

**Secondary School Places Allocation System 2023/2025**  
**(For Admission to Secondary 1 in September 2025)**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**General**

**(1) Q What is Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) System?**

A Eligible Primary 6 (P6) students can obtain a public sector Secondary 1 (S1) place through participating in the SSPA System. The SSPA System is divided into two stages: Discretionary Places (DP) and Central Allocation (CA).

For the DP stage, students may apply to not more than two secondary schools participating in SSPA in any districts direct. The schools can reserve not more than 30% of their S1 places as DP and admit students according to their education philosophy and characteristics.

At the CA stage, the computer allocates school places to students participating in SSPA according to their allocation band, parental choice of schools and random number.

Successful DP applicants will not be allocated places again in CA. The official results of DP and CA will be released at the same time in July 2025. For details of the SSPA System, parents may refer to the information leaflet and the video on the SSPA System.

**Feeder and Nominated Schools**

**(2) Q What are the S1 admission arrangements for a P6 student studying in a feeder/nominated school?**

A In general, after the deduction of repeater places and DP, a feeder secondary school has to reserve 85% of the remaining places for its feeder primary school(s), and a nominated secondary school has to reserve 25% of the remaining places for its nominated primary school(s) at the CA stage. A P6 student of a feeder/nominated school is eligible for a reserved place if he/she is in Net Band 1 or 2 and has chosen the feeder/nominated secondary school as his/her first choice in Part B “Restricted School Choices”. If the linked secondary school accepts Net Band 3 students, students in all 3 bands will be eligible. Parents may make enquiries to the feeder/nominated secondary school(s) direct.

If the number of eligible students exceeds the number of reserved places, the order of priority for allocation will be based on the student’s Net Band and random number until all the reserved places are filled. On the other hand, all unused reserved places, if any, will be automatically used as open places for allocation.

If a P6 student of a feeder or nominated school is approved for cross-net allocation, he/she will not be eligible for a reserved place of the feeder or nominated secondary school(s).

**(3) Q How can parents know whether their children’s primary school has feeder/nominated secondary school(s)?**

A Parents may obtain the relevant information from the Primary School Profile (Profile) published in September every year. The feeder/nominated secondary school(s) of a primary school will be listed in the Profile. Parents may also contact the primary school direct for the information.

**(4) Q For a P6 student eligible for allocating to his/her feeder/nominated secondary school, does he/she need to put the feeder/nominated secondary school as one of his/her school choices in both Part A “Unrestricted School Choices” and Part B “Restricted School Choices”?**

A In the CA stage, the reserved places for feeder/nominated schools are applicable only to Part B “Restricted School Choices”. Parents should include the feeder/nominated secondary school as the first choice in Part B. However, whether to include the feeder/nominated secondary school in Part A is at parents’ own discretion.

**(5) Q Will eligible students of a feeder/nominated primary school not be allocated to their feeder/nominated secondary school?**

A The students concerned are eligible for a reserved place in their feeder/nominated secondary school only if they are in Net Band 1 or 2 and have chosen the feeder/nominated secondary school as their first school choice in Part B “Restricted School Choices” of CA. If the number of eligible students exceeds the number of reserved places, the order of priority for allocation will be based on students’ Net Band and their random numbers until all the reserved places are filled.

However, there may be cases when students are not allocated to the feeder/nominated secondary school:

- (a) The student does not fulfil the requirement of Net Band;
- (b) The student has not made the feeder/nominated secondary school as his/her first school choice in Part B “Restricted School Choices” of CA as required;
- (c) The eligible feeder/nominated P6 students outnumber the reserved places of the school;
- (d) The student has successfully obtained a discretionary place in another secondary school or has been allocated a school place in Part A “Unrestricted School Choices” of CA; or
- (e) The student has been approved for cross-net allocation.

### “Through-train” Schools

(6) Q What are the S1 admission arrangements for a P6 student studying in a “through-train” school?

A A P6 student of a “through-train” school may choose to proceed to its linked secondary school direct. If the student applies for DP of participating secondary schools or S1 place(s) of Direct Subsidy Scheme secondary schools not participating in the Secondary School Places Allocation System (NDSS secondary schools) (whether successful or not), or participates in CA, he/she **will not be allowed to retain the right to proceed direct to the linked secondary school.**

(7) Q Do students of other primary schools have a chance to study in a “through-train” secondary school?

A All “through-train” schools are required to comply with the principle that the number of S1 places in a linked secondary school must exceed the number of P6 graduates in its linked primary school so that students of other primary schools can still be admitted through applying for DP or participating in CA. “Through-train” secondary schools, both existing and newly-operated, should in principle reserve not less than 15% of their total number of S1 places, after the deduction of repeater places, for admitting students of other primary schools through DP application or CA.

### Direct Subsidy Scheme Secondary Schools

(8) Q What should parents take note of if they wish to send their children to a Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) secondary school?

A Parents should note that DSS secondary schools may be fee charging. Students may be promoted to Secondary 4 (S4) in their own DSS secondary schools upon completion of Secondary 3 and will not be centrally placed to S4 in other schools subvented by the Education Bureau (EDB).

(9) Q What are the differences in the allocation arrangements between participating DSS secondary schools and government, aided and caput secondary schools?

A The allocation arrangements for participating DSS secondary schools and government, aided and caput secondary schools are basically the same except that participating DSS secondary schools may reserve more than 30% of their S1 places as DP. The schools are still required to reserve 10 % of the school places for CA for the allocation under Part A “Unrestricted School Choices”. Besides, the S1 places of participating DSS secondary schools are allocated on a “no-choice-no-allocation” principle in Part B “Restricted School Choices” of CA. In other words, students will not be allocated to a participating DSS secondary school unless they have included the school as one of the choices.

**(10) Q What is the admission procedure for the NDSS secondary schools?**

A For the NDSS secondary schools, they can admit students according to their own procedures and schedules and will not be allocated students through the SSPA System. There is no limit to the number of NDSS secondary schools that students may apply to, and admission is based on the criteria set by the schools. NDSS secondary schools are required to submit their Successful Lists of Participating Students to the EDB by the end of April 2025. Students included in the Successful Lists of Participating Students of NDSS secondary schools will not be allocated with S1 places of participating secondary schools, including those that have selected them as successful DP applicants.

**Non-Chinese Speaking Students**

**(11) Q Under the SSPA System, what are the allocation arrangements for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students?**

A All eligible students, irrespective of their races or places of birth, enjoy equal opportunities for admission to public sector schools under the SSPA System, which is fair and transparent. In other words, all eligible students (including NCS students) will be allocated an S1 place according to the same mechanism. They can apply to any two participating secondary schools at the DP stage. For choice-making at the CA stage, they can also choose a maximum of 3 secondary schools from any school nets in Part A and a maximum of 30 secondary schools in their own school nets in Part B according to their preferences.

**(12) Q Under the existing allocation arrangement, how should NCS students make school choices?**

A Parents (including parents of NCS students) should consider all aspects of a school, e.g. its educational philosophy, culture, religion, class structure, development and operation to gauge whether it can cater for their children's characteristics, personalities, abilities and interests in order to make a suitable school choice. Parents may seek advice from their children's primary schools and visit the school's homepage for more details. To assist parents of NCS students in choosing public sector schools, admission-related information is available in major languages of diverse races. Besides, dedicated briefing sessions with simultaneous interpretation services are held annually for parents of NCS students.

To help parents of NCS students make school choices for their children, the Committee on Home-School Co-operation has published the English version of the Secondary School Profiles to facilitate parents of NCS students to obtain relevant school information. All publicly funded secondary schools admitting NCS students and offering the local curriculum are required to specify in the Secondary School Profiles the additional support measures they offer for enhancing NCS students' learning of Chinese and the creation of an inclusive learning environment in the schools.

**(13) Q What are the support measures for NCS students provided by the EDB to facilitate their learning of Chinese?**

A The Government is committed to encouraging and supporting the integration of NCS students into the community, including facilitating their early adaptation to the local education system and mastery of the Chinese language. EDB has been providing NCS students with all-encompassing learning support from pre-primary to secondary levels through diverse strategies, including curriculum development, learning and teaching resources, teacher training, professional support, additional funding, multiple pathways, parent education and support for parents, etc., to help NCS students master the Chinese language and integrate into the community.

In addition to the above, as per the various measures set out in the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address, we will continue to strengthen the support for NCS students to facilitate their mastery of the Chinese Language for integration into the community. The measures include designing diversified learning materials under the Online Chinese Language Self-learning Resources for NCS students to help them extend their learning and consolidate what they have learnt in class; offering after-school Chinese language courses for lower primary NCS students on a trial basis using adapted learning materials for the Youth Chinese Test; expanding the Summer Bridging Programme to cover prospective P5 and P6 NCS students starting from the 2023/24 school year to provide more comprehensive and continuous support for the learning of Chinese; and increasing the number of schools that provide school-based life planning services for NCS students to help them set personal goals and plan for the future.

For details of the support measures, please visit the [EDB webpage](#).

School Places Allocation Section  
Education Bureau  
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