

Secondary School Places Allocation System 2024/2026
(For Admission to Secondary 1 in September 2026)
Frequently Asked Questions

Central Allocation Mechanism

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

A CA is based on a student's allocation band, parental choice of schools and random number.

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.

For allocation procedures of CA, parents may refer to the "Notes for Parents on Central Allocation" uploaded on the [Homepage of the Education Bureau \(EDB\)](#) in early April 2026. Besides, the related video on the allocation procedure will be available on the [EDB's Homepage](#) in due course.

(2) 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.

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".

(3) **Q 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, how will the school choice be processed?**

A If parents have chosen a secondary school which eventually does not offer S1 places under the SSPA System in this allocation cycle, the school choice will not be processed. 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).

Choice-making Exercise in Central Allocation

(4) Q What are the arrangements for distributing school choice documents (including the Choice Form) for CA?

A EDB will distribute the following choice-making documents in early April 2026:

- the “Notes for Parents on Central Allocation”;
- the “Handbook for Unrestricted School Choices”;
- the “Secondary School List” of each school net; and
- the “Secondary One Choice of Schools Form”.

To cater for the needs of different parents, EDB will distribute paper Choice Forms through primary schools to parents who have not submitted discretionary places (DP) applications on the SSPA e-platform (eSSPA) in early April 2026. They may decide to submit CA applications via the eSSPA or in paper form. If parents have submitted DP applications via the eSSPA, they are required to continue using the eSSPA to submit their CA applications.

(5) Q What documents should parents refer to when filling in the Choice Form?

A When filling in the Choice Form, parents should refer to the “Notes for Parents on Central Allocation”, the “Handbook for Unrestricted School Choices” and the “Secondary School Lists” of the respective school net.

“Notes for Parents on Central Allocation”

- will be uploaded on the [EDB’s Homepage](#) and the [eSSPA](#) in early April 2026

“Handbook for Unrestricted School Choices”

- will be uploaded on the [EDB’s Homepage](#) and the [eSSPA](#), and the EDB’s 24-hour Automatic Telephone Enquiry System at 2891 0088 (Press 2 (English) > 6 (Request For Information Through Fax) > 4 (Secondary School Places Allocation System: School Lists)) in early April 2026

“Secondary School List”

- will receive the “Secondary School List” of the respective school net through their children’s attending primary schools in early April 2026
- may also browse the latest online version on the [EDB’s Homepage](#) or on the [eSSPA](#)

(6) Q When is the deadline for submitting the Choice Form?

A Parents who have registered as eSSPA users and bound their account to “iAM Smart+”² may submit CA applications via the eSSPA between 9 April and 6 May 2026. Parents must return the completed electronic or paper Choice Form to their children's primary school for submission to EDB by early May 2026. Parents should not submit duplicate applications via the eSSPA and in paper form to the attending primary school for the same child.

²For details of the “iAM Smart+” registration/ upgrade to “iAM Smart+”, please visit the “iAM Smart” website (<https://www.iamsmart.gov.hk>) (Select: Home > “iAM Smart” Registration > Registration Methods).

(7) **Q What should parents take note of when filling in school choices on 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.

(8) **Q Is it necessary for parents to complete the Choice Form in the CA stage if their children received notifications from secondary schools participating in the SSPA System (participating secondary schools) as successful DP applicants?**

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 2026. 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 choices” 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，或已獲賽馬會體藝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 Jockey Club Ti-I College or Direct Subsidy Scheme secondary schools not participating in the Secondary School Places Allocation System (i.e. give up participating in Central Allocation)

☐ 不需要填寫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)

甲部 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 nets, 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 Student's School Net HK2

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該網內的學校編號。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.

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（如不願接收 SMS 請留空此方格）。Consent is given for the Education Bureau to inform use 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).

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 Date XX/XX/2026
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

If parents select “Make school choices”, but do not make any school choices, and the students are neither allocated a school place at the DP 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.

Allocation Bands

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

- A Students get their allocation bands according to their scaled internal assessment (IA) results. Students' IA results at the end of Primary 5 (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-Secondary One Hong Kong Attainment Test (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 average 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.

The related video on the scaling mechanism and allocation bands will be available on the [EDB's Homepage](#) in due course.

- (10) Q If a student is approved for cross-net allocation, how is his/her Net Band determined in the new school net? Will there be 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 approved cross-net allocation.

School Net

(11) 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 basically comprises all the participating primary and secondary schools located in the district, as well as a number of S1 places from secondary schools in other districts under netting arrangements to cater for the situation of individual schools/school nets. 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. 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.

(12) Q How are school nets arranged?

A Provision of public sector S1 places is planned on a territory-wide basis. Given that the demand and supply of school places in individual districts may have year-on-year changes, to ensure an adequate supply of S1 places to meet the demand and to provide parents with more choices, netting of S1 places from other districts to districts with a smaller number of secondary schools and/or school places is a long-established arrangement which can also strike a balance and address the concerns and needs of different stakeholders as far as practicable. 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, the location of schools and the associated transport facilities, as well as the established netting pattern of S1 places. The EDB 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.

(13) Q Will the number of unused school places after the DP stage, as shown in the related documents of CA which begins in April 2026, be updated to facilitate parents' choice of schools at the CA stage?

A Under the existing SSPA mechanism, 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, 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. These places will be allocated to reserve applicants, and the remaining places (if any) will be used for the CA. The CA related documents have to be printed in March 2026 for distribution to parents for their reference in April 2026. Hence, it is not feasible to update the number of school places concerned due to the tight schedule.

(14) 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 2026. Parent who have registered as eSSPA users and bound their account to “iAM Smart+” may submit application for cross-net allocation via the eSSPA. To cater for the needs of different parents, paper Application Form will continue to be accepted. 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 in the current allocation cycle) belongs to, he/she will participate in Part B of CA in the new school net.

(15) 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.

(16) Q May parents cancel their previously submitted DP application(s) because of their cross-net application? Do they 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, and the secondary school(s) concerned should not be located in the district they applied for. In this case, even if the students have been notified as successful applicants, 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.

School Places Allocation Section
Education Bureau
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