

**Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) System 2019/2021  
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**

**Allocation System**

<b>Q(1)</b>	What is the Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) System?
<b>A(1)</b>	<p>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).</p> <p>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. For the 2019/2021 allocation cycle, the application for DP was conducted between 4 January 2021 and 18 January 2021.</p> <p>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. To facilitate choice making in CA, each P6 student will be distributed, through his/her attending school, a “Notes for Parents on Central Allocation”, a “Secondary One Choice of Schools Form” (Choice Form) and a “Secondary School List” (for parents’ reference in filling in Part B of the Choice Form) for the school net he/she belongs to by mid-April 2021. Each primary school is also distributed several copies of “Handbook for Unrestricted School Choices” (for parents’ reference in filling in Part A of the Choice Form).</p> <p>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 2021. For details of the SSPA System, parents may refer to the information leaflet and the DVD on the SSPA System.</p>
<b>Q(2)</b>	How are school places allocated under Central Allocation (CA)?
<b>A(2)</b>	<p>After the deduction of repeater and discretionary places, the remaining places of a secondary school are used for CA. Of the CA places, about 10% are for unrestricted school choices and parents may choose not more than 3 schools (including schools in the net their children belong to) from any districts. The remaining about 90% of CA places are for restricted school choices. Parents can choose a maximum of 30 schools within the school net of their children. In the process of school places allocation, the Unrestricted School Choices in Part A of all students will be processed first, then followed by their Restricted School Choices in Part B.</p>
<b>Q(3)</b>	What principles are adopted in Central Allocation (CA)?
<b>A(3)</b>	<p>CA is done basing on the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Student’s allocation band;</li> <li>(b) Parental choice of schools; and</li> <li>(c) Random number.</li> </ul> <p>For features of CA, parents may refer to the “Notes for Parents on Central Allocation” distributed by the School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau by mid-April 2021.</p>

<b>Q(4)</b>	How are parental choices processed in the Central Allocation stage?
<b>A(4)</b>	<p>In the process of school places allocation, the Unrestricted School Choices in Part A will be processed first. Only after the school choices of all students in Part A are processed will the computer begin to process Restricted School Choices in Part B.</p> <p>When processing the Unrestricted School Choices in Part A, the computer will first process the school choices of students in Territory Band 1. After screening all school choices of the students in the Band, the computer will follow the same procedure to process the school choices of students in Territory Band 2 and finally those of students in Territory Band 3. Students who are successful in obtaining places in Part A will not be allocated places in Part B again. If students are not allocated school places after their school choices in Part A are exhausted, they will be allocated school places in Part B.</p> <p>When processing the Restricted School Choices in Part B, the computer will process the school choices of students in Net Band 1 first. After screening all school choices of the students in the Band, if some students are still not allocated school places, they will be allocated the remaining places in the school net. After all students in Net Band 1 have been allocated school places, the computer will follow the same procedure to process the school choices of students in Net Band 2 and finally those of students in Net Band 3.</p>
<b>Q(5)</b>	What is the use of the random number?
<b>A(5)</b>	<p>Before the process of Central Allocation, the computer will generate a random number for every student to determine the order of allocation within the same allocation band. If the number of available school places in a school is less than the demand, students with smaller random numbers will be allocated to the school first. The random number is neither related to a student's Student Reference Number (STRN) nor to his/her personal particulars. During the allocation process, each student will be assigned one random number only. The random number will not be retained after the allocation procedure is completed.</p>

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**Allocation Bands**

<b>Q(1)</b>	How are the students' school internal assessment (IA) results scaled?
<b>A(1)</b>	For the Central Allocation (CA) in the SSPA 2019/2021, the average of the sampled results of the Pre-Secondary 1 Hong Kong Attainment Tests (Pre-S1 HKAT) in 2016 and 2018 of the school is used as the scaling tool. If a school (e.g. a new school) does not have the Pre-S1 HKAT results in 2016 or 2018, the average Pre-S1 HKAT results of all primary schools within the same school net in the corresponding year will be used for scaling.
<b>Q(2)</b>	How are students' allocation bands determined? What are they used for?
<b>A(2)</b>	<p>The allocation bands of students are determined according to their scaled internal assessment (IA) results, i.e. the standardised IA results of the students at the end of Primary 5 (P5), and both in mid-year and at the end of Primary 6 (P6) scaled by a scaling tool and then averaged. However, in view of the impact of COVID-19 epidemic, the Education Bureau (EDB) has decided to allow schools to, if necessary, submit the P5 second term and P6 first term IA scores or order of merit of their students in a combined way in the SSPA 2019/2021. The IA results of each school will be subject to scaling under the same mechanism.</p> <p>For processing Unrestricted School Choices in Part A, the scaled marks of all students in the territory will be put into an order of merit. Then the students will be equally divided into three Territory Bands, each consists of 1/3 of the total number of primary school students in the territory. As for Restricted School Choices in Part B, the scaled marks of all students within the same net will be put into an order of merit. Then the students will be equally divided into 3 Net Bands, each consisting of 1/3 of the total number of primary students in the school net. The Net Bands are used for allocating school places restricting to students' school nets.</p> <p>The Territory Band and the Net Band are used to determine the order of school places allocation of students for unrestricted school places and restricted school places respectively. They are not absolute standards in assessing the academic performance of students. The allocation band of individual students will not be retained after the allocation procedure is completed.</p>
<b>Q(3)</b>	Will a student's Territory Band be the same as his/her Net Band?
<b>A(3)</b>	In processing the Unrestricted School Choices in Part A, students in the territory are put into an order of merit according to their scaled marks and divided into 3 Territory Bands (each consists of 1/3 of the total number of primary school students in the territory). In processing the Restricted School Choices in Part B, the scaled marks of all students within the same school net will be put into an order of merit. Then the students will be equally divided into 3 Net Bands (each consists of 1/3 of the total number of primary school students in the school net). Hence, a student's Territory Band and his/her Net Band may be different.
<b>Q(4)</b>	If a student transfers to a primary school with better allocation results, will he/she have a greater chance of obtaining a higher allocation band?
<b>A(4)</b>	The allocation band of a student is determined by his/her scaled internal assessment (IA) results. Therefore, when a student enrolls in a primary school with better allocation results, he/she must work hard to get good IA results for obtaining a higher allocation band. In a primary school with better allocation results, the competition is keen in general. It will be more difficult to obtain a higher rank order in IAs. As such, parents should choose a school for their children which matches their standard and aptitude.

<b>Q(5)</b>	If a student is approved for cross-net allocation, how is his/her allocation band determined in the new school net?
<b>A(5)</b>	If a student is approved for cross-net allocation, his/her scaled marks obtained in the original school will be compared with the scaled marks of the students in the new school net for determining his/her Net Band in the new school net. In other words, the student's Net Band in the original school net and his/her Net Band in the new school net may be different.

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**Choice-making Exercise in Central Allocation**

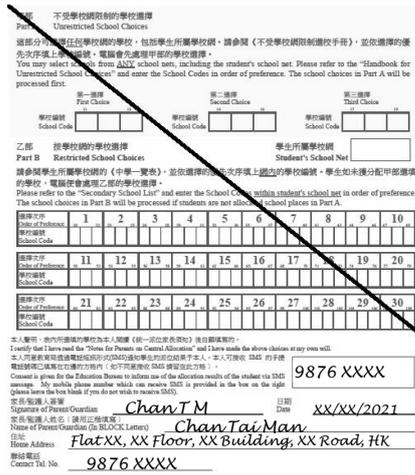
<b>Q(1)</b>	What should parents take note of when filling in the “Secondary One Choice of Schools Form” (Choice Form)?
<b>A(1)</b>	<p>(a) Parents, when filling in the Part A of the Choice Form, should check with care the school code and make sure that it matches with the one printed in the “Handbook for Unrestricted School Choices”. For the Unrestricted School Choices under Part A, parents may choose schools from any districts. If a wrong school code is entered, the computer would allocate a school place accordingly. In other words, a school place would be allocated to their child.</p> <p>(b) Parents should make reference to the school codes printed in the “Handbook for Unrestricted School Choice” and the “Secondary School List” of the school net to which the student belongs when filling in the Part A and Part B of the Choice Form respectively. Parents should fill in the school codes carefully and the invalid entries would not be processed. Besides, if parents have chosen a secondary school which will not offer Secondary 1 (S1) places under the SSPA System in this allocation cycle, that school choice will not be processed.</p> <p>(c) The computer will first process the school choices in Part A. A student successful in obtaining a school place in Part A will not be allocated a place in Part B. Hence, parents should fill in the school(s) they most preferred in Part A. As there are more provision of school places in Part B and students would most likely be allocated a school place, parents should try to fill in as many schools as possible so that their children would be allocated a school place of their preference.</p>
<b>Q(2)</b>	How should parents make school choices for their children?
<b>A(2)</b>	<p>Before making school choices, parents should study the “Handbook for Unrestricted School Choices”, the “Secondary School List” of the school net to which the student belongs and the “Notes for Parents on Central Allocation” and watch the DVD on “Secondary School Places Allocation System” distributed by the Education Bureau in October last year. They should also seek advice from their primary schools, then basing on the ability and aptitude of their children, choose not more than 3 schools from any districts and enter them in Part A of the “Secondary One Choice of Schools Form” (Choice Form) in order of priority. Then, parents should choose a maximum of 30 schools from the “Secondary School List” and enter them in Part B of the Choice Form according to their preference. In Central Allocation, the school choices under Part A Unrestricted School Choices will be processed before Part B Restricted School Choices. In other words, a student’s school choices under Part B will not be processed if he/she is allocated a school place under Part A. Or, if a student is not allocated a place in Part A, his/her school choices under Part B will be processed.</p>

<b>Q(3)</b>	How can parents obtain more information about the secondary schools they want to choose?
<b>A(3)</b>	Parents can refer to the “Secondary School Profile 2020/2021” which was compiled by the Committee on Home School Cooperation and distributed to parents in December 2020. Parents can also visit the school websites via the link on the web version of “Secondary School Profile” ( <a href="https://www.chsc.hk/secondary/en">https://www.chsc.hk/secondary/en</a> ) to obtain the information of the secondary schools. School information, including school name, address, telephone number, finance type, planned number of available school places etc., has been included in the “Handbook for Unrestricted School Choices” (Handbook) and the “Secondary School List”. The above two documents have also been uploaded to the Education Bureau (EDB)’s website ( <a href="https://www.edb.gov.hk">https://www.edb.gov.hk</a> ) (Select: Home > Education System and Policy > Primary and Secondary School Education > School Places Allocation Systems > Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) System). Parents may also make use of the facsimile service provided by the Automatic Telephone Enquiry System (Telephone no.: 2891 0088) to obtain information in the Handbook. Parents may also make enquiries to the schools direct by referring to the telephone number as shown in the above documents.
<b>Q(4)</b>	Can parents refer to the “Secondary School List” of another student?
<b>A(4)</b>	Parents should refrain from doing so. This is because there are 18 school nets in Hong Kong, each consisting of different school choices. The “Secondary School List” of another student may be of a different school net.
<b>Q(5)</b>	How can parents learn more about their children’s academic results in order to facilitate them to make school choices?
<b>A(5)</b>	Parents may consult the primary schools their children are attending for their children’s academic performance as well as the past allocation pattern of the schools. They may then making reference to the above information to make appropriate school choices for their children.
<b>Q(6)</b>	Should parents just fill in several favourite secondary schools as their school choices?
<b>A(6)</b>	Parents should fill in not more than 3 different schools in Part A and a maximum of 30 different schools in Part B. Filling in a few favourite school choices or repeating the same choices at different priorities in the same part will not increase the chance of their children being allocated to these schools. On the contrary, it may increase the risk of their children being allocated to schools outside their choices. It should be noted that in Central Allocation, the school choices in Part A, the Unrestricted School Choices, will be processed before Part B, the Restricted School Choices. Hence, parents should just fill in schools of their high preference in Part A. However, since the number of school places in Part B is greater and students will have a greater chance of being allocated school places in Part B, parents should therefore try to fill in more school choices as far as possible in Part B so that their children will have a greater chance of being allocated to schools of their choices.

Q(7)	Should parents put the school(s) which they have applied to in the Discretionary Places (DP) stage as the first (and second) choice(s) or include it/them in the “Secondary One Choice of Schools Form” (Choice Form) as one/two of the school choices?
A(7)	<p>In making school choices, if school(s) applied in the DP stage is/are in the student’s school net and parents still wish their children to be allocated to the school(s), they may include the school(s) in Part A and Part B of the Choice Form as their school choices.</p> <p>However, if the school(s) they have applied to in the DP stage do(es) not belong to their school net, parents should only make it/them as the school choice(s) in Part A of the Choice Form.</p> <p>The priority of the school choice(s) is at the parents’ own discretion.</p>
Q(8)	If parents do not make any school choices in Part A, the Unrestricted School Choices and just make school choices in Part B, the Restricted School Choices, will their children be allocated to schools chosen under Part B at a higher priority?
A(8)	No. According to the allocation process, the school choices in Part A, the Unrestricted School Choices, will be processed before the school choices in Part B, the Restricted School Choices. In processing the Unrestricted School Choices in Part A, the computer will first screen the school choices of Territory Band 1 students, then the school choices of Territory Band 2 students and lastly, the school choices of Territory Band 3 students. The computer will process school choices in Part B only after school choices in Part A of all students have been processed. In processing the Restricted School Choices in Part B, the computer will first screen the school choices of Net Band 1 students until they all are allocated school places. Then the computer will screen the school choices of Net Band 2 students and lastly, the school choices of Net Band 3 students with the same procedure.
Q(9)	Is it necessary for parents to complete the “Secondary One Choice of Schools Form” (Choice Form) in the Central Allocation stage if their children have applied for discretionary place(s) in school(s) participating in SSPA or a Secondary 1 place of Jockey Club Ti-I College?
A(9)	<p>Parents should complete and submit the Choice Form. If the parents have been notified by the secondary schools participating in the SSPA System of their children’s inclusion in the Successful Lists for Discretionary Places or their children are admitted by Jockey Club Ti-I College, they only have to sign on the Choice Form after filling in contact information and cross out the parts on school choices to indicate that they do not have to make school choices (please refer to the diagram below).</p> <div data-bbox="651 1458 1066 1921" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>If parents do not make any school choices and have not indicated their intention of not participating in Central Allocation on the Choice Form, and the students are neither allocated a school place at the Discretionary Places stage, nor admitted by Jockey Club Ti-I College/ Direct Subsidy Scheme secondary schools <u>not participating</u> in the SSPA System (NDSS secondary schools), the students will be allocated school places according to the established allocation mechanism.</p>

**Q(10)** If a student has been admitted by a Direct Subsidy Scheme secondary school not participating in SSPA (NDSS secondary school) and has also completed the registration procedure, does his/her parent still need to complete the “Secondary One Choice of Schools Form” (Choice Form)?

**A(10)** Parents should complete and submit the Choice Form. If a student is admitted by an NDSS secondary school and his/her parent has signed an undertaking with and surrendered his/her “Primary 6 Student Record Form” to the school, or admitted by other schools (e.g. international schools or private schools) and decided not to participate in Central Allocation (CA), his/her parent should sign on the Choice Form after filling in contact information and cross out the parts on school choices to indicate the intention of not participating in CA (please refer to the diagram below).



If parents do not make any school choices and have not indicated their intention of not participating in CA on the Choice Form, and the students are neither allocated a school place at the Discretionary Places stage, nor admitted by Jockey Club Ti-I College/NDSS secondary schools, the students will be allocated school places according to the established allocation mechanism.

**Q(11)** If parents agree to obtain the allocation results of students via SMS, how should they indicate on the “Secondary One Choice of Schools Form” (Choice Form)? Do the students still need to collect their allocation results from their attending primary schools?

**A(11)** The Education Bureau will inform parents of their children’s allocation results via SMS messages. Parents wishing to receive the related SMS message, may provide a mobile phone number which can receive SMS messages in the specified box (please refer to the diagram below) on the Choice Form, in order to indicate their consent to receive these SMS messages via this mobile phone number. The arrangements for students to collect their allocation results from their attending primary schools, as well as other administration arrangements related to the announcement of allocation results, will remain unchanged.



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**School Net**

<b>Q(1)</b>	What are school nets?
<b>A(1)</b>	In line with district administration boundaries, the whole territory is divided into 18 school nets. Each school net comprises all the participating primary and secondary schools physically located in the district and a number of different types of secondary schools in other districts providing school places for the net. The secondary schools and school places from other districts may vary from year to year. Except for students whose applications for cross-net allocations are approved, the school net to which a student belongs is determined by the location of the primary school the student attends, not the district where the student resides.
<b>Q(2)</b>	How are school nets arranged?
<b>A(2)</b>	Given the uneven distribution of secondary schools among school nets and demographic movement, it has been a long established practice of making netting arrangements when there is a shortage of school places in a district. Factors to be considered include the demand and supply of school places in each district, the locations of schools and the availability as well as accessibility of transportation means between school nets and the established pattern, etc. We will, in consultation with the Secondary School Places Allocation Committee, draw up the netting arrangements of a respective year after due consideration of stakeholders' views regarding the arrangements under the SSPA System.
<b>Q(3)</b>	Has the Education Bureau considered the factor of public transport in arranging school nets?
<b>A(3)</b>	In arranging school nets, the basic principle is to minimise unnecessary cross-district allocation. If there is a genuine need for cross-district allocation due to insufficient school places in certain school nets, the availability and accessibility of transportation means will also be duly considered.
<b>Q(4)</b>	Is there any special netting arrangement for the number of EMI school places in each school net?
<b>A(4)</b>	The arrangement for fine-tuning of medium of instruction (MOI) for secondary schools has been implemented since the 2010/11 school year. Schools are no longer classified into schools using Chinese as the MOI ("CMI schools") or schools using English as the MOI ("EMI schools"). To cater for the different needs of students, the MOI modes in schools will become more diversified, including CMI, CMI with extended learning activities in English, CMI/EMI in different subjects and total EMI immersion. When choosing schools for their children, parents are advised not to focus on the schools' MOI, but should consider holistically the school ethos, characteristics, support and related measures and assess whether the schools can help develop their children's abilities and interests, and promote their personal growth. Furthermore, when making school net arrangements, the Education Bureau follows the principle all along adopted (i.e. considering the supply and demand of school places of the districts concerned, location of schools and service facilities for transportation). Other factors such as the MOI arrangements adopted by schools would not be considered.
<b>Q(5)</b>	What is the difference between the number of school places listed in the "Handbook for Unrestricted School Choices" and that in the "Secondary School List"?
<b>A(5)</b>	Parents should refer to the "Handbook for Unrestricted School Choices" (Handbook) in filling in Part A Unrestricted School Choices of the "Secondary One Choice of Schools Form" (Choice Form). The "Planned Places for All Nets" listed in the Handbook is for all students in the territory and parents may choose not more than 3 schools in any districts in Part A.  In filling in Part B Restricted School Choices of the Choice Form, parents should refer to the "Secondary School List". The "Planned S1 Places for This Net" shown in the "Secondary School List" is for students in the corresponding school net. Parents may choose a maximum of 30 schools in student's school net in Part B.

<b>Q(6)</b>	Will a student be allocated to a school in his/her school net but which he/she has not chosen?
<b>A(6)</b>	If a student is not allocated a place after all his/her school choices have been exhausted, the computer will allot a place to him/her from other schools with remaining places in his/her own school net.
<b>Q(7)</b>	Will a student be allocated to a school in other districts?
<b>A(7)</b>	A student will be allocated to a school in other districts under the following circumstances:  (a) The student may have been admitted by a school in another district in the Discretionary Places stage or allocated a school place in another district chosen under Part A Unrestricted School Choices in Central Allocation stage; or  (b) In each school net, there are secondary schools physically located in the district and a number of secondary schools in other districts for the parents' choice. Students may be allocated to a secondary school in another district which provides school places for his/her school net.
<b>Q(8)</b>	If a student moves to another school net, but he/she misses the chance to apply for cross-net allocation, what can the parents do?
<b>A(8)</b>	Usually, the deadline of application for cross-net allocation is in early March. If a student has not applied for cross-net allocation, he/she will participate in Central Allocation in the original school net. If the student wishes to transfer to another school, he/she should first register with the allocated school after the release of allocation result. Then he/she may enquire or apply for transferral to a secondary school near his/her new place of residence directly. He/she should bring along copies of Birth Certificate, the Allocation Slip and recent school reports for school's reference. Whether the student will be admitted is at the discretion of the school.
<b>Q(9)</b>	What is the difference between the school netting arrangements of this year and those of last year?
<b>A(9)</b>	As there are variations in the number of Primary 6 participants from year to year, the demand for places of a district in different years may increase or decrease and hence the number of school choices and number of school places required from other districts will have to be adjusted accordingly. In general, any shortage of school places in own district would be met by school places provided by schools in other districts. When school places in own district are adequate to meet the demand, school places from schools in other districts would not be included. The school netting arrangements are based on the principle all along adopted and in consultation with the Secondary School Places Allocation Committee. This is to ensure that sufficient supply of school places is provided for each school net (whenever a shortage of school places arises, surplus places from neighbouring districts are netted-in to alleviate the deficit), as well as to increase the parental choices in the school nets.

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**Feeder/Nominated Schools**

<b>Q(1)</b>	What are the Secondary 1 (S1) admission arrangements for Primary 6 (P6) students studying in schools under the Feeder/Nominated School Scheme?
<b>A(1)</b>	<p>After the deduction of repeater and discretionary places, a feeder/nominated secondary school has to reserve 85%/25% of the remaining S1 places for its feeder/nominated primary school(s). A P6 student who is studying in a feeder/nominated school is eligible for a reserved place in his/her parent secondary school if:</p> <p>(a) he/she is in Net Band 1 or 2; and</p> <p>(b) has chosen the feeder/nominated secondary school as his/her first choice in Part B Restricted School Choices</p> <p>If the linked secondary school accepts Net Band 3 students, students in all 3 bands will be eligible. Parents may make enquiries to the linked secondary school direct.</p> <p>If the eligible students outnumber the reserved places, allocation will be conducted basing on students' Net Band and their random numbers until all the reserved places are filled.</p>
<b>Q(2)</b>	How can parents know whether their children's primary school has feeder/nominated secondary school(s)?
<b>A(2)</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>Parents should note that if a student studying in a feeder/nominated primary school is approved for cross-net allocation, he/she will not be eligible for a reserved place of the feeder/nominated secondary school(s).</p>
<b>Q(3)</b>	For a Primary 6 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 Choice and Part B Restricted School Choices?
<b>A(3)</b>	In the Central Allocation 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.
<b>Q(4)</b>	Will an eligible student of a feeder/nominated primary school not be allocated to his/her feeder/nominated secondary school?
<b>A(4)</b>	<p>A student may not be allocated to his/her feeder/nominated secondary school for the following reasons:</p> <p>(a) The student has not made the feeder/nominated secondary school as his/her first school choice in Part B Restricted School Choices as required;</p> <p>(b) The eligible feeder/nominated Primary 6 students outnumber the reserved places of the school;</p> <p>(c) 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; or</p> <p>(d) The student has been approved for cross-net allocation.</p>

## “Through-train” Schools

<b>Q(5)</b>	What are the Secondary 1 (S1) admission arrangements for a Primary 6 (P6) student studying in a “through-train” school?
<b>A(5)</b>	A P6 student of a “through-train” school may choose to proceed direct to its linked secondary school without going through any selection process. If he/she decides to apply for an S1 place in another secondary school, a discretionary place of another secondary school and/or participate in Central Allocation, he/she will not be allowed to retain the right to proceed direct to its linked secondary school.
<b>Q(6)</b>	Do students of other primary schools have a chance to study in a “through-train” secondary school?
<b>A(6)</b>	All “through-train” schools are required to comply with the principle that the number of Secondary 1 (S1) places in a linked secondary school must exceed the number of Primary 6 graduates in its linked primary school so that students of other primary schools can still be admitted through applying for discretionary places or participating in Central Allocation. “Through-train” secondary schools, both existing and newly-operated, should in principle reserve not less than 15% of the their total number of S1 places, after the deduction of repeater places, for admitting students of other primary schools through Discretionary Places application or Central Allocation.

## Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) Secondary Schools

<b>Q(7)</b>	What should parents take note of if they wish to send their children to a DSS secondary school?
<b>A(7)</b>	Parents should note that DSS secondary schools may be fee charging. Students having completed Secondary 3 in DSS secondary schools may be promoted to Secondary 4 (S4) in their own schools and will not be centrally placed to S4 in other schools subvented by the Education Bureau.
<b>Q(8)</b>	Are there any differences in the allocation of Secondary 1 (S1) places between DSS secondary schools participating in the SSPA system and government, aided and caput schools?
<b>A(8)</b>	The school places allocation procedures for participating DSS secondary schools and government, aided and caput schools are basically the same except that participating DSS secondary schools may reserve more than 30% of the S1 places as Discretionary Places. The schools are still required to reserve 10% of the school places for Central Allocation (CA) for the allocation under Unrestricted School Choices. Besides, the S1 places of participating DSS secondary schools are allocated on a “no-choice-no-allocation” principle in CA (i.e. students will not be allocated to participating DSS secondary schools in CA unless they have included them in their school choices.)
<b>Q(9)</b>	What are the points to note in relation to the school places allocation for students who participate in SSPA and are admitted by DSS secondary schools <u>not participating</u> in the SSPA system (NDSS secondary schools)?
<b>A(9)</b>	Once a student is admitted by NDSS secondary schools and his/her parent accepts the offer, his/her parent will be required to sign an undertaking with the school concerned to the effect that he/she agrees to give up any other Secondary 1 (S1) places subsidised by the government. The parent will also be required to surrender the “Primary 6 Student Record Form” of the child to the school. These students will not be allocated any other S1 places.  Please <a href="#">click here</a> to browse the list of Direct Subsidy Scheme Secondary Schools <u>not participating</u> in Secondary School Places Allocation 2019/2021.

**Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) System 2019/2021**  
**Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**

**Allocation Arrangement for Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) Students**

<b>Q(1)</b>	Under the existing allocation arrangement, how should NCS students make school choices?
<b>A(1)</b>	<p>All eligible children, irrespective of their races or places of birth, enjoy equal opportunities for admission to Secondary One of public sector schools under SSPA. NCS and Chinese-speaking students have no difference in making school choices under SSPA. NCS students may also choose secondary schools from any school nets in Part A and from the school nets to which they belong in Part B at the Central Allocation stage.</p> <p>Parents of NCS students should take into account the abilities, aspirations and needs of their children when making school choices. Parents may seek advice from the primary schools that their children are attending, and refer to the school information on the school nets their children belong to. To assist parents of NCS students in choosing public sector schools, the Education Bureau (EDB) has made available information on admission to schools in major ethnic minority languages. Dedicated briefing sessions with simultaneous interpretation services are held annually for parents of NCS students. Since the 2015/16 school year, the Committee on Home-School Co-operation (CHSC) has published the English printed version of the Secondary School Profiles for distribution to parents of NCS students at Primary 6 via primary schools for their easy access to the information in the profiles. To provide parents of NCS students with more comprehensive information on making school choices, a separate column on “Education Support for NCS Students” has been added to the Secondary School Profiles for schools to provide key information on their support for NCS students starting from the 2018/19 school year. All public sector secondary schools and Direct Subsidy Scheme secondary schools offering the local curriculum which admit NCS students and are provided with additional funding are required to specify the schools’ additional support measures for enhancing NCS students’ learning of Chinese and the creation of an inclusive learning environment in the schools. The Secondary School Profiles are uploaded to the Chinese and English versions of the CHSC’s webpage. EDB encourages schools to continue enriching the contents of the Chinese and English versions of Secondary School Profiles and school webpages.</p>
<b>Q(2)</b>	What are the support measures for NCS students provided by the Education Bureau (EDB) to facilitate their learning of Chinese?
<b>Q(2)</b>	<p>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. In this connection, EDB has implemented a series of measures since the 2014/15 school year to step up the support for NCS students to facilitate their effective learning of Chinese, including the implementation of the “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework” (“Learning Framework”) in primary and secondary schools. To facilitate the implementation of the “Learning Framework” and the creation of an inclusive learning environment in schools, starting from the 2014/15 school year, EDB has also substantially increased the additional funding to schools and provided schools with teaching resources, teacher training and professional support.</p> <p>For details of the support measures, please visit <a href="#">EDB website</a>.</p>