

Secondary School Places Allocation System 2023/25
(For Admission to Secondary 1 in September 2025)
Frequently Asked Questions on Application for Subsidised Secondary 1 Place

(1) Q What does it mean by students not participating in Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA)? What are the criteria of the eligibility for allocation of a S1 place in the coming school year ?

- A Students not participating in SSPA refer to those applicants:
- (i) must be a Hong Kong resident / Hong Kong permanent resident;
 - (ii) have never been allocated an S1 place through SSPA;
 - (iii) have never studied in government, aided, caput and DSS secondary schools; and
 - (iv) should finish primary education or equivalent level before the end of August of each school year.

(2) Q What are the supporting documents required when parents submit the application?

- A Parents must bring along with **both the originals and photocopies** of the following supporting documents:
- (i) student applicants' birth certificate;
 - (ii) other identification documents proving that the student applicants are eligible for admission to public sector schools;
 - (iii) academic certificate with the highest level of primary education attained/being attained shown; and
 - (iv) HK address proof

If the symbol "C" is shown on the Hong Kong Identity Card, a valid travel document with a specific endorsement or landing slip should also be brought along.

Regarding the common examples of supporting documents, parents may visit the EDB's 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).

(3) Q Is the applicant required to rank all districts in order of preference?

- A The applicant has to note that incomplete applications that do not rank 18 districts will not be processed. The applicant should indicate the order of preference for each district on the application form. Please list your residential district as the first preference (i.e. choice order 1), followed by the remaining 17 districts in order of your preference, assigning the choice orders 2 to 18.

If the applicants encounter difficulties in ranking the districts, they may consider the following factors:

- Proximity of their residential district to other districts – A map of Hong Kong is provided in the "Points to Note for Parents/Guardians/Authorised Persons" for reference

- Transportation convenience between their residential district and other districts –QR codes linking to the “HKeMobility” webpage are included in the "Points to Note for Parents/Guardians/Authorised Persons". This webpage contains a dedicated section on cross-boundary transportation

(4) Q If there are no public sector secondary school places available in the student applicant’s residential district, how the student applicant is placed with a school place?

A If there are no public sector secondary school places available in the student applicant’s residential district, EDB will consider the order of preference of other districts as stipulated in the application form to place the student applicant in a public sector secondary school in other districts. Whether the student applicant allocated to a public sector secondary school in a nearby district depends on the availability of S1 places in the school in the district(s) concerned.

(5) Q If the student applicant resides in Shenzhen, which residential district should be chosen?

A For student applicants residing in Shenzhen, please fill in any one of the districts: North, Yuen Long, Tuen Mun or Island as the school net based on the immigration control point of Hong Kong / port points of Mainland China or Macao through which the applicant will travel to school in future. For details, please refer to “Points to Note for Parents / Guardians / Authorised Persons for Application for a Subsidised Secondary One Place in the 2025/26 School Year”.

(6) Q Besides the public sector secondary schools, can student applicant apply for Direct Subsidy Scheme secondary schools? How the student applicant is placed with a school place?

A If you would also consider DSS secondary schools for the student applicant, please indicate the choice of DSS secondary school(s) in item 12 of the application form . Placement to public sector secondary schools in the student applicant’s residential district will be arranged first. If these school places are not available, the student applicant’s choices for DSS secondary schools will then be considered. If the DSS schools the student applicant chosen have no school places available, placement of the student applicant to a public sector secondary school in other districts with vacant school places will then be arranged according to the order of preference for each district as stipulated in the application form.

(7) Q Can any amendments be made after the submission of application?

A If you wish to make any amendments to the personal information of the student applicant you have provided in the Application Form (e.g. amend student applicant’s name so as to align with that shown on the renewed identity document) after submission, you should inform the School Places Allocation (SPA) Section at least five working days prior to the date of collection of the A/A Slips for the timely update. As for amendments of other information in the application form, please ensure all changes are completed by the application deadline. Any requests to amend information in the application form or to cancel the application after the deadline will not be processed.

- (8) **Q When will be the application periods? When will be the announcement of results?**
- A Applicants may apply for a subsidised S1 place from May to August of each year. The results of the first batch of applications will be announced in early July of each year, the second batch by the end of July of each year, the third batch in mid-August of each year, and thereafter students will be informed individually.
- (9) **Q If parents cannot visit the SPA Section to submit the application in person owing personal reason, can he/ she authorise a representative to handle the application?**
- A If parents cannot visit the SPA Section to submit the application in person owing to personal reason, he/she may authorise a representative to handle the related procedures on his/her behalf. The authorised person should bring along the original of the letter of authorisation signed by the parent, a copy of the parent's identity document and **both originals and photocopies** of supporting documents required. For details on the requirements of supporting documents, please visit the EDB's 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).
- (10) **Q Can the student applicant apply to any schools direct for a S1 place when waiting for the result of the application?**
- A After the date of the SSPA results release (i.e. 8 July 2025), the student applicant may apply to any schools direct for a S1 place. Should the student applicant receive an offer from a school, the applicant / parent / guardian / authorised person should inform the SPA Section immediately via the school by filling in "Allocation Slip and Admission Slip Application Form" so as to confirm the admission of the student applicant to the school concerned and cancel the applicant's previous application to the Bureau for a S1 place.
- (11) **Q How to get the allocation result?**
- A Parents / guardians / authorised persons may view the allocation results via the following means:
- (i) via SMS: If the parents / guardians / authorised persons have provided a mobile phone number for receiving allocation results via SMS message, a confirmation SMS stating your application number and the date of announcement of results will be issued by the Bureau before the date of announcement of results. Please contact the SPA Section if you have not received the confirmation SMS two days before the date of announcement of results. Furthermore, you will receive the allocation result via mobile phone SMS starting from 10 a.m. on the date of announcement of results.
 - (ii) via SSPA e-Platform: Parents / guardians / authorised person who have registered as SSPA e-Platform users with "iAM Smart" or "iAM Smart+" may view the allocation results via the SSPA e-Platform starting from 10 a.m. on the date of announcement of results. For SSPA e-Platform account creation and login procedures, please refer to the related videos and Parents' Guide uploaded to the EDB's Homepage (www.edb.gov.hk) (Select: Home > Education System and Policy > Primary and Secondary Education > School

(12) **Q Is it a must to collect the Allocation Slip and Admission Slip in person at the School Places Allocation Section?**

A Parents / guardians / authorised persons can opt for receiving the Allocation Slip and Admission Slip (A/A Slips) by post or collecting the A/A Slips in person at the SPA Section. For those opted to receive the A/A Slips by post, the Slips will be mailed to the local residential address or the local postal address (if applicable) provided in the application form. If parents / guardians / authorised persons have not provided a local residential address and local postal address, they have to collect the A/A Slips at the SPA Section.

School Places Allocation Section

Education Bureau

May 2025