

**Refinement of Secondary One (S1) Admission Arrangements
for “Through-train” Schools**

S1 admission arrangements for P6 students in “through-train” schools

An eligible P6 student of a “through-train” primary school may choose to proceed to his / her linked secondary school direct or acquire an S1 place through the SSPA System. For the latter case, he / she will be treated with the same arrangement as the students in other participating primary schools without “through-train” linkage under the SSPA System.

2. In recognition of the “through-train” linkage that will enhance student support, “through-train” primary schools are provided with the discretion to extend the existing repeater mechanism to cover their P6 students **as from the SSPA 2020/2022 cycle** (i.e. applicable to the P1 cohort admitted to the “through-train” primary schools in the 2016/17 school year and thereafter). While “through-train” primary schools may have the discretion to adopt this measure, they are required to follow the principles set out below:

- (i) The arrangement for a student to repeat at P6 is in the best interest of the student concerned;
- (ii) The prevailing regulations of repeater mechanism for primary schools should be complied with, i.e. students can repeat only once in their primary schooling and the whole-school annual repetition rate is capped at 3%;
- (iii) In consultation and agreement with schools’ stakeholders, schools are required to formulate a set of school-based criteria for arranging students to repeat at P6 which are educationally sound, objective, fair and transparent;
- (iv) Schools are required to set up a proper mechanism to handle appeal cases;
- (v) The criteria and appeal mechanism should be made known to key stakeholders before the new repeater mechanism is implemented; and
- (vi) The students concerned, after repeating at P6 for one school year, will still be eligible for opting for direct admission to S1 of their “through-train” secondary schools.

3. On the basis of paragraph 2 above and when repeater arrangement for P6 students is implemented, the “through-train” primary schools are required to closely observe the following principles and procedures pertinent to the arrangements of the SSPA System:

- (i) If a “through-train” primary school assesses that a student’s academic performance is unlikely to catch up with the required standard after adopting various support measures, it must, at the end of P5, clearly inform the student and his / her parents in writing of the possibility of repeating at P6 unless there is improvement in the student’s academic performance in the first term of P6.
- (ii) In the case of requiring a student to repeat after assessing his / her examination results and / or other tests / assessments in the first term of P6, school must inform the student and his / her parents in writing by **early December** such that they can consider repeating at P6¹ in the school in the following school year or acquiring an S1 place of another secondary school through the SSPA System.
- (iii) In case the student concerned has already opted to proceed to its “through-train” secondary school before he / she is notified of the requirement to repeat at P6, school is required to inform the School Places Allocation (SPA) Section of the EDB **in or before early December** by resubmitting the “List of Students Opting In / Opting Out of “Through-train” School (TT888)²” to indicate the change in the status of the student concerned, i.e. the student will not opt in as he / she is required to repeat at P6 in the coming school year.
- (iv) If a student would like to apply for an S1 place of another secondary school instead of repeating at P6, the school should notify the SPA Section in writing of the change in the status of the student concerned and provide him / her with relevant forms and documents **before the end of December** to allow the student concerned to acquire an S1 place through the SSPA System by applying for DP of other secondary schools, and participating in the CA under the SSPA System should his / her DP application(s) not be successful.
- (v) For any appeal against the requirement of repeating at P6, the case should be handled in accordance with the established appeal mechanism by the “through-train” primary school and settled **by the end of March the latest**. The school is required to notify the SPA Section in writing of the final status of the student concerned, i.e. to proceed to the “through-train” secondary school, to repeat at P6 in the new school year, or to apply for an S1 place of another secondary school by participating in the CA under the SSPA System, **no later than the end of March**.

¹ The Internal Assessment (IA) results at the end of P5 by those P6 students who repeat in the “through-train” primary schools **cannot** be carried forward to the next SSPA cycle.

² According to the prevailing arrangements, “through-train” schools are required to submit the duly completed “List of Students Opting In/Opting Out of “Through-train” School (TT888)” to the SPA Section in early November.

Admission of P6 students of other schools to “through-train” secondary schools

4. 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(s) so that students of other primary schools can still be admitted through the DP or CA process under the SSPA System.

5. “Through-train” secondary schools should in principle reserve not less than 15% of the total number of their S1 places for admitting students of other primary schools through DP or CA. Under the modes of linkage involving more than one secondary school, the same principle should apply to each secondary school involved. In exceptional cases, the EDB may exercise discretion to allow schools which cannot meet the 15% requirement to form “through-train” on condition that not less than 7% of the total number of their S1 places should be set aside for admitting students of other primary schools.

6. To allow a better mix of students, “through-train” secondary schools have to participate in both DP and CA under the SSPA, and will be provided with the flexibility to reserve up to a maximum of 30% of the total S1 places for DP (just like other participating secondary schools in the public sector). This measure will be implemented **starting from the SSPA 2015/2017 cycle** as follows:

- (i) To reserve not less than 15% of the total number of S1 places for admitting P6 students of other primary schools through DP or CA under the SSPA; and
- (ii) To allocate not less than **7.5%** of the total number of S1 places for admitting other P6 students through CA and the remaining places through DP with the ceiling capped at 30% of the total number of S1 places; or
- (iii) To allocate half of the reserved places for DP and half for CA in the exceptional cases of less than 15% of the total number of S1 places being reserved for admitting other P6 students.