

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

Central Allocation Mechanism

(1) Q What are the criteria for Central Allocation (CA)?

A CA is based on a student's allocation band, parental choice of schools and random number. For allocation procedures of CA, parents may refer to the "Notes for Parents on Central Allocation" distributed by the Education Bureau (EDB) in early April 2025.

(2) Q How are school places allocated under CA?

A After the deduction of repeater and discretionary places (DP), 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 three schools (including schools in the net their children belong to) from any districts, while 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.

(3) Q What is the computer allocation procedure for CA?

A The "Unrestricted School Choices" in Part A are processed first. Only after the school choices of all students in Part A have been processed, the computer will begin to process the "Restricted School Choices" in Part B.

When processing the "Unrestricted School Choices" in Part A, the computer will first allocate school places to students in Territory Band 1 according to their order of preference of school choices. After screening the school choices of all these students, 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 successful in obtaining a place in Part A will not be allocated a place in Part B. If a student is not allocated a school place in Part A after all his/her school choices have been exhausted, he/she will be allocated a place in Part B.

When processing the "Restricted School Choices" in Part B, the computer will first allocate school places to students in Net Band 1 according to their order of preference of school choices. If a student in Net Band 1 cannot be allocated a school place even after all his/her school choices have been exhausted, the computer will allocate a place to him/her from the remaining places in the school net¹. Until after all the students in Net Band 1 have been allocated school places, the computer will follow the same procedure to process the choices of students in Net Band 2 and finally those of students in Net Band 3.

If parents have chosen a secondary school which eventually does not offer Secondary 1 (S1) places under the Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) System in this allocation cycle, that school choice will not be processed².

¹ Excluding Direct Subsidy Scheme schools and schools with the remark "Students will not be allocated to this school unless they have included it in their choices".

² During the allocation procedures, the computer will omit the school choice(s) concerned and advance the subsequent school choices (if any) in the Secondary One Choice of Schools Form (Choice Form).

(4) Q What is the random number used for?

A The random number is generated by the computer before running the central allocation program. It is used to determine the order of allocation of students within the same allocation band. If the demand for school places of a certain secondary school exceeds the supply, the student possessing a smaller random number within the same allocation band will be allocated a place first. The random number has no connection with the “Student Reference Number” or the student’s personal data. 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.

Choice-making Exercise in Central Allocation

(5) Q When will parents receive the choice-making documents for CA and when is the deadline for submitting Secondary One Choice of Schools Form (Choice Form)?

A Parents of Primary 6 (P6) students who have submitted DP applications via the eSSPA in this cycle have to submit CA applications via the eSSPA and will not receive a paper Choice Form.

Parents of P6 students who have not submitted DP applications via the eSSPA in this cycle will receive a paper Choice Form. They may decide to submit CA applications via the eSSPA or in paper form.

Parents of participating P6 students of the current cycle will receive the related choice-making documents through their children's attending primary schools in early April 2025.

Parents must return the completed Choice Form to EDB through their children's attending primary schools by early May 2025. As for electronic submission, parents have to be registered as eSSPA users and bound their account to "iAM Smart+"³ beforehand, and submit CA application to the attending primary school via the eSSPA between 9 April 2025 and 6 May 2025. Parents should not submit duplicate applications via the eSSPA and in paper form for the same child. For eSSPA account creation and login procedures, please refer to the related videos and Parents' Guide uploaded to EDB Homepage (www.edb.gov.hk) (Select: Home > Education System and Policy > Primary and Secondary Education > School Places Allocation Systems > Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) System > Digitalisation of S1 Admission).

(6) Q What should parents take note of when filling in the Choice Form?

A Parents are strongly advised to consider the schools in all respects, such as their educational philosophy, tradition, religion, class structure, development and operation, and their children's characteristics, personalities, abilities and interests so as to make a suitable school choice.

The Choice Form is divided into Part A and Part B. For Part A "Unrestricted School Choices", parents may choose a maximum of three secondary schools from any school nets, including schools in their children's own school net. As for Part B "Restricted School Choices", parents should fill in schools from the school net to which their children belong in the order of their preference and fill up the 30 choices as far as possible. If the secondary schools they have indicated in Part A are also located in their children's school net, they may include these schools in Part B. However, parents should not make repeated choices of the same school in the same part as this will not increase the chance of their children being allocated to the school.

Parents, when filling in 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". Since school choices in Part A are not restricted by school nets, even if parents mistakenly enter a wrong school code (viz. school code of another school instead of their preferred school), the computer will still process the school choice accordingly, potentially resulting in their child being allocated to that school. Parents should make reference to the School Codes printed in the "Secondary

³ For details of the "iAM Smart+" registration, please visit the "iAM Smart" Homepage (<https://www.iamsmart.gov.hk>) (Select: Home > "iAM Smart" Registration > Registration Methods).

School List” of the school net to which the student belongs when filling in Part B of the Choice Form. 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 does not offer S1 places under the SSPA System in this allocation cycle, that school choice will not be processed.

During the allocation procedures process, the computer will first process the school choices in Part A, and then the school choices in Part B. Therefore, 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 will most likely be allocated a school place therein, parents should try to fill in as many schools as possible by school choices provided in the “Secondary School List”, to increase the chance of their children to be allocated a school place of their preference.

(7) Q Is it necessary for parents of all participating students to complete the Choice Form in the CA stage?

A Whether or not students have applied for a DP of a participating secondary school (including Jockey Club Ti-I College), they must return the completed Choice Form via the eSSPA or in paper form to EDB through the primary schools by early May 2025. This is to ensure that in case they have not been successful in their application to these schools, they will still be allocated an S1 place in CA.

For students who have been notified by the participating schools as successful DP applicants, or have been admitted by Jockey Club Ti-I College or Direct Subsidy Scheme secondary school not participating in the SSPA System (NDSS secondary school), please select “Do NOT need to make school choices on the Secondary One Choice of Schools Form” (please refer to the diagram below) to skip the parts on school choices in Part A and Part B, and sign digitally with “iAM Smart+”, along with confirming and submitting the Choice Form via the eSSPA.

Apply for Central Allocation

☐ Make school choices on the Secondary One Choice of Schools Form

☒ Do NOT need to make school choices on the Secondary One Choice of Schools Form as the child has been notified as successful Discretionary Places applicant or admitted by Direct Subsidy Scheme secondary schools not participating in the SSPA System (i.e. give up participating in Central Allocation)

☐ Do NOT need to be allocated a subsidised S1 place through the SSPA System (i.e. give up participating in the SSPA System)

For parents who submit the paper Choice Form, please select “Do NOT need to make school” on the Choice Form, cross out the parts on school choices, and sign on the Choice Form after filling in contact information to indicate that they do not have to make school choices (please refer to the diagram below).

請在以下其中一個空格內填上 ✓ 號： Please tick one of the boxes below:

☐ 需要填寫學校部分 (請填寫本表格甲部及乙部的學校選擇)
Make school choices (Please fill in the school choices in Part A and Part B on this form)

☒ 不需要填寫學校部分。因學生已獲參加派位中學通知為自行分配學位正取學生，或已獲貴局會轉介中學或不參加派位的直接資助計劃中學錄取 (即放棄參加派位)
Do NOT need to make school choices as the student has been notified as successful Discretionary Places applicant, or has been admitted by Jeckey Club T1-1 College or Direct Subsidy Scheme secondary schools not participating in the Secondary School Places Allocation System (i.e. give up participating in Central Allocation)

☐ 不需要透過中學學位分配辦法獲分配資助中一學位 (例如學生將於中國內地升學) (即放棄參加派位)
Do NOT need to be allocated a subsidised Secondary 1 place through the Secondary School Places Allocation System (for example, the student will study in Mainland China) (i.e. give up participating in the Secondary School Places Allocation System)

部 Part A 不受學校網限制的學校選擇 Unrestricted School Choices
任何學校網的學校，包括學生所屬學校網。請參閱《不受學校網限制選校手冊》，並依選擇的優先次序填上學校編號。電腦會先處理甲部的學校選擇。
ANY school net, including the student's school net. Please refer to the "Handbook for Unrestricted School Choices" and enter below the School Codes in order of preference. The school choices in Part A will be processed first.

第一選擇 First Choice 第二選擇 Second Choice 第三選擇 Third Choice

學校編號 School Code

乙部 Part B 按學校網的學校選擇 Restricted School Choices 學生所屬學校網 HK2
Student's School Net

請參閱學生所屬學校網的《中學一覽表》，並依選擇的優先次序填上網內的學校編號。學生如未獲分配甲部選擇的學校，電腦會處理乙部的學校選擇。
Please refer to the "Secondary School List" and enter below the School Codes within student's school net in order of preference. The school choices in Part B will be processed if students are not allocated school places in Part A.

選擇次序 Order of Preference	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
學校編號 School Code										

選擇次序 Order of Preference	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
學校編號 School Code										

選擇次序 Order of Preference	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
學校編號 School Code										

本人聲明：表內所選擇的學校為本人閱讀《統一派位家長須知》後自願填寫的。I certify that I have read the "Notes for Parents on Central Allocation" and I have made the above choices at my own will.

本人同意教育局透過電話短訊形式(SMS)通知學生的派位結果予本人。本人可接收 SMS 的手機電話號碼已填寫在右邊的方格內 (如不同意接收 SMS 請留此方格) 。 Consent is given for the Education Bureau to inform me of the allocation results of the student via SMS messages. My mobile phone number which can receive SMS is provided in the box on the right (please leave the box blank if you do not wish to receive SMS).

9876 XXXX

家長/監護人簽署 Signature of Parent/Guardian Chan T M 聯絡電話 Contact Tel. No. 9876 XXXX 日期 XX/XX/2025

家長/監護人姓名 (請用正楷填寫) Name of Parent/Guardian (In BLOCK Letters) Chan Tai Man

住址 Home Address Flat XX, XX Floor, XX Building, XX Road, HK

In case the student **does not need** to be allocated a subsidised S1 place through the SSPA System (for example, the student will study in Mainland China), and decides to give up participating in the SSPA System, the parent has to fill in contact information under the page for “Apply for Central Allocation” on the eSSPA, then select “Do NOT need to be allocated a subsidised S1 place through the SSPA System” (please refer to the diagram below) to skip the parts on school choices in Part A and Part B, and sign digitally with “iAM Smart+”, along with confirming and submitting the Choice Form via the eSSPA.

Apply for Central Allocation

- ☐ Make school choices on the Secondary One Choice of Schools Form
- ☐ Do NOT need to make school choices on the Secondary One Choice of Schools Form as the child has been notified as successful Discretionary Places applicant or admitted by Direct Subsidy Scheme secondary schools not participating in the SSPA System (i.e. give up participating in Central Allocation)
- ☐ Do NOT need to be allocated a subsidised S1 place through the SSPA System (i.e. give up participating in the SSPA System)

請在以下其中一個空格內填上「✓」號：Please tick one of the boxes below:

☐ 需要填寫學校部分（請填寫本表格甲部及乙部的學校選擇）
Make school choices (Please fill in the school choices in Part A and Part B on this form)

☐ 不需要填寫學校部分。因學生已獲參加派位中學通知為自行分配學位正取學生，或已獲賽馬會體驗中學或不參加派位的直接資助計劃中學錄取（即放棄參加統一派位）
Do NOT need to make school choices as the student has been notified as successful Discretionary Places applicant, or has been admitted by TDSHS, SHS or College of Saint Joseph Secondary School not participating in the Secondary School Places Allocation System (otherwise you need to give up participating in Central Allocation)

☒ 不需要透過中學學位分配辦法獲分配資助中學一學位（例如學生將於中國內地升學）（即放棄參加派位）
Do NOT need to be allocated a subsidised Secondary 1 place through the Secondary School Places Allocation System (for example, the student will study in Mainland China) (i.e. give up participating in the Secondary School Places Allocation System)

甲部 Part A 不受學校網限制的學校選擇 Unrestricted School Choices
任何屬校網的學校，包括學生所屬學校網。請參閱〈不受學校網限制選校手冊〉，並依選擇的優先次序填上學校編號。電腦會先處理甲部的學校選擇。
ANY school net, including the student's school net. Please refer to the "Handbook for Unrestricted School Choices" and enter below the School Codes in order of preference. The school choices in Part A will be processed first.

第一選擇 First Choice	第二選擇 Second Choice	第三選擇 Third Choice
學校編號 School Code	學校編號 School Code	學校編號 School Code

乙部 Part B 按學校網的學校選擇 Restricted School Choices 學生所屬學校網 HK2
Student's School Net

請參閱學生所屬學校網的《中學一覽表》，並依選擇的優先次序填上網內的學校編號。學生如未獲分配甲部選擇的學校，電腦便會處理乙部的學校選擇。
Please refer to the "Secondary School List" and enter below the School Codes within student's school net in order of preference. The school choices in Part B will be processed if students are not allocated school places in Part A.

優先次序 Order of Preference	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
學校編號 School Code										

優先次序 Order of Preference	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
學校編號 School Code										

優先次序 Order of Preference	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
學校編號 School Code										

本人簽署，我內所填的學校為本人閱讀《統一派位家長須知》後自願填寫的。I certify that I have read the "Notes for Parents on Central Allocation" and I have made the above choices at my own will.
本人同意接收透過電話短訊形式(SMS)通知學生的派位結果予本人，本人可接收 SMS 的手機電話號碼已填寫在右邊的方格內；如不願接收 SMS 請通知此方格。 Consent is given for the Education Bureau to inform me of the allocation results of the student via SMS message. My mobile phone number which can receive SMS is provided in the box on the right (please leave the box blank if you do not wish to receive SMS).

家長/監護人簽署 Chan T M 聯絡電話 9876 XXXX 日期 XX/XX/2025
Signature of Parent/Guardian Contact Tel. No. Date
家長/監護人姓名（請用正確填寫） Chan Tai Man
Name of Parent/Guardian (in BLOCK Letters)
住址 Flat XX, XX Floor, XX Building XX Road, HK
Home Address

6

(8) Q How should parents make school choices for their children?

A 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 pay attention to the remark(s) of the school, if any. They should also watch the videos “Secondary School Places Allocation System 2023/2025 Cycle” uploaded on EDB Homepage (<https://www.edb.gov.hk>) (Select: Home > Education System and Policy > Primary and Secondary Education > School Places Allocation Systems > Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) System), and seek advice from their children’s attending primary schools. Following that, parents should base on the characteristics, personalities, abilities and interests of their children, choose not more than three schools and enter them in Part A of the Choice Form in order of priority. Then, parents should choose schools from the “Secondary School List”, enter them in Part B of the Choice Form according to their preference and fill up the 30 choices as far as possible. In CA, 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. Instead, if a student is not allocated a place in Part A, his/her school choices under Part B will be processed.

(9) Q How can parents obtain more information about the secondary schools they want to choose?

A Parents can refer to the “Secondary School Profile 2024/2025” which was compiled by the Committee on Home School Cooperation and distributed to parents in December 2024. Parents can also visit the school websites via the link on the web version of “Secondary School Profile” (<https://www.chsc.hk/secondary/en>) 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 two above documents have also been uploaded to EDB website (<https://www.edb.gov.hk>) (Select: Home > Education System and Policy > Primary and Secondary 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) (Press 2 (English) > 5 (Fax Services) > 04 (Secondary School Places Allocation System: School Lists)) 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.

(10) Q Can parents refer to the “Secondary School List” of another student?

A 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 and is not applicable.

(11) **Q When making school choices, what should parents pay attention to if they want to make reference to their children’s academic results in their primary schools?**

A Parents may consult the primary schools their children are attending for their children’s academic results as a reference for making school choices.

Under the existing mechanism, after all primary schools participating in the SSPA submit their students’ internal assessment (IA) results at the end of Primary 5 (P5) and both in mid-year and at the end of P6, the computer will adjust the IA results by using the average of the sampled results of the Pre-Secondary One Hong Kong Attainment Test (Pre-S1 HKAT) of the school as the scaling tool. The central allocation computer program will run after the number of participating students in the territory and within individual school nets has been finalised. Therefore, students’ Territory Band and Net Band can only be determined when the computer allocation process starts. In other words, it is impossible to accurately estimate individual students’ allocation band based solely on their marks/order of merit and the academic performance of students from previous cohorts of the same school. Students’ actual allocation band may differ from the estimates made by schools or parents. Parents should be prudent when making reference to the relevant school choices information.

For the explanation on the scaling mechanism and allocation bands, please refer to the related video uploaded on EDB homepage. (Select: Home > Education System and Policy > Primary and Secondary Education > School Places Allocation Systems > Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) System > Video on the Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) System 2023/2025 Cycle)

Video on the scaling mechanism and allocation bands



(12) **Q Should parents just fill in several favourite secondary schools as their school choices?**

A Parents should fill in not more than three 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 chance of their children being allocated to schools outside their choices. It should be noted that in CA, 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 up the 30 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.

- (13) **Q Can parents choose the school(s) which they have submitted application(s) to in the DP stage in Part A and Part B of the Choice Form as one/two of the school choices?**
- A 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 choose the school(s) in Part A and Part B of the Choice Form as their school choices and the priority of the school choice(s) is at the parents' own discretion.
- However, if the school(s) they have applied to in the DP stage do(es) not belong to their school net, parents should only choose it/them in Part A of the Choice Form, and the priority of the school choice(s) is at the parents' own discretion.
- (14) **Q 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 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.
- 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", their child will miss the opportunity to be allocated to preferred school(s) in Part A.
- (15) **Q If parents agree to obtain the allocation results of students via SMS, how should they indicate on the Choice Form? Do the students still need to collect their allocation results from their attending primary schools?**
- A EDB will successively inform parents of their children's allocation results via SMS messages starting from 10 a.m. on the day for announcement of allocation results this cycle (i.e. 8 July 2025). Parents wishing to receive the related SMS message should provide a mobile phone number which can receive SMS messages in the specified box on the Choice Form, in order to indicate their consent to receive these SMS messages at this mobile phone number. Besides, parents registered as eSSPA users may view the allocation results via the eSSPA starting from 10 a.m. on the day for announcement of allocation results this cycle. 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.

Allocation Bands

(16) Q How are the students' IA results scaled?

A For the CA in the SSPA 2023/2025, the average of the sampled results of the Pre-S1 HKAT in 2018 and 2024 of the school is used as the scaling tool. If a school (e.g. a newly participating school) does not have the Pre-S1 HKAT results in 2018 or 2024, the overall Pre-S1 HKAT results of all participating primary schools within the same school net in the corresponding year will be used as the scaling tool.

(17) Q How are the allocation bands determined? What are they used for?

A Students get their allocation bands according to their scaled IA results. Students' IA results at the end of P5, and both in mid-year and at the end of P6 will be standardised, and scaled by the average of the sampled results of the Pre-S1 HKAT 2018 and 2024 of the school. For the schools which do not have the sampled results of the Pre-S1 HKAT 2018 or 2024 (e.g. a newly participating school), the overall Pre-S1 HKAT results of all participating primary schools within the same school net in the corresponding year will be used as the scaling tool.

For the allocation of school places in Part A "Unrestricted School Choices" of CA, 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 consisting of one-third of the total number of primary students in the territory. As regards allocation of school places in Part B "Restricted School Choices" of CA, 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 three Net Bands, each consisting of one-third of the total number of primary students in the school net.

While Territory Band and Net Band are used to determine the order of allocation of a student for "Unrestricted School Choices" in Part A of CA and "Restricted School Choices" in Part B of CA respectively, they are not the absolute standard for assessing P6 students' academic performance. After the allocation procedure is completed, the allocation band of individual students will not be retained.

Please note that, under the existing mechanism, after all primary schools participating in the SSPA submit their students' IA results at the end of P5 and both in mid-year and at the end of P6, the computer will adjust the IA results by the above scaling mechanism. The central allocation computer program will run after the number of participating students in the territory and within individual school nets has been finalised. Therefore, students' Territory Band and Net Band can only be determined when the computer allocation process starts. In other words, it is impossible to accurately estimate individual students' allocation band based solely on their marks/order of merit and the academic performance of students from previous cohorts of the same school. Students' actual allocation band may differ from the estimates made by schools or parents. Parents should be prudent when making reference to the relevant school choices information.

For the explanation on the scaling mechanism and allocation bands, please refer to the related video uploaded on EDB homepage. (Select: Home > Education System and Policy > Primary and Secondary Education > School Places Allocation Systems > Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) System > Video on the Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) System 2023/2025 Cycle)



- (18) **Q Will a student's Territory Band be different from his/her Net Band?**
- A The scaled marks a student obtained in his/her primary school will be compared with the scaled marks of students in the territory to determine the Territory Band he/she belongs to. Likewise, the scaled marks he/she obtained in his/her primary school will be compared with the scaled marks of the students in the same school net to determine the Net Band he/she belongs to. In other words, a student's Territory Band and his/her Net Band may be different.
- (19) **Q If a student is approved for cross-net allocation, how is his/her Net Band determined in the new school net? Any changes to his/her Territory Band?**
- A For a student approved for cross-net allocation, the scaled marks he/she obtained in the school in his/her original school net will be compared with the scaled marks of the students in the new school net to determine the Net Band he/she belongs to. In other words, the student's Net Band in the new school net may be different from that in his/her original school net. As for the student's Territory Band, it will not be changed due to the approval for cross-net allocation.
- (20) **Q Are participating primary schools still required to submit the IA results of students who have been notified as successful DP applicants for the determination of their allocation bands?**
- A Under the notification arrangements, the existing SSPA mechanism remains unchanged. Participating primary schools are still required to submit the IA results at the end of P5, in the mid-year and at the end of P6 for all students (including those who are notified by participating secondary schools as successful DP applicants or those who are admitted by NDSS secondary schools). In the CA stage, the scaled marks of all participating students in the territory/same school net will be put into an order of merit by a computer. Then the students will be equally divided into three territory/net bands, each consisting of one-third of the total number of participating students in the territory/same school net. In other words, the number of students in each band is determined by the total number of participating students, the allocation bands of all participating students (including those who are notified as successful DP applicants) will be determined based on their scaled IA results.

School Net

(21) Q What is School Net? How are the secondary school nets demarcated?

A In line with the district administration boundaries, the whole territory is divided into 18 secondary school nets for the allocation of school places as CA in Part B is done by school net. 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 schools places from other districts may vary from year to year. According to the existing policy, except for those students whose applications for cross-net allocations are approved, in principle, the secondary school net to which a student belongs is determined by the physical location of the primary school the student attends, not the district where the student resides.

(22) Q How are school nets arranged?

A Provision of public sector S1 places is planned on a territory-wide basis. To ensure an adequate supply of school places to meet the demand and to provide students with more school choices in districts with a smaller number of school places, netting of school places from other districts is a long-established arrangement which can also address the concerns and needs of different stakeholders. When making netting arrangements, EDB takes into consideration a basket of factors, such as the demand and supply of school places in different districts, the distribution of school types, location of schools and the associated transport facilities as well as the established netting pattern, to ensure a sufficient supply of school places in each district and provide parents with more choices. We will, in consultation with the SSPA Committee, draw up the netting arrangements of a respective year after due consideration of stakeholders' views regarding the arrangements under the SSPA System.

The number of secondary schools and school places provided from other districts may vary from year to year according to the demand and supply situation. Parents should refer to the "Secondary School Lists" distributed every year by EDB for the netting arrangements for the cycle concerned.

(23) Q Will the number of unused school places after the DP stage be shown in the related documents of CA which begins in April be updated to facilitate parents' choice of schools at the CA stage?

A At the DP stage, some students may receive notifications of their successful DP applications from two participating secondary schools and they will eventually be allocated to schools of their first choice according to the existing SSPA mechanism, leaving one school place unoccupied. Besides, some successful applicants may relinquish the DP allocated to them and accept the places offered by NDSS secondary schools. The places allocated to these successful DP applicants will also be rendered available. Under the existing SSPA mechanism, some students may be allocated with these unused DP in the capacity of reserve applicants and the remaining places will be used for the CA. The CA related documents have to be printed in March for distribution to parents for their reference in April. Hence, it is not feasible to update the number of school places concerned due to the tight schedule.

- (24) **Q Is there any special netting arrangement for the number of EMI school places in each school net?**
- A 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. Over the years, when making school net arrangements, EDB has considered the supply and demand of school places of the districts concerned, location of schools, transport facilities, the established netting pattern and the factors alike. Other factors such as the MOI arrangements adopted by schools would not be considered.
- (25) **Q 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”?**
- A Parents should refer to the “Handbook for Unrestricted School Choices” (Handbook) when filling in Part A “Unrestricted School Choices” of the 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 three 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.
- (26) **Q Will a student be allocated to a school in his/her school net but which he/she has not chosen?**
- A If a student is not allocated a place after all his/her school choices have been exhausted, the computer will allocate a place to him/her from other schools with remaining places in his/her own school net (excluding Direct Subsidy Scheme schools and schools with the remark “Students will not be allocated to this school unless they have included it in their choices”) according to the established mechanism. Thus, parents should try to fill in as many schools as possible by school choices provided in the “Secondary School List”, to increase the chance of their children to be allocated a school place of their preference.
- (27) **Q Will a student be allocated to a school in other districts?**
- A 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 DP stage;
 - (b) The student may have been allocated a school place in another district chosen under Part A “Unrestricted School Choices” in CA stage; or
 - (c) 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.

(28) Q What is cross-net allocation?

A The allocation of school places for Part B of CA is done by school net and the school net to which a student belongs is in principle the school net of the primary school he/she attends. If there is a genuine need for a student, with special reasons, to change school net, parents may submit an application for cross-net allocation together with relevant proof documents to EDB through the primary school their child is attending before late February 2025. For parents registered as eSSPA users and bound their account to “iAM Smart +”, apart from the paper application form, they may submit application for cross-net allocation via the eSSPA. Parents should not submit duplicate applications via the eSSPA and in paper form for the same child. The primary school will forward all verified copies of application documents to EDB for further processing. If the student is approved for cross-net allocation to the school net which his/her Hong Kong residential address (i.e. a dwelling place at which the applicant student resides and which constitutes his/her sole or main home) belongs to, he/she will participate in Part B of CA in the new school net.

(29) Q What should parents take note of when declaring the applying student’s residential address and providing relevant proof documents if they wish to apply for cross-net allocation?

A Parents should note that the applying student’s residential address should be his/her only or principal place of residence in Hong Kong in the current allocation cycle, i.e. a dwelling place at which the applicant student resides and which constitutes his/her sole or main home. Acceptable Hong Kong residential address proof documents include stamped tenancy agreement, demand note for rates and/or government rent, tenancy agreement or tenant’s rent card issued by the public housing authorities, residential telephone/home broadband bill, and the bills from various utility companies, like Towngas, power companies, Water Supplies Department, etc. Other documents such as bank statements, mobile phone bills, court summons and tax demand notes will not be accepted. Besides, the name and address of the parent (i.e. the payer) must be printed on the Hong Kong residential address proof document.

(30) Q If students have applied for DP to one or two secondary schools before they apply for cross-net allocation, and have cancelled their DP application(s) because of their cross-net application, do their parents have to fill out the Choice Form at the CA stage?

A Under the existing SSPA mechanism, students may cancel one or both of their DP applications if they need to apply for cross-net allocation. If they have cancelled one or both of their DP applications because of their cross-net application, even if they have been notified as successful applicants under the notification arrangements, the DP concerned will automatically be cancelled. If all the DP offered by participating secondary schools have been cancelled because of cross-net application, the parents concerned will have to fill out the Choice Form so that their children can participate in the CA. If the parents concerned do not make any school choices on the Choice Form and the students concerned have not been offered a school place by any NDSS secondary schools, the students concerned will be allocated with a school place according to the established allocation mechanism.

- (31) **Q 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?**
- A Usually, the deadline of application for cross-net allocation is in late February/early March. If a student has not applied for cross-net allocation, he/she will participate in CA in the original school net. If the student wishes to transfer to another secondary school, he/she should first register with the allocated school after the release of allocation result. Then he/she may enquire or apply for admission to another 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 secondary school concerned.
- (32) **Q What is the difference between the school netting arrangements of this year and those of last year?**
- A As there are variations in the number of P6 participants from year to year, the demand for places of a district in different years may increase or decrease and hence the school choices and respective 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 SSPA 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 other districts are netted-in to alleviate the deficit), as well as to increase the parental choices in the school nets.

Non-Chinese Speaking Students

(33) 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.

(34) 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 judge 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.

(35) Q What are the support measures for NCS students provided by 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, the 2023 Policy Address set out various measures to strengthen the support for NCS students to facilitate their mastery of the Chinese Language for integration into the community, including diversified learning materials under online self-learning resources and after-school Chinese language courses with adapted learning materials for lower primary NCS students, Summer Bridging Programme to cover the whole primary level, and enhanced school-based life planning support services, which have all been completed on schedule. The Chief

Executive's 2024 Policy Address further announced the strengthening of Chinese learning support and parental assistance for NCS students, with initiatives including after-school Chinese language courses and enhancement of the online self-learning resources, as well as cross-school teacher learning communities, etc. EDB will also continue to provide more diversified parent education programmes that cater for the needs of NCS parents. In addition, EDB has launched a parent education resource booklet for parents of NCS students in November 2024 to assist them to support their children's mastery of the Chinese language and whole-person development.

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

School Places Allocation Section
Education Bureau
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