

Please note:

1. This Handbook provides information on government, aided, caput and Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) secondary schools participating in the Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) System 2023/2025.
2. Each student may apply to **not more than two** secondary schools listed in this Handbook. **Otherwise, his/her discretionary place (DP) applications will be rendered void.** Choice of schools at the DP stage is not subject to restriction on districts, which means that students may apply to schools not physically located in the districts where their primary schools are (i.e. schools in other districts). However, students should note that these schools may not be included in their school net as one of the schools in other districts for central allocation. As regards the lists of schools in other districts for central allocation, students should refer to the Secondary School List published by the Education Bureau (EDB) in April 2025.
3. Secondary schools are required to make public their admission criteria and weightings, their number of Secondary 1 (S1) DP for application as well as other documents required by them and provide applicants with the aforesaid information. Parents should approach the secondary schools to which they intend to apply for the updated aforesaid information.
4. All secondary schools participating in the SSPA System are allowed to reserve not more than 30% of their S1 places as DP for admission of students. Some schools may reserve less than 30% of their S1 places as DP. On the other hand, participating DSS secondary schools may reserve more than 30% of their S1 places as DP.

The DP application period will be the same for all secondary schools listed in this Handbook, **starting from 2 January to 16 January 2025 (both dates inclusive).**

5. Before applying to a school, parents should consider all aspects of a school, e.g. its 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.
6. All secondary schools participating in the SSPA System are required to, after processing DP applications, notify parents of successful applicants of their children's inclusion in the Successful Lists for Discretionary Places on **31 March 2025**. Schools are required to keep parents well informed of the notification arrangements, and collect necessary contact information from parents beforehand. These notification arrangements are not applicable to reserve and unsuccessful applicants, **nor are the notifications the official allocation results**. The parents concerned do not need to reply to the secondary schools on whether they would accept the offers.
7. The New Senior Secondary academic structure aims at cultivating whole-person development of students. Therefore, the class size and overall student population of a secondary school are crucial to students' subject choices, class allocation, and opportunities to participate in diversified learning activities and group interactions. Starting from the 2013/14 school year, EDB has accepted that schools operating at least two classes at each level have the basis to provide students with a broad, balanced and sustainable senior secondary curriculum to cater for their learning needs, broaden their horizons, develop their potential and facilitate their diversified development.

As for schools operating only one S1 class, they can apply to EDB for a school development option. If the schools do not apply for any development option, their applied options are not approved, or the overall performance of the schools are not rated as "good" or above in a Special Review, but they still choose to continue to operate subvented S1 classes, EDB will adopt "per capita subvention mode" to calculate the subvention for the following cohorts of S1 students (including those admitted after the commencement of school year) until they complete Secondary 3 in the same school. Students in the relevant cohorts will then participate in Central Placement and be allocated Secondary 4 places in other subsidised schools for pursuing senior secondary curriculum.

8. Basic information about secondary schools is available in the Secondary School Profiles 2024/2025 distributed in December 2024 by the Committee on Home-School Co-operation.
9. If there is any inconsistency between the Online and the Printed versions of this Handbook, the Online version shall prevail.