

Entrance Examination and Curricula of Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) Secondary Schools

Entry Requirement

Since DSS schools may admit their own students, they are free to establish reasonable and professionally sound criteria for recruitment and admission of students which are consistent with the tradition and educational objectives of individual schools. However, DSS schools should ensure that parents are well aware of these admission criteria. Some concern has been expressed that if DSS schools set their own entrance examinations, some primary schools may tend to distort their curriculum to suit the entrance examinations and there may be a serious backwash effect on teaching. DSS schools, therefore, should not conduct any written entrance tests or examinations when recruiting S1 students.

Curriculum

2. Another feature of the DSS is the freedom that DSS schools enjoy with regard to curriculum. DSS secondary schools are required to offer principally a curriculum targeted at local students. The school is required to prepare its students to sit for the relevant local public examinations. It is hoped that such schools will offer a variety of subjects to cater for the special needs of their students. In order that parents can choose what they consider to be the right curriculum for their children, DSS schools will be required to give a full description of their curricula, with an indication of any new items, in their annual prospectuses.