

NEW PSLE SCORING SYSTEM AND DIRECT SCHOOL ADMISSION

FAQs raised during the engagement session

NEW PSLE SCORING SYSTEM

Is the old PSLE Scoring system fairer than the new one as it is norm-referenced?

There are some important differences between the two scoring systems. The old scoring system, better known as the T-score system is quite finely differentiating students' performance. So we have 200 over possible T-scores that the child can obtain at the end of PSLE. The new Achievement Level system that is replacing the T-score system is less differentiated so that you and your child can learn to place more emphasis on the growth and development of student at primary school stage.

Another important difference between the two scoring system is that T-score is norm-referenced but the new Achievement Level system is standard-referenced. This simply means that under the T-score system, the child's results is actually dependent also on how his peers perform at PSLE. So previously a child who obtains a particular score may end up with a low T-score if his friends all achieve higher scores. Under the new Achievement Level system, the child's score and the achievement level that is associated with it, is determined just by his own performance.

What happens if my child excel in some subjects but weak in others? Will my child progress to secondary school?

Your child's eligibility to any course is dependent on their PSLE score. All four subjects Achievement Levels will be added to form the total PSLE score. The PSLE Score ranges from 4 to 32, with 4 being the best. Your child will be placed in secondary school courses is solely based on their PSLE score. The courses offered are Express, Normal (Academic) or Normal (Technical).

The table here illustrates the possible outcomes your child may get based on their performance at PSLE.

PLACEMENT OUTCOME	PSLE SCORE
EXPRESS	4 – 20
EXPRESS / N(A) OPTION	21 – 22
N(A)	23 – 24
N(A) / N(T) option	25
N(T)	26-30, with AL7 or better in both EL and MA

All students must attain at least AL7 or better in both English and Mathematics in order to be eligible to progress to Secondary School. English Language and Mathematics are critical for building strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, in order for the child to access future education options. A grade of AL 7 or better in these subjects indicates that the student possesses the foundational knowledge and skills to cope with the demands of the secondary school curriculum. Failure to meet this criteria would likely mean that your child cannot progress to Secondary School.

What is the possible Placement Outcome for my child if he gets AL 6 for 3 subjects and AL 1 for 1 subject?

Based on the Achievement Level table, your child will get a total PLSE score of 19. He / she will be eligible for Express course at secondary school.

Is the Achievement Level for NTIL subjects similar to the other subjects?

The Achievement Level for NTIL subject is the same as the rest of Mother Tongue Language subjects.

What is the selection criteria if there are more students with the same AL scores applying to the school than the number of places available?

Students will be offered a Placement Outcome based on their academic merit. Their PSLE Score remains the first criterion for secondary school posting. If two students with the same PSLE Score vie for a place in a school, the following tie-breakers will be used:

1. Citizenship
2. Choice order of schools
3. Computerised Balloting

What is Integrated Programme (IP) and Third Language?

The IP is a 6-year course leading to GCE A-Level examination or International Baccalaureate Diploma or NUS High School Diploma. Students in the IP do not need to take the GCE O-Level examination at Secondary 4. You may find out more information via MOE website:

- <https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/courses/express/integrated-programme>

Third Language is taken by students who wish to study a Foreign Language at secondary school. To be **eligible to apply** to study a Foreign Language as a Third Language, applicants must satisfy all **three criteria**:

1. Students must be ranked in the top 10% of their Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) cohort.
2. They must be a Singapore Citizen (SC) or Singapore Permanent Resident (SPR), or the child of a SC/SPR.
3. They must have offered a Mother Tongue Language at the PSLE.

To apply for an Asian Language course, students must have gained admission to the Express or Normal (Academic) course.

What are the grades for Higher Mother Tongue subjects?

Higher Mother Tongue results will be reflected as Distinction, Merit or Pass. Please refer to the table below:

Higher Mother Tongue Grade	Higher Mother Tongue Grade
Distinction	80 - 100
Merit	65 - 79
Pass	50 - 64

Do I need to choose the course for my child at secondary school when selecting schools during the Secondary 1 option process?

Parents need not make any choice if your child is already offered a placement outcome such as Express, Normal Academic or Normal Technical. However you will need to choose the course if your child is given an option between Express / Normal Academic OR Normal Academic / Normal Technical course.

How do I make my choices of secondary school for my child?

After receiving PSLE results, you and your child can shortlist the secondary schools, and submit the school choices to MOE **within one week after the release of PSLE results**. Here are the steps:

1. Your child will receive a personalised S1 Option Form and Eligibility Letter along with their PSLE results.
2. Discuss secondary school options with your child. The courses and schools available to your child will depend on their PSLE results. Then, complete the S1 Option Form.

3. Use the S1 Option Form to prepare the information required for the online submission.
4. Submit your child's choices, either through the S1 Internet System or through your child's primary school.

When will we know the secondary schools Achievement level Cut-Off Point?

MOE will release them in the first half of 2021. The indicative AL COPs will be based on simulations using students' PSLE results and school choice patterns from the 2020 PSLE cohort. How will this inform

Can my child apply for DSA in an area that is not offered by the secondary school?

You and your child should only apply to secondary schools of your choices in the talent areas that is offered at the school. Within the same school, students can apply for two different talent areas.

DIRECT SCHOOL ADMISSION (DSA)

How do I apply for secondary school through DSA for my child?

Application will have to be done on the DSA website:

- <https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/dsa>

How many schools can I apply through DSA for my child?

During the application, parents and students are able to choose up to three schools and three talent areas. Within the same school, students can apply for two different talent areas.

Can my child apply for secondary schools through DSA if she did not represent school for any competition?

Yes. Direct School Admission for secondary schools allows students to apply to some schools before sitting for PSLE. Students apply based on their talent in sports, CCAs and specific academic areas. Application for DSA-Sec is 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)

If there is a need for students to prepare a portfolio if they are applying for DSA to specialised schools like SOTA? If so, will the school support my child in preparing for it?

Parents and Students who are interested to apply to SOTA will continue to apply directly to SOTA via the TA Portal because of their unique admission requirements. Do note that application to SOTA does not count towards the three (3) choice limit on the MOE DSA-Sec Portal. Please refer to the website to better understand the application process:

- <https://www.sota.edu.sg/admissions/talent-academy/dsa-sec>

If a portfolio is required, FHPS will provide necessary support to your child and information needed by the secondary school.

My child is learning sports that are not offered as CCA at Fuhua. Can he still apply for DSA under this talent?

Your child can still apply for DSA under the area of sports talent that he is passionate in. If your child has attained certain achievements in the area of specific sport such as winning certain competitions, the secondary schools may also take that into consideration in processing the DSA application.

Can my child who is a prefect apply for DSA? If so what kind of achievement documentation that we need to submit during the application process?

Application for DSA-Sec is based on a wide-range of talents which include leadership such as prefects. Parents and students need not submit any proof of achievement or contribution during the DSA application process. All information on your child's participation in or contribution to the school will be provided by the primary school on the School Cockpit System which secondary schools can have access to.

Will the school provide a recommendation letter for my child when we apply for DSA?

Primary schools are not required to provide testimonial or recommendation letter for students who wish to apply for DSA. Your child's record of achievement as well as his

participation in the various competitions will be reflected on the School Cockpit System. He can register for DSA with the secondary schools that offer sports as their DSA and the information of his achievement can be retrieved by the secondary school.

If my child's DSA application is successful and offered a place in a secondary school, can she choose a different school after the release of PSLE results?

If your child is successful in securing a secondary school (means offered a place in the secondary school and also accepted the offer) through DSA, he / she is not allowed to submit school choices during the Secondary 1 (S1) posting process or transfer to another school. Your child must commit to their chosen school for the duration of the programme.

If my child is offered a place in all the secondary school he applied through DSA, what should I do?

Parents will decide to accept the offer from one of the secondary schools. If your child is admitted to a secondary school through DSA-Sec, they are not allowed to submit school choices during the Secondary 1 (S1) posting process. Your child may still be eligible to submit course option and Third Language options. Your child will receive an Eligibility Letter enclosed with the PSLE results if this applies to your child. You must submit these options within one week of receiving the PSLE results.

If your child is not admitted to a secondary school through DSA-Sec, they must participate in the S1 posting process. Parents should submit your child's secondary school choices by the last day of S1 school choice submission period.

Sources of information:

Ministry of Education Websites:

- <https://www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/psle-fsbb/psle/main.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pp5rWUMMtlc>
- <https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/dsa>