Information Leaflet on the Secondary School Places Allocation System
2017/2019 Cycle
Application period is from 3 January to 17 January 2019

No restriction on districts, but apply to NOT MORE THAN TWO participating secondary schools

Students should apply to the preferred secondary school(s) direct

Admission criteria and weightings set by schools

Wish to be Allocated a Subsidised S1 Place

Participate in SSPA System

To Apply for a Discretionary Place

Not To Apply for a Discretionary Place

Fill in Choice of Schools Form
Part A: Unrestricted School Choices
Part B: Restricted School Choices

Central Allocation

Release of SSPA Results (9 July 2019)

Registration (11 and 12 July 2019)

Requirements:
- Being a Hong Kong resident
- Studying in a primary school participating in the SSPA System
- Never been allocated an S1 place

Will be allocated according to a student’s allocation band, parental choice of schools and random number

Will not be centrally allocated a place if already secured a discretionary place

Refer to the Handbook for Unrestricted School Choices and the Secondary School List

Submit the Form to the Education Bureau in early May through the primary school

Should complete and submit the Form whether applied for a discretionary place or not
Secondary School Places Allocation System

The Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) System is divided into two stages: Discretionary Places (DP) and Central Allocation (CA).

Discretionary Places Stage

- All secondary schools participating in the SSPA System are allowed to reserve not more than 30% of their Secondary 1 (S1) places as DP for admission of students*. 
- All participating secondary schools accept applications within the same period. The application period for this cycle is from 3 January to 17 January 2019. 
- The Education Bureau (EDB) will distribute two copies of Application Form for S1 Discretionary Place to each Primary 6 (P6) student in early December 2018. As regards the lists of participating secondary schools accepting application for S1 DP, parents may refer to the Handbook for Application for Secondary 1 Discretionary Places distributed to the primary schools. Parents may also visit EDB’s Homepage (www.edb.gov.hk) or use the fax service of EDB’s 24-hour Automatic Telephone Enquiry System (Tel. 2891 0088) to obtain the lists.
- DP application is not subject to restriction on districts. However, each student may apply to **NOT MORE THAN TWO** participating secondary schools listed in the Handbook for Application for Secondary 1 Discretionary Places, otherwise his/her chance of acquiring a DP will be forfeited.
- Each student is given two copies of Application Form for S1 Discretionary Place, one of which carries Order of School Preference 1 and the other Order of School Preference 2. Order of School Preference 1 stands for the first choice and Order of School Preference 2 stands for the second choice.
- Parents should fill in the name of secondary school applied to on all parts of the Application Form for S1 Discretionary Place according to their order of preference. They should first tear off the part containing the Order of School Preference for retention before submitting the form to the school direct.
- Schools may admit suitable students according to their educational philosophy and characteristics. However, they must make public the admission criteria and weightings prior to admission. Schools may arrange interviews, but no written test should be conducted.
- EDB will match students’ preferences against schools’ Successful and Reserve Lists. If a student is successful in both of the schools to which he/she applies, allocation will be based on the student’s order of preference.
- Successful applicants will not be allocated a place again in CA. Those who have not been successful in obtaining a DP will be allocated an S1 place in CA.
- The results of DP and CA will be released at the same time on 9 July 2019. Parents need not make enquiries to the schools they apply to before the announcement of results.
- Before applying to a school, parents should fully consider all aspects of the school such as its educational philosophy, culture, admission criteria, class structure, development and operation, as well as their child’s abilities, inclinations and interests so as to make a suitable school choice.
- Parents may also seek advice from teachers and make reference to available information about the school(s), or contact the school(s) concerned direct for enquiries.

Central Allocation Stage

- After the deduction of repeater and discretionary places, the remaining places in a secondary school are used for CA. Of the CA places, 10% are for unrestricted school choices, and the remaining 90% are for restricted school choices.
- In line with the administrative districts, the whole territory is divided into 18 school nets. In principle, the secondary school net to which a student belongs is determined by the physical location of the primary school the student attends.

* Participating Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) secondary schools may reserve more than 30% of their S1 places as DP.
Each school net comprises all the participating primary and secondary schools in the district and a number of secondary schools in other districts providing school places for the net. 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.

If change of school net is necessary, parents may submit an application for cross-net allocation to EDB through the primary school their child is attending before early March. A successful applicant will be allocated an S1 place in the new school net for which he/she is approved.

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

Allocation Band

- Students’ internal assessment results will be used for the calculation of allocation bands and other education-related purposes.

- Students’ internal assessment results at the end of Primary 5, and both in mid-year and at the end of P6 will be standardised. The average of the sampled results of the Pre-Secondary One Hong Kong Attainment Test 2016 and 2018 will be used to scale students’ internal assessment results. Since the Pre-Secondary One Hong Kong Attainment Test results will not have a direct bearing on the students’ own allocation results, drilling for the test is not required.

- 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 1/3 of the total number of primary students in the territory. Territory Bands are only for allocation of places for unrestricted school choices.

- As regards allocation of school places in the school nets, 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 three Net Bands, each consisting of 1/3 of the total number of primary students in the school net. Net Bands are only for allocation of places for restricted school choices.

Choice of Schools

- In early April 2019, EDB will distribute to each P6 student a Secondary One Choice of Schools Form and a Secondary School List of the school net he/she belongs to. As regards the lists of schools for unrestricted school choices, parents may refer to the Handbook for Unrestricted School Choices distributed to the primary schools. Parents may also visit EDB’s Homepage (www.edb.gov.hk) or use the fax service of EDB’s 24-hour Automatic Telephone Enquiry System (Tel. 2891 0088) to obtain the lists.

- Before making school choices, parents may seek advice from teachers and make reference to available information about the school(s), or contact the school(s) concerned direct for enquiries.

- The Secondary One Choice of Schools Form is divided into:
  
  Part A : Unrestricted School Choices
  - Parents should refer to the Handbook for Unrestricted School Choices. Based on their preference, they should choose a maximum of three secondary schools from any school nets including the one to which their child belongs, and place them in order of preference in the form.

  Part B : Restricted School Choices
  - Parents should refer to the Secondary School List of the net to which their child belongs. Based on their preference, they should choose a maximum of 30 secondary schools and place them in order of preference in the form.

- Allocation of school places is based on parents’ school choices, and conducted through a computerised allocation process.
Random Number

- The random number is generated by the computer before running the central allocation program. It is used to determine the order of allocation 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.

Allocation Process

- The Unrestricted School Choices in Part A will be processed first, to be followed by 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 Territory Band 3 students.
- 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.
- 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 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 net.
- 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 Net Band 3 students.

Feeder and Nominated Schools

- In general, after the deduction of repeater and discretionary places, a feeder secondary school has to reserve 85% of the remaining places for its feeder primary school(s), and a nominated secondary school 25% of the remaining places for its nominated primary school(s) at the CA stage.
- A P6 student of a feeder or nominated school is eligible for a reserved place if he/she is in Net Band 1 or 2 and has chosen the feeder or nominated secondary school as his/her first choice in Part B.
- If the number of eligible students exceeds the number of reserved places, the order of priority for allocation will be based on the student's Net Band and random number until all the reserved places are filled. All unused reserved places, if any, will be automatically used as open places for open allocation.
- If a P6 student of a feeder or nominated school is approved for cross-net allocation, he/she will not be eligible for a reserved place of the feeder or nominated secondary school(s).

“Through-train” Schools

- A P6 student of a “through-train” school may choose to proceed to its linked secondary school direct. If the student applies for DP of participating secondary schools or S1 places of non-participating DSS secondary schools (no matter successful or not), or participates in CA, he/she will not be allowed to retain the right to proceed direct to the linked secondary school.
- “Through-train” secondary schools, in principle, are required to reserve not less than 15% of their total number of S1 places for admitting students of other primary schools through DP or CA.

Enquiries

Parents seeking further information may contact the School Places Allocation Section of EDB.

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