. They will have priority to enter **School B**.

Alan and Rina will be tie-broken out as they are Permanent Residents. They will be considered for their next choice, **School D**.

Tie-breaker #2: Choice order of schools

Because Bryan ranked School B higher than Mary, he will be posted to **School B**.

Since Bryan has taken the last place in School B, Mary will be posted to **School C**.

Alan and Rina have both ranked School D as their third choice. They will go through computerised balloting to vie for the last remaining place in **School D**.

Tie-breaker #3: Computerised balloting

Through computerised balloting, Alan is posted to **School D**.

Since Alan has taken the last place in School D, Rina will be posted to her fourth choice, **School E**.

FULL SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (FULL SBB)

- Full SBB will be implemented in secondary schools from 2024, and aims for students to:

Have greater ownership of their learning according to their strengths, interests, abilities, talents and learning needs.

Develop a growth mindset and an intrinsic motivation to learn for life.

Have more opportunities to interact with friends of different strengths, interests, abilities and talents.

Have more options for post-sec pathways, while ensuring they have strong fundamentals and can thrive in their chosen pathway.

S1 POSTING UNDER FULL SBB

Three Posting Groups to ensure schools are accessible to diverse learners

From the 2024 S1 cohort, MOE will facilitate the admission of P6 students into S1 through 3 Posting Groups: **Posting Group 1, 2 and 3.**

Objective: Schools to admit a **diverse profile of students** and students have **access to a wide range of schools.**

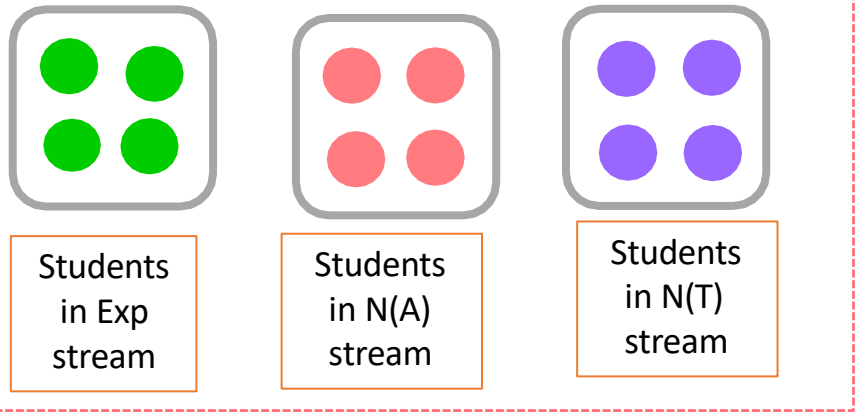
Unlike the academic streams of Express, N(A) and N(T), Posting Groups will only be used for the purposes of facilitating entry into secondary school and to guide the subject levels students offer at the start of S1.

- Posting Groups assigned based on PSLE Scores, mapped from PSLE Score ranges for Express, N(A) and N(T) streams.
- PSLE Scores provide a good gauge of the subject levels that students can offer at the beginning of S1.

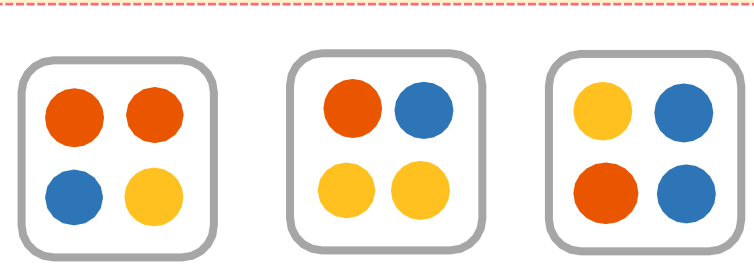
PSLE Score	Posting Group	Subject level for most subjects
4 – 20	3	G3
21 and 22	2 or 3	G2 or G3
23 and 24	2	G2
25	1 or 2	G1 or G2
26 – 30 *(with AL 7 in EL and MA)*	1	G1

FULL SBB:Mixed Form Classes In Lower Secondary

Form classes arranged by academic stream in schools yet to implement Full SBB



With Full SBB: Mixed form classes



- Under Full SBB, students will be placed in mixed form classes in Lower Secondary.
- This provides students with more opportunities to interact with other students **of different strengths and interests**.
- Schools have the autonomy to decide how to structure their form classes, based on schools' unique offerings, programmes, as well as their students' profile and needs.
- This enables students to build meaningful friendships and learn to value different perspectives.

Students posted through **PG3**

Students posted through **PG2**

Students posted through **PG1**

OFFERING SUBJECTS AT A MORE DEMANDING LEVEL AT THE START OF S1

- Students posted to schools through PG1 and PG2 can offer **English Language, Mother Tongue Languages, Mathematics and Science** at a more demanding level based on their PSLE AL for each subject.

FOR STUDENTS POSTED TO SCHOOLS THROUGH PG1 AND PG2			
SUBJECT	**PSLE SUBJECT LEVEL**	**PSLE AL FOR SPECIFIC SUBJECT**	**OPTION TO TAKE THE S1 SUBJECT AT :**
• English Language • Mother Tongue Language • Mathematics • Science	Standard	AL 5 or better	G3 or G2
		AL 6	G2
	Foundation	AL A	G2

OFFERING SUBJECTS AT A LESS DEMANDING LEVEL AT THE START OF S1

- For students who offered **English Language, Mathematics and/or Science** at Foundation level at PSLE, but are otherwise eligible to take most of their subjects at G3 when entering secondary school, they may choose to take these subjects at a less demanding level (LDL; i.e., G2), in consultation with their secondary schools.
- Students have the option to offer **Mother Tongue Languages (MTL)** at LDL based on their PSLE Achievement Level (AL) for the subject:

POSTING GROUP (PG)	PSLE AL FOR MTL^	PSLE AL FOR FMTL	OPTION TO OFFER MTL AT A LESS DEMANDING LEVEL
PG3	AL 6	AL A	G2
	AL 7-8	AL B-C	G1 or G2
PG2	AL 7-8	AL B-C	G1

SUBJECT LEVEL FLEXIBILITY BEYOND START OF S1

- Beyond the start of Sec 1, students may **adjust their subject levels across their secondary school journey**.
    - Students may offer subjects, including English Language, Mother Tongue Languages, Mathematics, Science and Humanities subjects at a **more demanding level** if they meet the criteria and based on the school's holistic considerations.
    - Students who are not coping well may **offer subjects at a less demanding level**, based on their school-based performance and school's holistic considerations, to calibrate their curricular load.
    - In upper secondary, students may offer elective subjects (for example, Additional Mathematics, Art, Design & Technology) at a subject level suited to their strengths, interests and post-secondary aspirations, to **allow them to pursue their interests without adding unduly to their overall curriculum load**.
- Schools will consider **students' learning progress and developmental needs** when helping them determine their subject choices.

PSLE SCORE RANGES FOR INDIVIDUAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS

PSLE SCORE RANGES FOR ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- Use the PSLE Score ranges as a reference alongside other important factors, such as the school's distinctive programmes, Co-Curricular Activities (CCA), culture, ethos, and proximity to home when shortlisting school choices that would best fit a student's educational needs.

- The latest PSLE Score ranges for individual secondary schools will be available on https://moe.gov.sg/schoolfinder and https://go.gov.sg/exploreschools. They reflect the PSLE scores of the student posted into these schools at the previous year's S1 Posting Exercise.

- A school's PSLE Score range (including Cut-Off-Point) for a particular year is not pre-determined before the posting, and vary from year to year, depending on the cohort's PSLE results and their school choices in that year's S1 Posting Exercise.

SchoolFinder Tool

MySkillsFuture Student Portal (Primary)

PSLE SCORE RANGES FOR INDIVIDUAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The PSLE Score range refers to the PSLE Score of the <u>first and last student</u> admitted to a particular school in the previous year via the S1 Posting Exercise. This shows the range of student profiles who enter each school.

<u>Example</u>

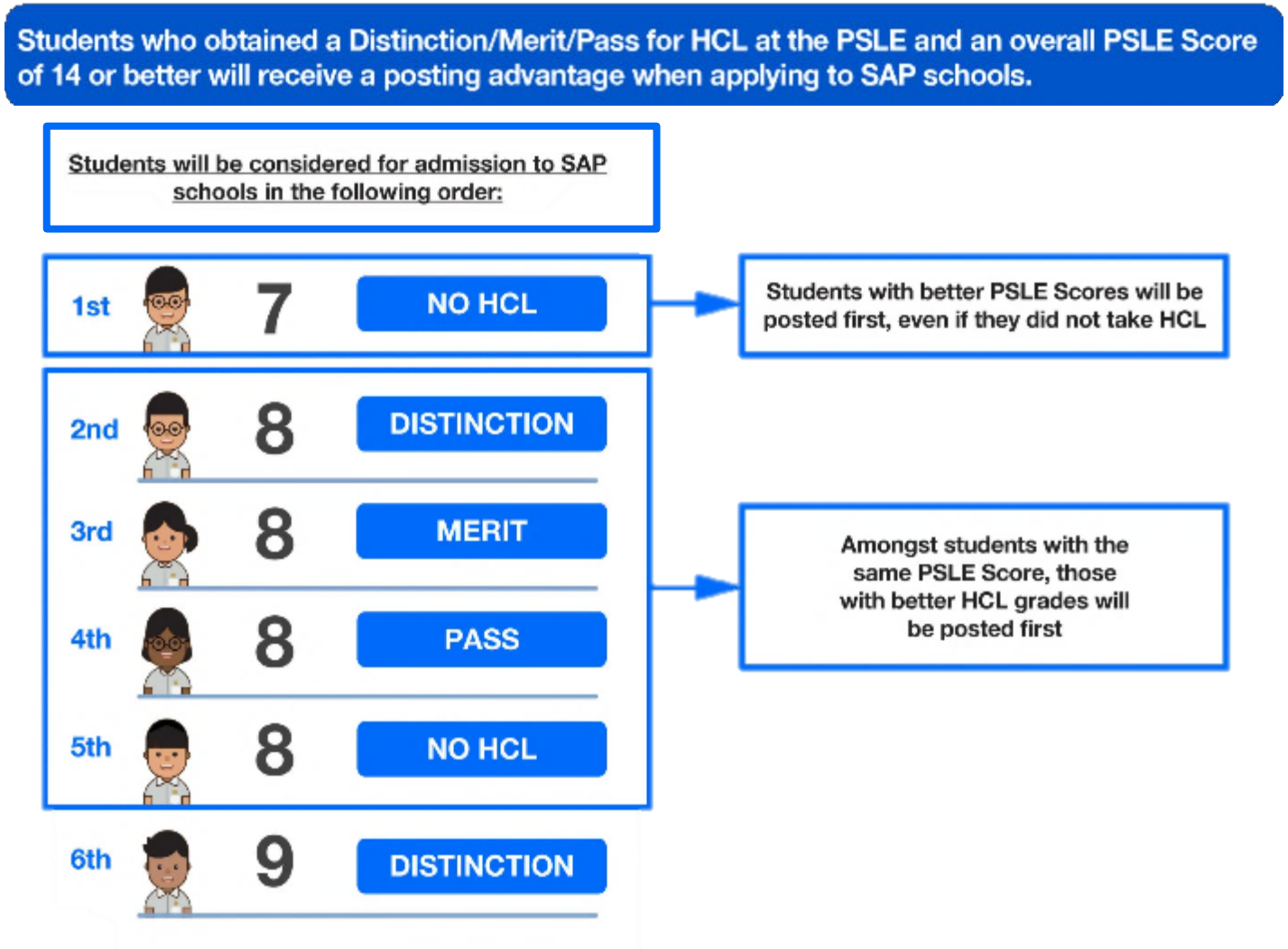
XX Secondary School
PSLE Score range of previous year's S1 Posting Exercise

Posting Group 3	15 – 20
Posting Group 2	21 – 24
Posting Group 1	25 – 28

PSLE Score of the <u>first</u> student posted into the school in the respective PG.

PSLE Score of the <u>last</u> student posted into the school in the respective PG [i.e., the school's **<u>Cut-Off Point</u> (COP)**].

HCL POSTING ADVANTAGE TO SAP SCHOOLS



- Students' HCL results are denoted as 'D' (Distinction), 'M' (Merit) or 'P' (Pass).
- Students who obtain a Distinction / Merit / Pass in HCL and a PSLE Score of 14 or better are eligible for posting advantage to SAP schools.
- Students are ranked taking into account their performance in HCL.
- This posting advantage applies before the tie-breakers for S1 Posting.

EXAMPLE OF AN SAP SCHOOL's PSLE SCORE RANGE

While students need not take HCL to enter SAP schools, students who pass HCL receive a posting advantage for admission. To reflect this, the PSLE Score ranges of SAP schools include the HCL grades of the first and last student admitted in the previous year via S1 Posting.

Note: Posting Groups will be assigned based on PSLE Scores, mapped from existing PSLE Score ranges for Express, N(A) and N(T) streams.

Example

XX Secondary School
PSLE Score range of previous year's S1 Posting Exercise

Posting Group 3	5 (D) – 12 (P)
Posting Group 2	
Posting Group 1	

PSLE Score and HCL grade of the first student posted into the school through PG3

PSLE Score and HCL grade of the last student posted into the school through PG3
[i.e. the school's Cut-Off Point (COP)]

SCORING FOR MTL-EXEMPT AND STUDENTS STUDYING AN ASIAN LANGUAGE/ FOREIGN LANGUAGE (AsL/FL) IN LIEU OF AN MTL

SCORING FOR MTL-EXEMPT AND AsL/FL STUDENTS

- For students who are exempted from MTL or take an AsL/FL in lieu of an official MTL, their PSLE result slip will only reflect the three subjects they have taken.

- However, for the purposes of Secondary 1 posting, these students will need an assigned MTL score so that they have a PSLE score comprising four subjects
  - To determine the assigned MTL score, reference is made to MTL scores of other students who have achieved similar scores in English, Mathematics, and Science, including those taking Foundation MTL.

SCORING FOR MTL-EXEMPT AND AsL/FL STUDENTS

- In reviewing the score assignment for these students under the new PSLE scoring system, we need to strike a balance between:

  - Acknowledging that students have valid reasons for seeking MTL exemption or taking an AsL/FL, and
  - Ensuring some parity between scoring for exemption, Foundation and Standard MTL.

SCORING FOR MTL-EXEMPT AND AsL/FL STUDENTS

- Under the new scoring system, the assigned MTL score will :
  - Take reference from peers with similar scores for English, Mathematics and Science, including those taking Foundation MTL;
  - While maintaining parity of treatment with students who take Foundation MTL (who will score between AL 6 to 8).
- Hence, students will receive an assigned MTL score between AL 6 and 8 in PSLE.

SCHOOL CHOICE JOURNEY

- The PSLE Score ranges are a **useful start** for parents and students to consider secondary schools.

- Use this information, together with other **important factors** such as the secondary schools' distinctive programmes, CCAs, ethos and cultures, to shortlist schools that would best fit the educational needs of the student.

- If students have specific talents and strengths beyond the PSLE (e.g. areas such as sports, performing arts and leadership), they can consider the **Direct School Admission-Secondary (DSA-Sec)** as an alternative admission pathway to access secondary schools that have talent development programmes in these areas. Application starts in May. There is no change to the application or selection process with the shift to Full SBB.

ADVISING STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS TO CHOOSE SUITABLE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

When making school choices in order to find a school that would help the student learn and thrive best, advise parents to consider:

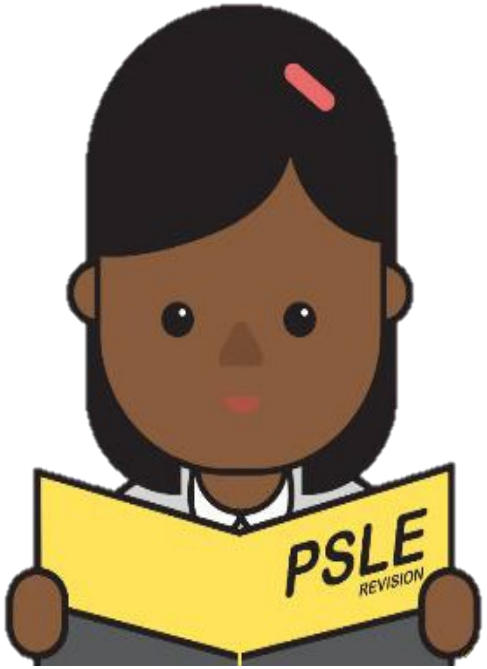
"Every child is unique and has different strengths, interests, abilities, talents and learning needs. Beyond academic results, what are other factors we should consider?"

The student's needs

What the schools can offer

ADVISING STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS TO CHOOSE SUITABLE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

THE STUDENT'S NEEDS



<u>Consider the student's strengths, interests, abilities, talents and learning needs</u>

- **Encourage parents to discuss the options with their child, with the following considerations:**
  - **<u>Programmes, subjects and CCAs offered:</u>** Can the school support and develop their child's strengths, interest, abilities and talents?
  - **<u>School culture:</u>** What is the school's culture and ethos?
  - **<u>Location and transport options:</u>** Is it too far from home? How will their child get to school?
  - **<u>Support for Special Educational Needs:</u>** Does the school have specialised facilities or resources to support their child, if required?

Advising Students And Their Parents To Choose Suitable Secondary Schools

WHAT SCHOOLS CAN OFFER

- Shortlist schools that offer programmes that cater to the student's strengths, interests, abilities, talents and learning needs, as well as provide suitable learning environments
- Refer to SchoolFinder in MOE's website and MySkillsFuture Student Portal (Primary) for information on the schools' location, school type, CCAs, programmes and subjects they offer to shortlist schools that meet their child's learning needs.
- Parents may also refer to the secondary schools' websites and visit their Open Houses.

Advising Students And Their Parents: Preparing For The S1 Posting Exercise

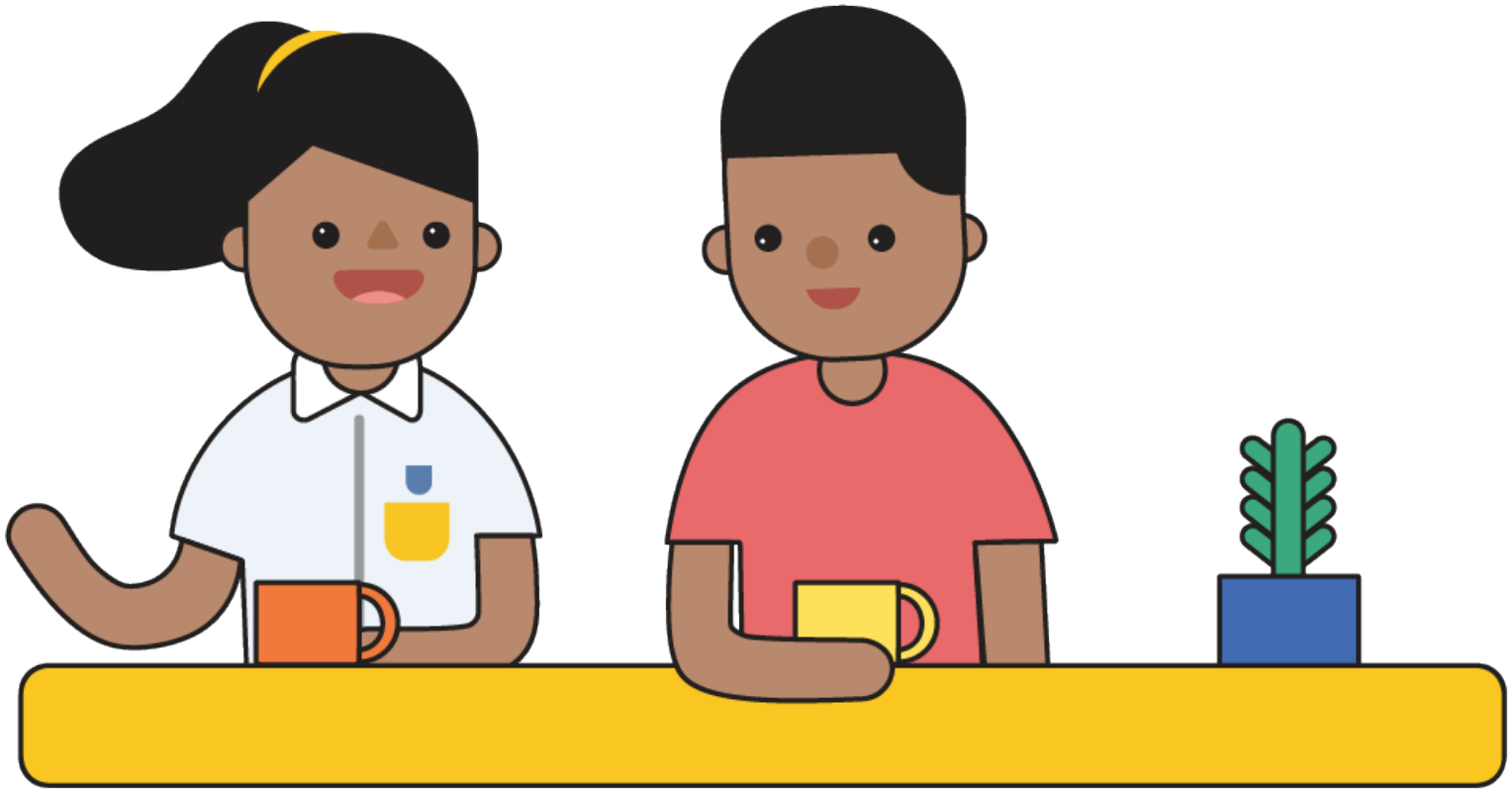
- **Use all 6 options with a range of Cut-off Points**
  - This increases the student's chances of being posted to a school of their choice.

- **Take reference from schools' PSLE Score ranges**
  - This serves as a guide for students and parents to shortlist school choices.
  - Consider at least 2-3 schools where the student's PSLE Score is better than the school's Cut-off Point.

- **Shortlist schools that offer programmes that cater to the student's strengths, interests, abilities, talents and learning needs, as well as provide suitable learning environments**
  - Refer to SchoolFinder in MOE's website and MySkillsFuture Student Portal (Primary) to find out more about what schools offer.
  - Parents may also refer to the secondary schools' websites and visit their open houses.

- **Rank the student's preferred school higher in his/her choice order of schools**
  - This increases the student's chances of being posted to that school, if they need to undergo tie-breaking.

SUPPORTING EDUCATORS, STUDENTS & THEIR PARENTS



FIND OUT MORE ON THE PSLE-FSBB MICROSITE

https://go.gov.sg/pslefsbb

OTHER RESOURCES

SchoolFinder Tool

https://go.gov.sg/secschoolfinder

https://www.schoolbag.edu.sg/story/open-house-for-secondary-schools-2024/

(Ready from May each year)

OTHER RESOURCES

"Love Beyond Grades" video

https://go.gov.sg/lovebeyondgrades

"Welcome to Secondary School" video

https://go.gov.sg/welcome-to-secondary-school

Full SBB Interactive Site

https://go.gov.sg/my-fsbb-path

OTHER RESOURCES

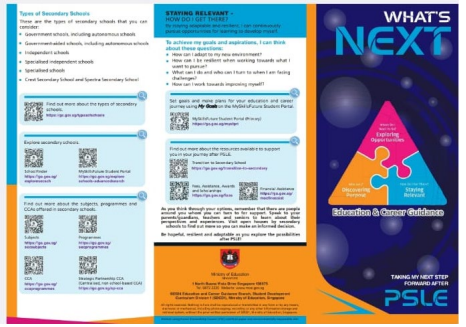
ECG Tips for Parents

https://go.gov.sg/tips-for-parents

MySkillsFuture Student Portal (Primary)

https://go.gov.sg/mysfpri

ECG What's Next



https://go.gov.sg/whats-next-psle

Direct School Admission

DIRECT SCHOOL ADMISSION

What is DSA-Sec?

Direct School Admission for secondary schools (DSA-Sec) allows students to apply to some schools before taking the PSLE.

Students apply based on their talent in sports, CCAs and specific academic areas.

DIRECT SCHOOL ADMISSION

Primary 6 students can apply for DSA-Sec based on a wide-range of talents, including:

- Sports and games
- Visual, literary and performing arts
- Debate and public speaking
- Science, mathematics and engineering
- Languages and humanities
- Uniformed groups
- Leadership (for example, prefects)

DIRECT SCHOOL ADMISSION

- **DSA is a commitment on the part of both the student and the secondary school**.

- Parents and students should choose schools wisely based on the student's aptitudes and strengths, bearing in mind the schools' academic and non-academic requirements, and the programmes available to develop the talents.

- Students who are not sure or not ready to do so should enter a secondary school through the S1 Posting instead.

DIRECT SCHOOL ADMISSION

- Students successfully allocated to their DSA-Sec schools will **NOT be allowed to participate in the annual S1 Posting to opt for secondary schools**, and are expected to honour the commitment to the allocated DSA- Sec school for the entire duration of the programme to develop their talents.

- They will also **NOT be allowed to transfer to another school** after the release of the PSLE results.

DIRECT SCHOOL ADMISSION

Application (tentatively in May 2025)

- Parent may log in directly to DSA-Sec Portal. **Both parents** are required to login using Singpass to submit their preference.
- If **both** parents are unable to submit the application form personally at school during DSA-Sec application period, you have to nominate another adult to do so using this proxy form. You can also use the same form to appoint a proxy to submit your child's school preference form in October.
- Students who wish to apply for **School of the Arts (SOTA)** and **Singapore Sports School (SSP)** may **approach the school directly**.
- **There is no need for testimonials to be provided by Primary schools for the application** as information (such as P5 and P6 academic results, Co-curricular Activities (CCA), Values in action (VIA), school-based activities/achievements/awards such as Edusave Awards, National School Games (NSG) and Junior Sports Academy (JSA) participation and NAPFA (for sports talent) will be extracted from School Cockpit to be shared with the DSA-Sec schools.

DIRECT SCHOOL ADMISSION

Selection **(Jun- Sep 2025)**

- DSA schools will conduct in-person interviews, auditions or trials for all talent areas when shortlisted.
- The selection process and timeline differ across schools, and across different DSA-Sec categories. You may visit schools' websites to learn more on their selection criteria.

DIRECT SCHOOL ADMISSION

School Preference Submission (Oct 2025)

- Students who receive at least one DSA-Sec offer (including from SOTA) will receive email notification and SMS via Postman.gov.sg on the School Preference Submission in late Oct 2025. **Both parents are required to login to the DSA-Sec Portal using their Singpass to submit up to three school preferences.**

- Amendments or withdrawals will **NOT** be allowed after the end of the School Preference Submission.

DIRECT SCHOOL ADMISSION

School Preference Submission

Singapore Sports School (SSP)

- Some students may receive concurrent offers from DSA-Sec schools and SSP.
- Students who wish to accept the SSP offer should **not** submit their DSA-Sec school preferences.
- **If they do so, their earlier SSP offer will be void. Students who wish to accept the SSP should also continue to take part in the S1 Posting.**

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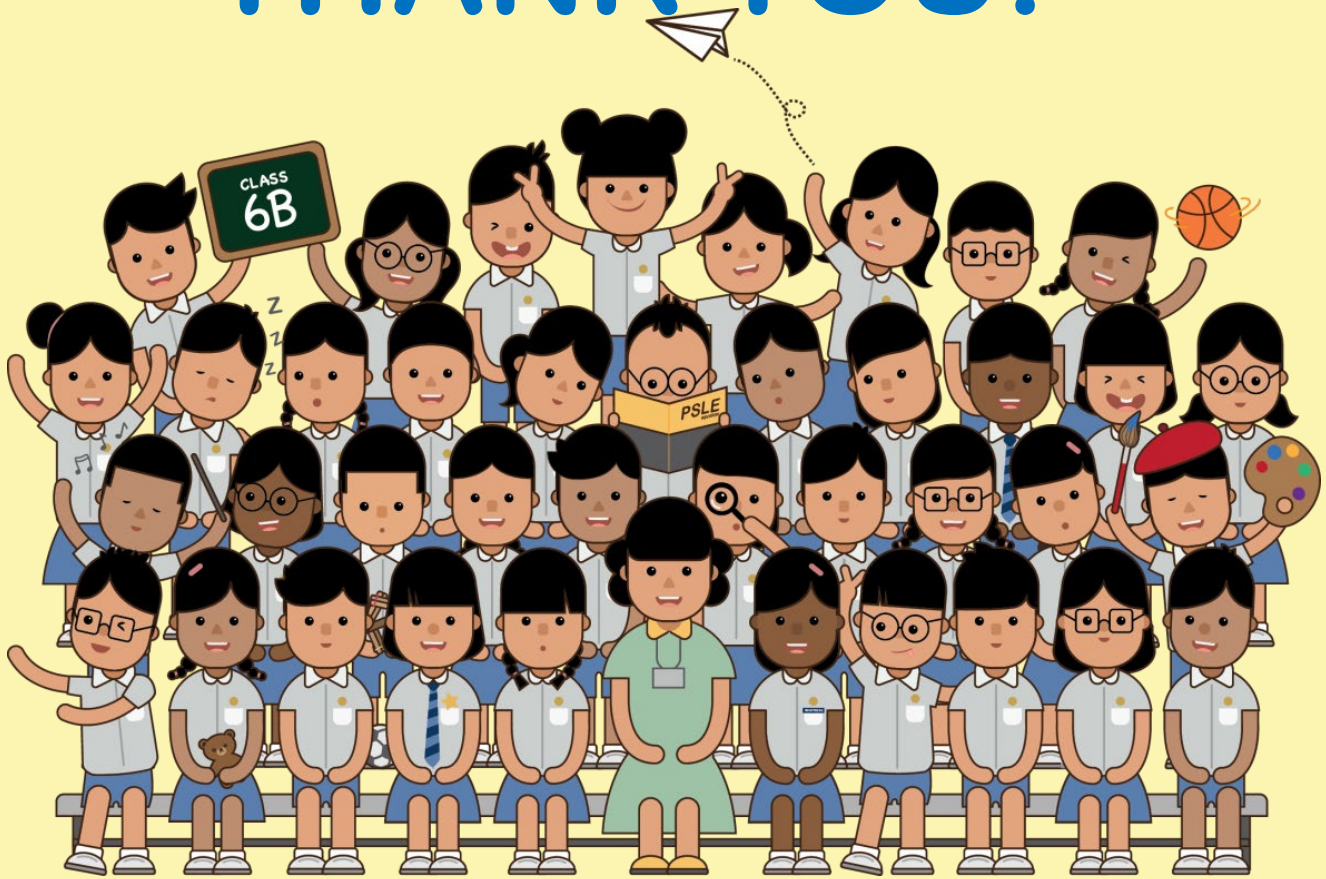
THANK YOU!