

Briefing for Parents of Primary 4 Students

11 March 2022, Friday



Future-Ready Learners with the Heart for Others



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PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Overview of Today's Briefing:



**Subject-Based Banding (SBB) Primary:
Offering Different Subject Combinations**



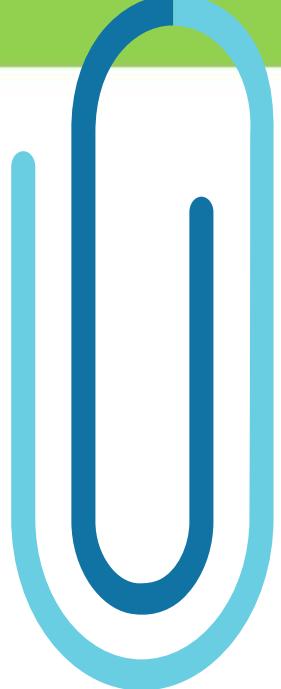
**The Revised PSLE Scoring System 2021
& Secondary 1 Posting**



**Full Subject-Based Banding (SBB) in
Secondary Schools**



**Frequently Asked Questions
(FAQs)**



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Goals of Education: A Vibrant and Cohesive Singapore

1. Nurture the child

- Maximise our children's potential
- Provide multiple pathways to success
- Offer values-based education
- Instill in them a sense of belonging, reality and hope – with a will to act

2. Develop the citizen

- People are Singapore's only “natural resource”
- Education prepares our children for their role in an increasingly uncertain and globalised world





Evolution of Singapore's Education System

Industrialisation



Skills/Capital Intensive



Knowledge Based



Innovation Driven



Survival Driven
(1959 – 1978)



Efficiency Driven
(1979 – 1996)



Ability Based, Aspiration Driven
(1997 – 2011)



Student-centric, Values Driven
(2012 Onwards)



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'Learn for Life'

- New phase of our education system
 - Develop diverse strengths and interests of our students,
 - Nurture an intrinsic motivation to learn
 - Ensure every child has a good start in life, and can access opportunities at every stage of their lives



Support our educators:
**SkillsFuture
for Educators**

Structural change:
**Ignite Joy
of Learning**

Basic purpose:
**Ensure Education
is an Uplifting Force**

Learn for Life



Stay future-ready:
**Refresh Our
Curriculum**

Structural change:
**One Sec Education,
Many Subject Bands**

Hold on to our roots:
**Learn Languages
for Life**

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Ensure Education
is an Uplifting Force

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Nurturing Joy of Learning

- Reduction of School-Based Assessment Load
 - Holistic assessments in primary schools
 - Removal of mid-year exams (P3, P5, and S3 by 2021; **All other levels by 2023**)
- Changes to PSLE Scoring
 - Reduce overly-fine differentiation between students & unnecessary competition
- Broadened Definition of Merit in Admissions
 - Expansion of Direct School Admission (DSA) and refinement to DSA policy
 - Aptitude-based admissions in IHLs
- Applied Learning in schools



SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (SBB) PRIMARY: OFFERING DIFFERENT SUBJECT COMBINATIONS



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“We are evolving towards a more flexible system to cater to students with uneven strengths and abilities. Few students are exceptional in every area, and few students are weak in every subject. Most have some strengths and some weaknesses in their learning, and some areas of study that excite them more than others. We therefore need an approach that encourages every child to find his strengths, regardless of where he stands overall, and which provides him the opportunity to take his interests seriously.”



Mr Tharman Shamugaratnam
Minister for Education, 2006
MOE Work Plan Seminar



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Subject-Based Banding (SBB) Primary

- MOE Subject-based Banding (SBB) in primary schools was introduced in 2008.
- Gives students the opportunity to take a combination of subjects at standard and foundation levels based on their strengths and aptitudes in each subject
- Enables students to stretch their potential in the subjects that they are strong in while building up fundamentals in the subjects that they need more support in
- The new PSLE scoring system will not change the considerations for deciding on a student's subject combination at P4/ P5.



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What SBB means for your child...

- Schools will continue to recommend based on the following:
 - ✓ Student's aptitude, motivation and performance in each subject;
 - ✓ Student's ability to cope with a particular subject combination; and
 - ✓ Whether the subject combination focuses sufficiently on literacy and numeracy, and facilitates the student's articulation to secondary school and beyond.
- Offering subjects at Foundation level is not a disadvantage to the students. It enables them to focus on building up strong fundamentals in these subjects and better prepares them for progression to secondary school.



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What SBB means for your child...



STANDARD

1. English Language
2. Mathematics
3. Mother Tongue
4. Science



FOUNDATION

1. English Language
2. Mathematics
3. Mother Tongue
4. Science



HIGHER MT

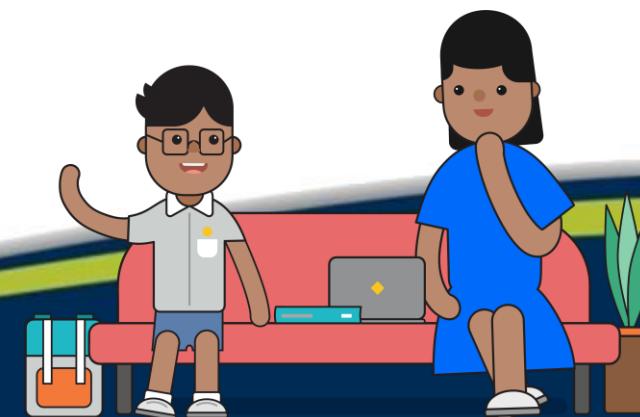
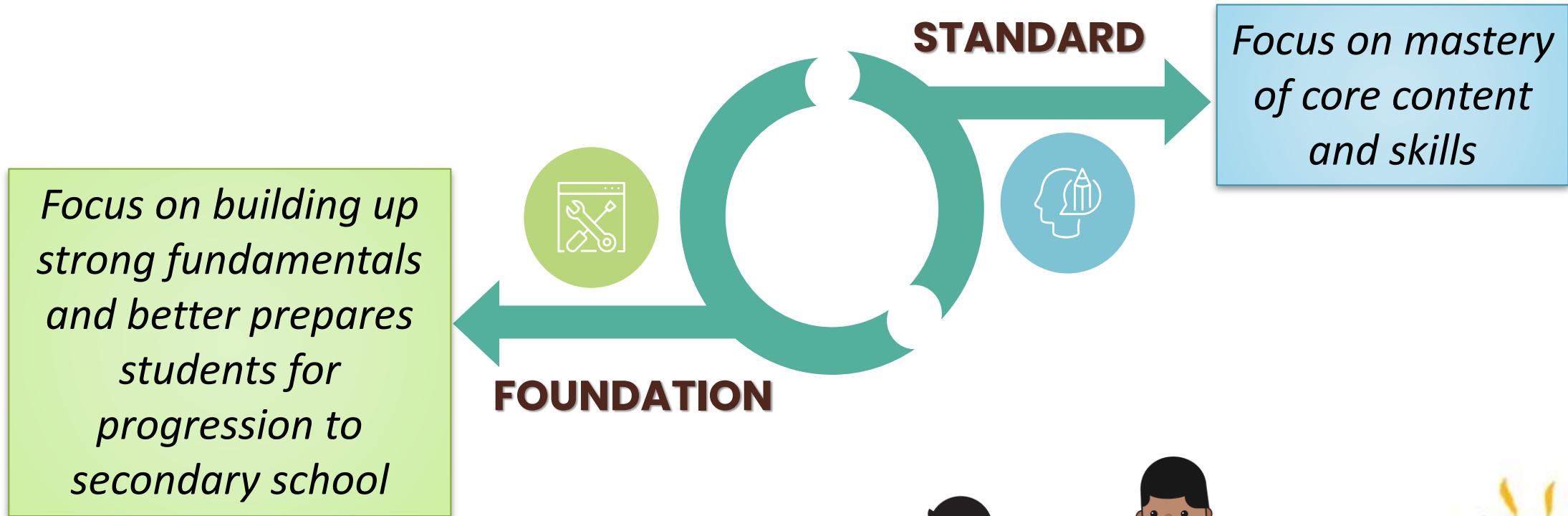
1. Chinese
2. Malay
3. Tamil



Depending on your child's strength, your child has the choice to take a combination of subjects offered by the school.



Difference between Standard and Foundation subjects



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Subject-Based Banding (SBB) at End of Primary 4





SBB Recommendation at End of Primary 4

01

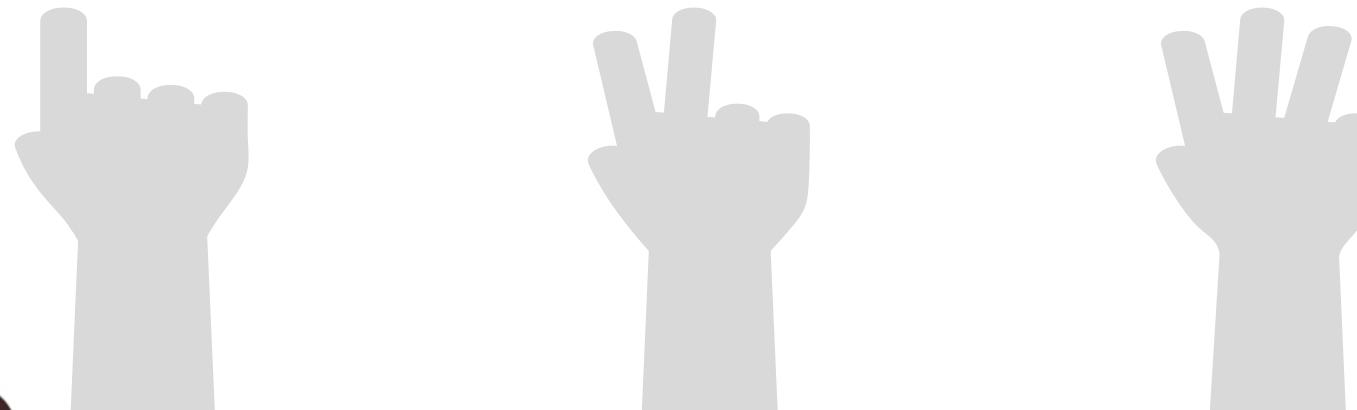
P4 PERFORMANCE
ASSESSMENT

02

P1-3
PERFORMANCE
ASSESSMENT

03

RECOMMENDATIO
NS BY TEACHERS



Student-Centric & Holistic Approach



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SBB Subject Combination Options

If your child (for P4 Exam)	Your child may be recommended to take
Passes all 4 subjects and performs very well in MTL Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 standard subjects + Higher Mother Tongue
Passes all 4 subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 standard subjects
Passes 3 subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 standard subjects;• 3 standard subjects + 1 other foundation subject
Passes 2 subjects or less	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 standard subjects;• 3 standard subjects + 1 other foundation subject;• 2 standard subjects+ 2 other foundation subjects;• 1 standard subject + 3 other foundation subjects; or• 4 foundation subjects



Subject-Based Banding (SBB) at End of Primary 5



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SBB at End of Primary 5

01

P5 PERFORMANCE
ASSESSMENT

02

P1-4
PERFORMANCE
ASSESSMENT

03

RECOMMENDATIO
NS BY TEACHERS



Student-Centric & Holistic Approach



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SBB at End of Primary 5

Based on the student's academic performance at Primary 5, and teachers' assessment of child's ability to cope with the subjects, the school can make adjustments to the subject levels/combination.

For example:

At the end of Primary 4 (Parents' Option)	At the end of Primary 5 (School's Decision)
4 Standard	→ 3 Standard Subjects + Foundation Mother-Tongue Language



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SBB at End of Primary 5

The following are the guidelines for movements after primary 5:

At the end of Primary 5, your child	At Primary 6 (School's Decision)
Scores AL6 for at least 3 subjects	→ Keep to same subject combination
Scores AL7 & below for all subjects	→ Switch to 4 Foundation subjects



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SBB in a Nutshell

@ PRIMARY 4

Student sits for school-based examinations

School recommends a subject combination based on the student's results.

Parents fill up an option form indicating the preferred combination.

@ PRIMARY 5

Student takes subject combination chosen by parents

English Language, Mathematics, Science and Mother Tongue Language are available at standard and foundation levels.

Higher Mother Tongue Language is also available.

School assesses student's ability to cope with the current subject combination at the end of the year. Adjustments to the number of standard and foundation subjects can be made, if necessary.

@ PRIMARY 6

Student takes subject combination decided by his school and sits for the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) at the end of Primary 6.





Some Important Implications for Students offering Higher Mother Tongue Language

- Attend 1-hour extended curriculum after school
- *Need to manage:
 - ✓ Additional homework load
 - ✓ Sit for an additional paper (HMT) at P5, P6 and PSLE
- No remedial programme for HMT as students are expected to meet minimum standard
- Students who do not take HMT at P5 will not be offered HMT at P6.

***Important:** *Students should not take HMT if you he/she is unable to cope with MT or any of the other subjects.*



THE REVISED PSLE SCORING SYSTEM 2021 & SECONDARY ONE POSTING

**IT'S PART OF
A BIGGER STORY**



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THE REVISED PSLE SCORING SYSTEM 2021



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The PSLE remains a useful checkpoint...

- The PSLE remains a useful checkpoint for us
 - ✓ To understand where our children are at in their learning after six years of primary school
 - ✓ Gauge their learning needs so that they can progress to a secondary school and take subjects at a suitable level
- The Revised PSLE Scoring System 2021 aims to:
 - ✓ Reduce fine differentiation at a young age
 - ✓ Recognise students' level of achievement, regardless of how their peers have done



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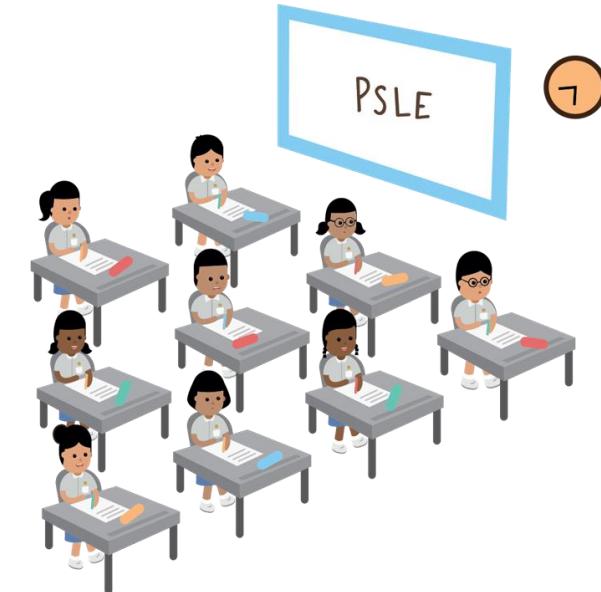


From T-score to Wider Scoring Bands... How the PSLE Scoring Works...

AL	RAW MARK RANGE
1	≥ 90
2	85 – 89
3	80 – 84
4	75 – 79
5	65 – 74
6	45 – 64
7	20 – 44
8	< 20

Reflects a student's individual level of achievement

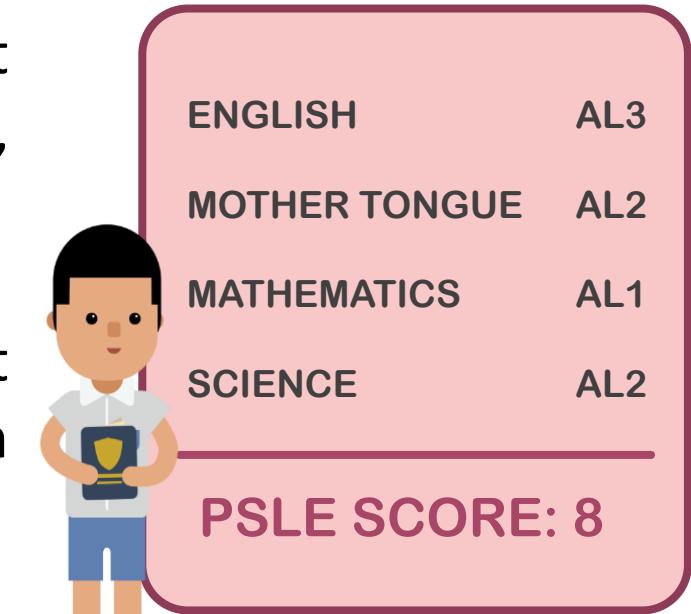
Unlike the T-score, students' AL for each subject will reflect their level of achievement, rather than how they have performed relative to their peers.





From T-score to Wider Scoring Bands... How the PSLE Scoring Works...

- The PSLE Score is obtained by adding the Achievement Levels (ALs) of four subjects and ranges from 4 to 32, with 4 being the best.
- From 2024, students will take subjects at three subject levels: G1, G2, G3 (G stands for General), based on their aptitude for and interest in the subjects.
- Students will continue to be posted into secondary schools through three scoring bands.



SCORING FOR FOUNDATION LEVEL SUBJECTS



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Foundation Level Subjects Grades

Foundation Level AL Reflected on Result Slip	Foundation Raw Mark Range
A	75 – 100
B	30 – 74
C	< 30

- Under the new AL system, to reduce fine differentiation among students, Foundation subject grades will be graded in 3 scoring bands from AL A to C.
- Like Standard subject ALs, the Foundation subject ALs will reflect a student's level of achievement, rather than how they have performed relative to their peers.





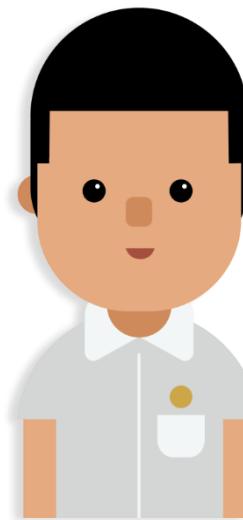
Foundation Level Subjects Grades

Foundation Level AL Reflected on Result Slip	Foundation Raw Mark Range	Equivalent Standard Subject AL	Standard Raw Mark Range
A	75 – 100	6	45-64
B	30 – 74	7	20-44
C	< 30	8	<20

- For Sec 1 posting, Foundation level AL A to AL C will be mapped to AL 6 to AL 8 of Standard level subjects respectively, to derive a student's overall PSLE Score.
- This mapping is based on the learning and assessment load of the subjects, and informs students of their readiness to access the curriculum at the secondary level.



ELIGIBILITY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL HIGHER MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE (HMTL)



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Eligibility for Secondary School Higher Mother Tongue Language (HMTL)

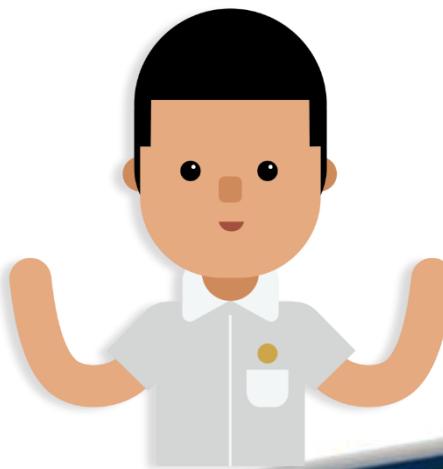
- The eligibility criteria for taking HMTL is intended to ensure that students can cope with the higher academic load, and takes reference from the criteria under the previous PSLE scoring system.
- For students who do not meet the criteria, secondary schools will continue to have the flexibility to offer HMTL to students, if they are assessed to have high ability and interest in MTL and are able to take HMTL without affecting their performance in other subjects.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL HMTL

- | |
|---|
| (i) PSLE Score of <u>8 or better</u>
OR |
| (ii) PSLE Score of 9 to 14 inclusive; <u>and</u>
attain <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ AL1 / AL2 in MTL <u>or</u>▪ Distinction / Merit in HMTL |



USE OF HIGHER CHINESE LANGUAGE (HCL) FOR ADMISSION INTO SAP SCHOOLS



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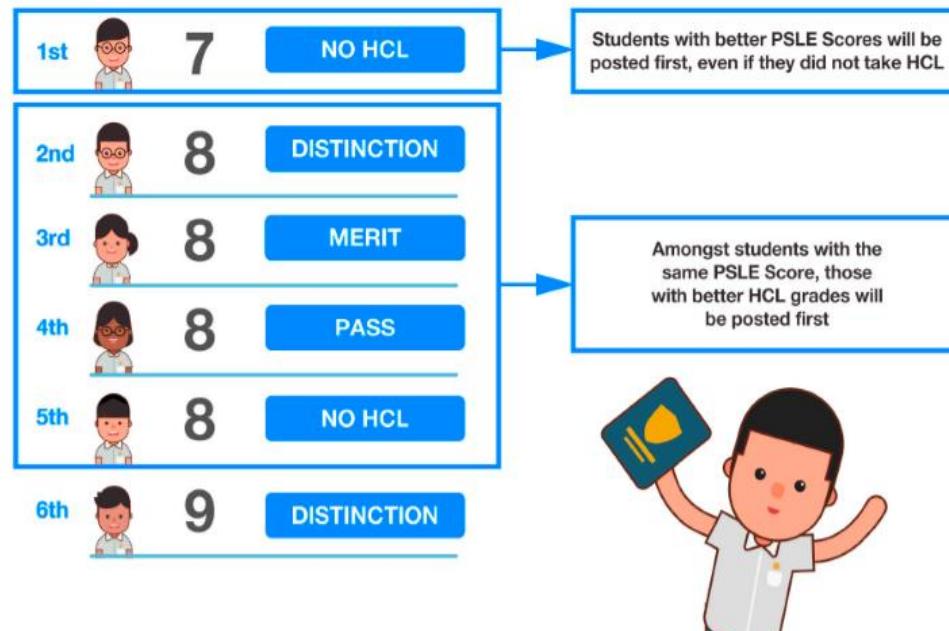
Use of HCL Admission into SAP Schools

Example

Using HCL for Admission into SAP Schools

Students who take HCL will receive a posting advantage when applying to SAP schools

Students will be considered for admission to SAP schools in the following order:



Under the Revised PSLE Scoring System 2021, there will continue to be HCL posting advantage for entry to SAP schools

- Students will be ranked taking into account their performance in HCL.
- This posting advantage applies before the tie-breakers for S1 posting.



SCORING FOR MTL-EXEMPT AND STUDENTS STUDYING AN ASIAN LANGUAGE/ FOREIGN LANGUAGE (AsL/FL) IN LIEU OF AN MTL



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Scoring for MTL-Exempt and Asian Languages/ Foreign Languages (AsL/FL) Students

- For students who are exempted from MTL or take an AsL/FL in lieu of an official MTL, their PSLE result slip will only reflect the three subjects they have taken.
- However, for the purpose of Secondary 1 posting exercise, these students will need an assigned MTL score so that they have a PSLE score comprising four subjects:
 - ✓ To determine the assigned MTL score, reference is made to MTL scores of other students who have achieved similar scores in English, Mathematics, and Science.
 - ✓ Maintaining parity of treatment with students who take Foundation MTL (who will score between AL 6 to 8), students will receive an assigned MTL score between AL 6 to 8 in PSLE.



FULL SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (SBB) IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS



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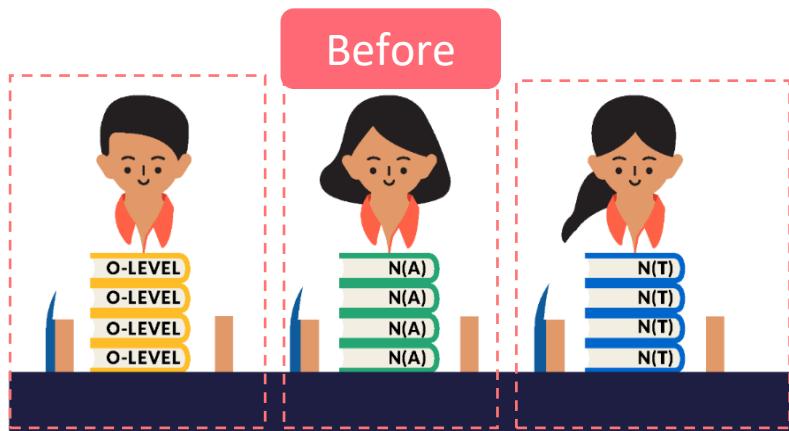
One Education, Multiple Pathways: Full Subject-Based Banding (SBB) in Secondary Schools from 2024...

Full SBB is part of MOE's ongoing efforts to nurture the joy of learning and develop multiple pathways for our students through

- Customising learning to students' subject-specific strengths and interests
- Reducing stigmatisation associated with stream labelling
- Increasing porosity in post-secondary education pathways
- Cultivating a growth mindset in students

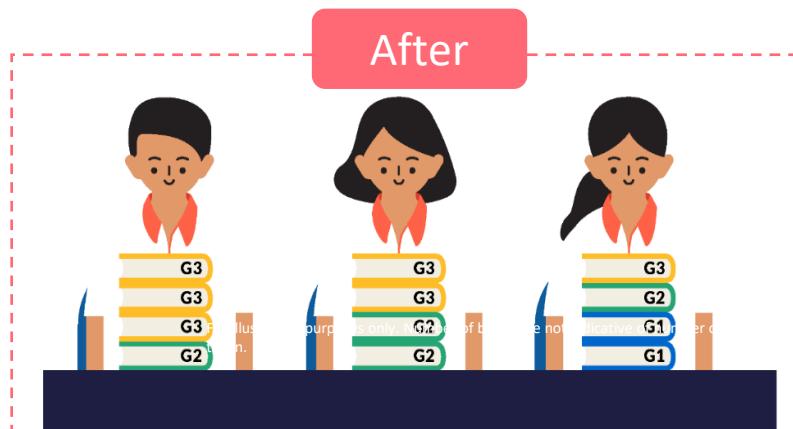


One Secondary Education, Many Subject Bands...



Students in different streams would be in different classes

With Full SBB, students can take subjects at different academic levels G1/G2/G3, which are mapped from today's N(T), N(A), and O-Level subjects respectively.



Students in the same class can take subjects at different levels





One Secondary Education, Many Subject Bands...

Before

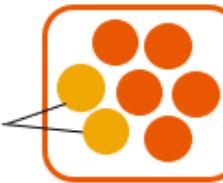


Today, most form class are organised by streams

After



SBB
students



SBB
students

Students in the form class will learn a common curriculum for some subjects like Art and CCE, which comprises 1/3 of curriculum time.

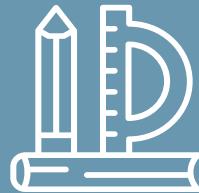
For other subjects, students attend classes with others taking the same subject level.



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Full Subject-Based Banding (SBB) in Secondary Schools: Implementation Timeline



2020 - 2023

- First implemented in 28 secondary schools from 2020
- Progressively being rolled out to more secondary schools each year from 2022
- As at 2022, 59 secondary schools have implemented FSBB.
- By 2023, more than two thirds of our secondary schools would have implemented FSBB.



2024

- Sec 1 students (our current Primary 5 cohort) will study subjects at three levels, G1/G2/G3 (G stands for General).
- Express, N(A) and N(T) labels will be removed.
- Students will continue to be posted to secondary schools using 3 PSLE scoring bands. They can take different subjects at a more or less demanding level based on their strengths, interests and learning needs.

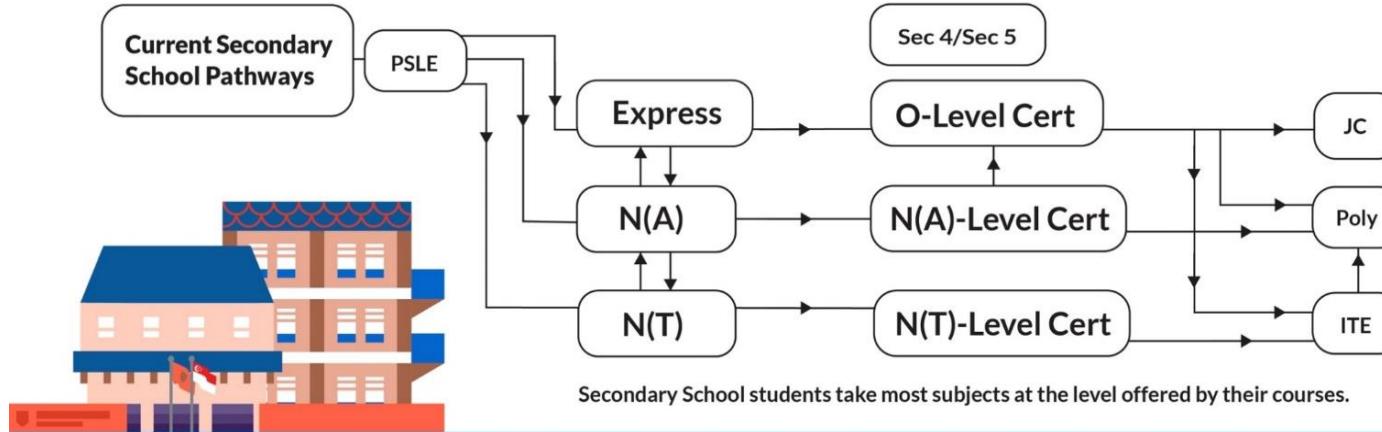


2027

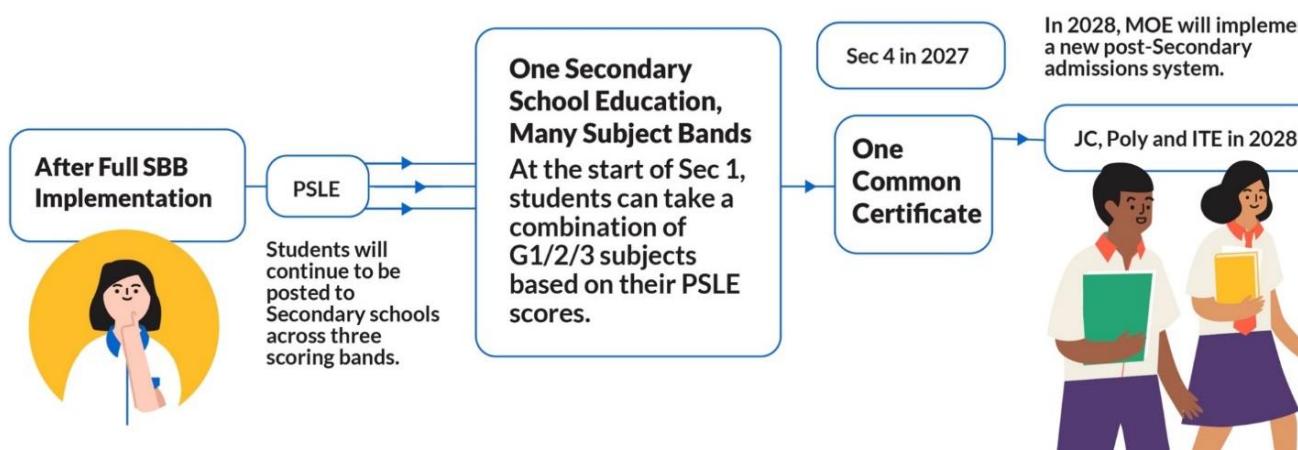
- At the end of secondary school, students will sit for the common national examination and receive a new national certification with subjects at G1/G2/G3 levels.
- Students will use the new certification in the following year to enter JC, Polytechnic or ITE in 2028.

Remaking Secondary School Pathways

Current System



From 2024



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)



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What is the new passing mark, since AL6 spans across 45–64?

AL	RAW MARK RANGE
1	≥ 90
2	85 – 89
3	80 – 84
4	75 – 79
5	65 – 74
6	45 – 64
7	20 – 44
8	< 20

The PSLE is a useful checkpoint to gauge a child's understanding of key concepts and academic strengths. It is also a placement exam to determine the most appropriate course and subject level for a student, based on the student's educational needs at the point of entry to secondary school.

A student who obtains a PSLE Score of 26 to 30, and scores an AL 7 or better in both English Language and Mathematics - or an AL B at the Foundation level for these subjects – can progress to secondary school.





With the wide mark ranges for AL 6 and AL 7, will it be difficult for students to reach the next band?

The PSLE is a checkpoint for a student's learning. The AL bands reflect the way the curriculum and examinations are designed, where levels of understanding are not linear. The ALs reflect this reality of learning, where each band reflects a level of understanding of a subject. The ALs also provide an indication of the students' readiness level for the next course of study.





Why are the reference raw mark ranges not evenly distributed?

They provide meaningful differentiation.

The PSLE is also designed such that students are able to show what they can do. As we expect slightly below half of the PSLE cohort to score AL 1-4 for Standard subjects, the upper AL bands have comparatively narrower ranges even after grouping students into wider bands. At the middle to lower ALs, students' scores are more widely distributed, hence finer distribution in raw mark ranges are less meaningful and would go against our goal to reduce fine differentiation between students' examination results.

The approach taken strikes a careful balance between reducing undue differentiation between students and ensuring meaningful secondary school posting outcomes.



Does a student need to take HCL in primary school to enter a Special Assistance Plan (SAP) secondary school?

While students who pass HCL in primary school will receive a posting advantage when applying to SAP schools, it is not compulsory for students to have taken HCL in primary school to enter SAP school.

Given two students (one with HCL and the other without) who qualify for SAP secondary school and opted for the same SAP school as their first choice, student with a better PSLE Score (regardless whether he/she has HCL) would be admitted first.





How will Higher Mother Tongue be graded according to the new AL scoring system?

Under the previous PSLE scoring system, students who took Higher Mother Tongue at PSLE level were graded with distinction, merit or pass. For students in the top 30 per cent of the cohort who took Higher Chinese, these grades translated into additional points for admission into SAP schools. They received three points for a distinction, two for a merit and one for a pass.

Under the revised PSLE scoring system, students will be given either a 'D' for Distinction or 'M' for merit. The relevant letter will appear beside a student's PSLE AL score. (For example: AL8D)





Can students still be eligible to take the same subject/s at a higher level in Sec 1 if they take one or more Foundation level subjects in primary school?

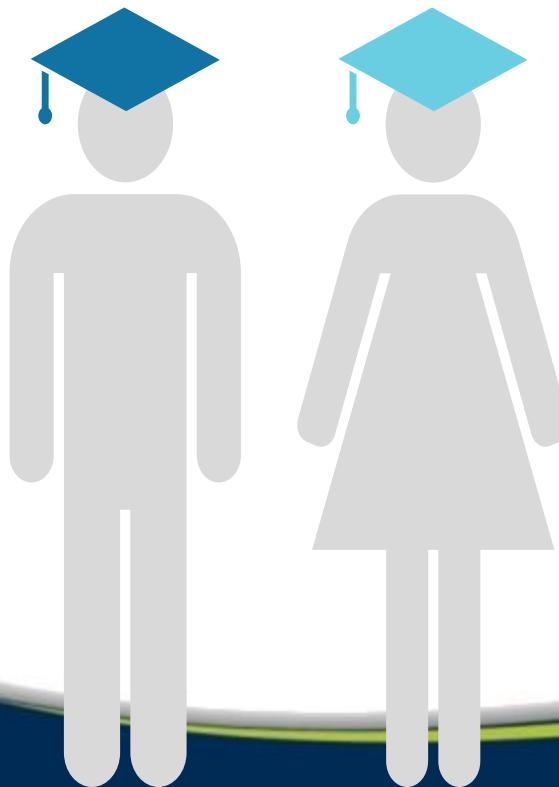
Foundation level subjects support the learning needs of students to focus on building up strong fundamentals in these subjects and better prepare them for progression to secondary school.

With effect from 2024, students will be posted to secondary schools where subjects are offered at three levels: G1, G2 and G3. Students who score between AL26 and AL30 in their PSLE will be offered the G1 suite of subjects, and those who score between AL4 and AL20 will be offered the highest G3 suite. Those who score AL25 can choose either G1 or G2 subjects, and those who score AL21 or AL22 can choose between G2 and G3.





For more information on the Revised PSLE Scoring System, Sec 1 Posting and FSBB in secondary schools:



<https://go.gov.sg/pslefsbb>



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**THANK YOU &
HAVE A LOVELY WEEKEND AHEAD!**

