P4 PARENT ENGAGEMENT SESSION

SUPPORTING STUDENTS AND PARENTS IN MAKING INFORMED CHOICES FOR UPPER PRIMARY



12 November 2025

OVERVIEW

1. How PSLE Scoring Works

2. How SBB in Primary 5 Works



THE PSLE REMAINS AS A USEFUL CHECKPOINT

The PSLE is a **useful checkpoint** at the end of primary school to help students, parents and teachers determine where each child's academic strengths lie.

It guides students to a suitable academic programme and subject levels in secondary school – one that best suits their learning needs. In this way, students can learn and progress at a **comfortable pace**.

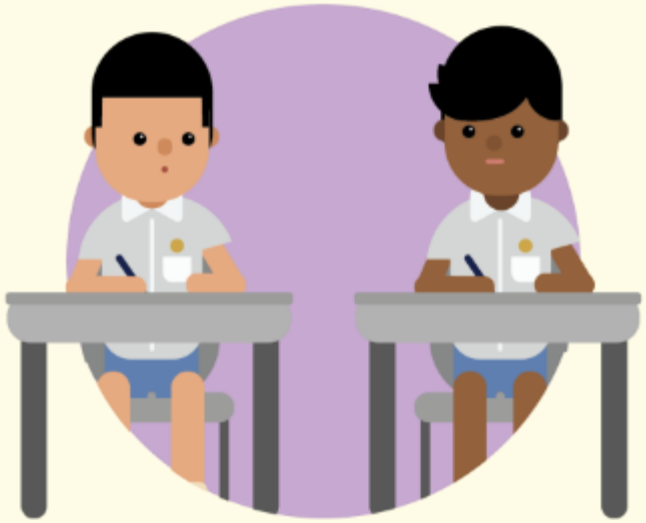
The PSLE result also serves as a **fair and transparent** mechanism to determine secondary school posting.

The PSLE is not the destination.
It is part of our children's education journey.



THE PSLE CHANGES ARE PART OF A BIGGER STORY

Over the years, we have been fine-tuning the education system to help our students discover and develop their strengths and interests, while moving away from an over-emphasis on academic results. Our PSLE Scoring changes aim to reduce an **over-emphasis on academic results** by:



Reducing fine differentiation of students' examination results at a young age



Recognising a student's level of achievement, regardless of how his/her peers have done



Offering students and parents a wider range of secondary schools to explore

HOW PSLE SCORING WORKS



PSLE 8 ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS (ALs)

(a) Reduces fine differentiation of students' examination results

- Students with similar scores in each subject will be grouped into wide scoring bands measured in 8 Achievement Levels (ALs).

(b) Reflects a student's individual level of achievement

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

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

FOUNDATION LEVEL SUBJECT GRADES WILL ALSO BE LESS FINELY DIFFERENTIATED

- Foundation subject grades will also be graded in scoring bands from **AL A to C**.
- For the purpose of S1 Posting, AL A to AL C for Foundation level subjects will be **mapped to AL 6 to AL 8 of Standard level subjects respectively**, to derive a student's overall PSLE Score.
- Similar to the PSLE T-score system, 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.

FOUNDATION LEVEL AL	FOUNDATION RAW MARK RANGE	EQUIVALENT STANDARD LEVEL AL
A	75 – 100	6
B	30 – 74	7
C	< 30	8

STANDARD

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

FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION LEVEL AL	FOUNDATION RAW MARK RANGE	EQUIVALENT STANDARD LEVEL AL
A	75 – 100	6
B	30 – 74	7
C	< 30	8

4 SUBJECT ALs WILL BE ADDED TO FORM THE OVERALL PSLE SCORE (4S)

- The PSLE Score replaces the T-score Aggregate.
- The PSLE Score can range from 4 – 32, with 4 being the best.
- Students will be placed in secondary school courses based on their PSLE Score –How this is done will be explained later.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE	AL 3
MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE	AL 2
MATHEMATICS	AL 1
SCIENCE	AL 2

PSLE SCORE: 8

4 SUBJECT ALs WILL BE ADDED TO FORM THE OVERALL PSLE SCORE (3S1FMA)



ENGLISH LANGUAGE	AL 3
MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE	AL 2
FOUNDATION MATHEMATICS	AL B
SCIENCE	AL 2

PSLE SCORE: 14

→ Map to Standard Level AL 7

4 SUBJECT ALs WILL BE ADDED TO FORM THE OVERALL PSLE SCORE (4F)



		Map to Standard Level AL
FOUNDATION ENGLISH LANGUAGE	AL B	→AL 7
FOUNDATION MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE	AL C	→AL8
FOUNDATION MATHEMATICS	AL B	→AL 7
FOUNDATION SCIENCE	AL A	→AL 6

PSLE SCORE: 28

FULL SBB: S1 POSTING

Three Posting Groups to ensure schools are accessible to diverse learners

From the 2024 S1 cohort, MOE will facilitate the admission of P6 students into S1 through 3 Posting Groups: **Posting Group 1, 2 and 3.**

Objective: Ensures that schools continue to admit a **diverse profile of students** and students have **access to a wide range of schools.**

Unlike the academic streams of Express, N(A) and N(T), Posting Groups will only be used for the purposes of facilitating entry into secondary school and to guide the subject levels students offer at the start of S1.

- Posting Groups assigned based on PSLE Scores, mapped from existing PSLE Score ranges for Express, N(A) and N(T) streams.
- PSLE Scores provide a good gauge of the subject levels that students can offer at the beginning of S1.

PSLE Score	Posting Group	Subject level for most subjects
4 – 20	3	G3
21 and 22	2 or 3	G2 or G3
23 and 24	2	G2
25	1 or 2	G1 or G2
26 – 30 *(with AL 7 in EL and MA)*	1	G1

HOW DOES THE S1 POSTING WORK?

- Your child has **six choices** in selecting their secondary schools.
- Your child will be posted to a secondary school based on **academic merit, i.e., PSLE Score**, and their **choice order of schools**.
- If two or more students with the same PSLE Score vie for the last remaining place(s) in a school, the following tie-breakers are used in the following order:

    1. **CITIZENSHIP**
    2. **CHOICE ORDER OF SCHOOLS**
    3. **COMPUTERISED BALLOTING**



- The tie-breaker based on school choice order recognises the different considerations that families have in making school choices.

Tie-breakers
in the new S1 Posting System

Tie-breakers are used only if there are two or more students with the same PSLE Score vying for the last available place(s) in a school.

Here's a simplified example.

5 students are vying for the last places in the schools of their choice.

Jane
Singapore Citizen
16 pts

SCHOOL CHOICES:
1) Sch A
2) Sch ...
3) Sch ...
4) Sch ...

Bryan
Singapore Citizen
20 pts

SCHOOL CHOICES:
1) Sch B
2) Sch ...
3) Sch ...
4) Sch ...

Mary
Singapore Citizen
20 pts

SCHOOL CHOICES:
1) Sch A
2) Sch B
3) Sch C
4) Sch ...

Alan
Permanent Resident
20 pts

SCHOOL CHOICES:
1) Sch A
2) Sch B
3) Sch D
4) Sch ...

Rina
Permanent Resident
20 pts

SCHOOL CHOICES:
1) Sch A
2) Sch B
3) Sch D
4) Sch E

Students with better scores will be posted first

Jane has a better PSLE score. She will be posted first, to **School A**.

Bryan, Mary, Alan and Rina have the same score.

As Jane has taken the last available place in School A, Bryan, Mary, Alan and Rina will vie for the last available place in their next choice, **School B**.

Tie-breaker #1: Citizenship

Bryan and Mary are Singapore Citizens. They will have priority to enter **School B**.

Alan and Rina will be tie-broken out as they are Permanent Residents. They will be considered for their next choice, **School D**.

Tie-breaker #2: Choice order of schools

Because Bryan ranked School B higher than Mary, he will be posted to **School B**.

Since Bryan has taken the last place in School B, Mary will be posted to **School C**.

Alan and Rina have both ranked School D as their third choice. They will go through computerised balloting to vie for the last remaining place in **School D**.

Tie-breaker #3: Computerised balloting

Through computerised balloting, Alan is posted to **School D**.

Since Alan has taken the last place in School D, Rina will be posted to her fourth choice, **School E**.

SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

FROM P5 ONWARDS



SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

“We recognise different abilities… and help each student to proceed at a pace that he can manage.”



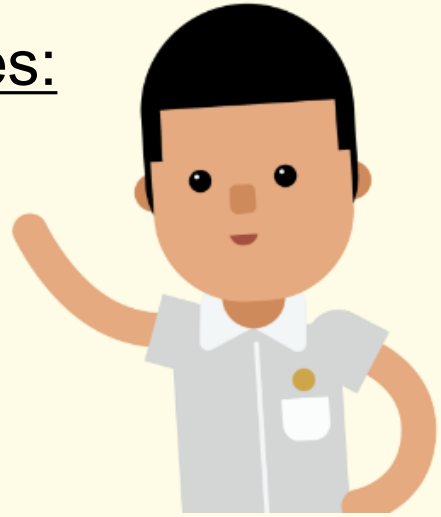
Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam
Minister for Education (2006)

SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

What Is Subject-Based Banding (SBB)?

Students will be taking 4 subjects for PSLE when in P6:
English Language, Mother Tongue Language, Mathematics and Science.

<u>With Subject-Based Banding, students have more choices:</u>
(1) Taking subjects at Standard/Foundation levels
(2) Taking Higher Mother Tongue Language



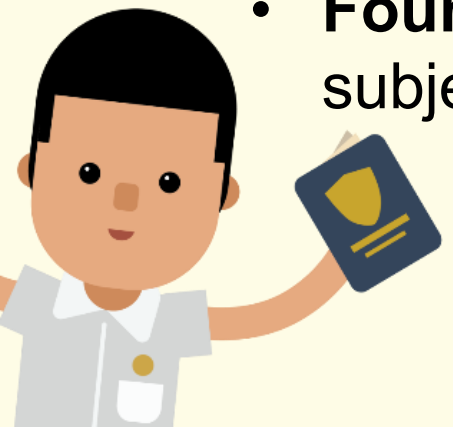
SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

1. Taking Subjects At Standard Or Foundation Levels

PSLE subjects can be taken at Standard Level or Foundation Level based on the student's academic strengths and needs.

- **Standard Level**: Allow students to focus on and stretch their potential in the subjects they are relatively stronger in.

- **Foundation Level**: Allow students to build the fundamentals in the subjects they have difficulty coping with.



SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

What Is The Advantage Of Taking Subjects At Foundation Level?

- Allows students to proceed at a pace they can manage for the subjects that they need support in.

- Enables students to focus on building strong fundamentals in these subjects



SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

2. Taking Higher Mother Tongue Language (HMT) (Higher Chinese, Malay and Tamil)

Students are offered HMT if they:

- Pass all 4 subjects
- Achieve at least 75% in their Mother Tongue Language

Please note:

- Students taking HMTL will also do MTL
- HMTL will be a 1-hour lesson per week after school (for HCL, HML and HTL)

SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

In GESPS, we want to help each child

realise his/her potential

based on

his/her strengths and needs.



SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

How Does The School Decide On The Subject Combination To Recommend?

- Based on Student's Academic Performance
- Based on Teachers' Feedback

  - Student's performance in each subject
  - Student's aptitude and motivation
  - Student's ability to cope with a particular subject combination
  - Whether the subject combination facilitates the student's articulation to secondary school and beyond.



SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

What Subject Combinations Can A Student Be Offered?

Based on student's aptitude & attitude

Subject Combination*
4S HMT
Standard English Language
Standard Mathematics
Standard Science
Standard Mother Tongue Language
Higher MT Language

Able to cope with all 4 subjects
& strong in Mother Tongue Language

Subject Combination*
4S
Standard English Language
Standard Mathematics
Standard Science
Standard Mother Tongue Language

Able to cope with all 4 subjects



SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

Based on student's aptitude & attitude

Subject Combination*
3S 1F(MA)
Standard English Language
Standard Mother Tongue Language
Standard Science
Foundation Mathematics

Able to cope with 3 subjects;
but need more support for 1 subject
(Mathematics)

Subject Combination*
3S 1F(MT)
Standard English Language
Standard Mathematics
Standard Science
Foundation Mother Tongue Language

Able to cope with 3 subjects
but need more support for 1 subject
(Mother Tongue Language)



SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

Based on student's aptitude & attitude

Subject Combination*
2S 2F(MA,SC)
Standard English Language
Standard Mother Tongue Language
Foundation Mathematics
Foundation Science

Able to cope with 2 subjects;
but need support for 2 subjects
(Mathematics & Science)

Subject Combination*
4F
Foundation English Language
Foundation Mathematics
Foundation Science
Foundation Mother Tongue Language

Need support in all 4 subjects

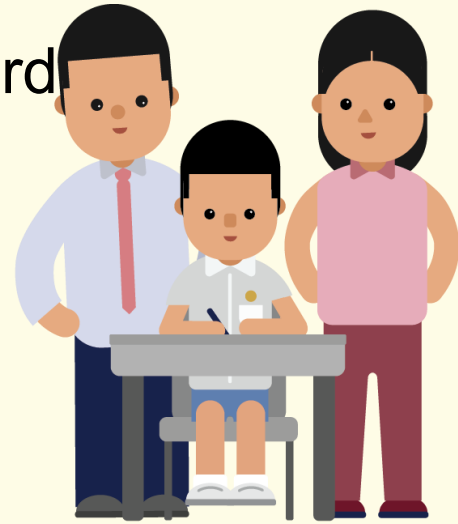


SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

What We Need Parents/Guardians To Do…

You would have received a notification from the school informing you of the new Subject Combination.

- Please acknowledge the Subject Combination offered by the school by responding to the **ALL EARS** form by tomorrow, **13 Nov 2025, 2pm**.
- Contact Form Teacher and/or Subject Teacher(s) if you would like to discuss the Subject Combination being offered to your child/ward



Frequently asked questions for HMT

1. **When will HMT lessons be conducted?**
   HMT lessons are held on Tuesday afternoons, 1 hour per week.

2. **Will HMT lessons conflict with Mathematics or Science enrichment programmes?**
   No. Mathematics and Science enrichment classes are held on different days of the week from HMT lessons.

3. **Will HMT lessons clash with regular Mother Tongue lessons?**
   No. Regular Mother Tongue lessons are conducted during curriculum hours.

Frequently asked questions for HMT

4. Can students withdraw from HMT during the programme?

Students who opt to offer HMT at P5 are expected to complete 1 full year of study, before any consideration of withdrawal.

Parents may request to withdraw their child, should they find it challenging for their child to manage alongside other subjects. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Frequently asked questions for HMT

5. How do HMT exam results benefit students for secondary school admission?

Students who obtain a Distinction/Merit/Pass in Higher Chinese Language AND a PSLE Score of 14 or better are eligible for posting advantage to Special Assistance Plan or SAP schools.

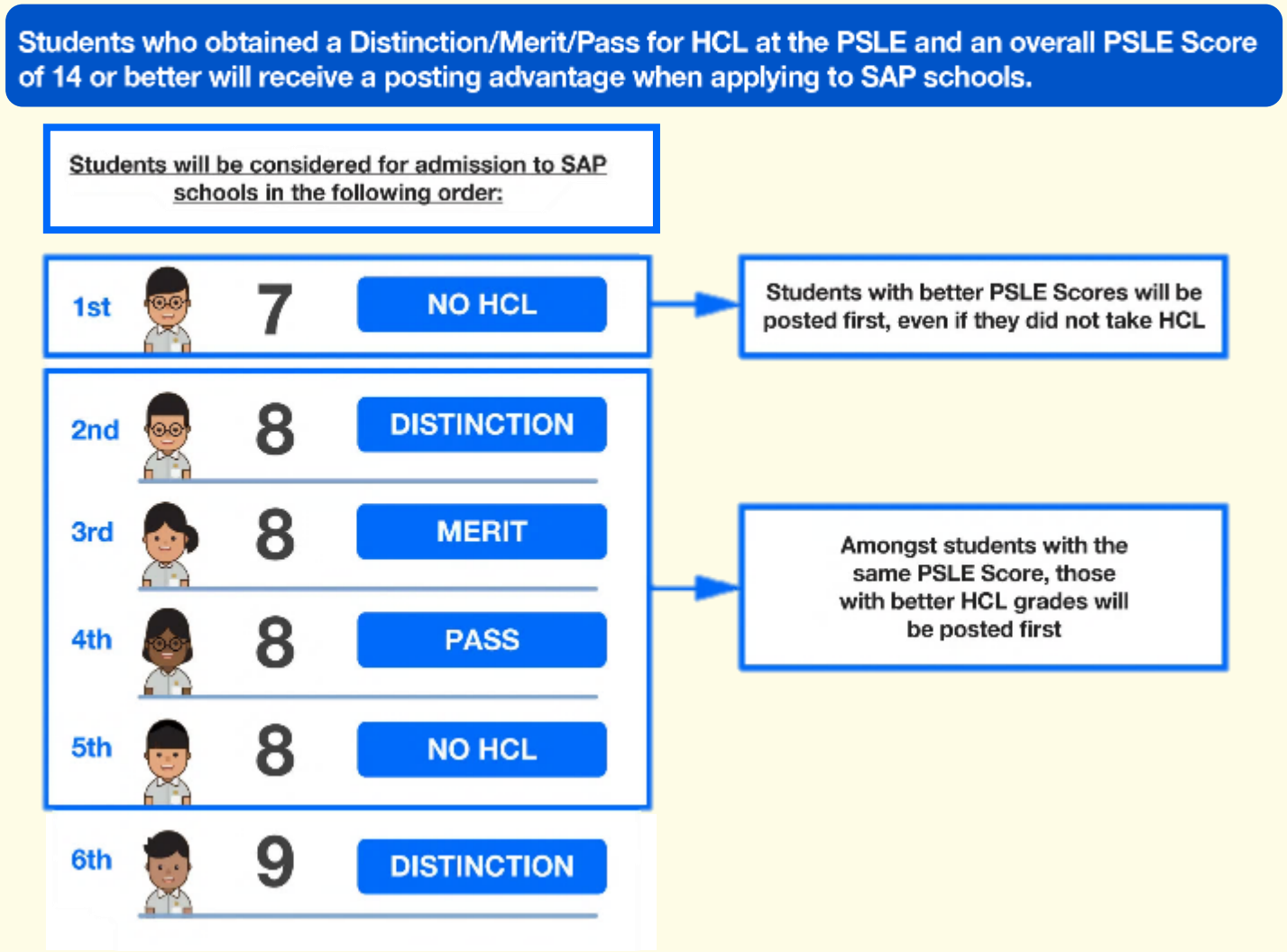
If multiple students with the same PSLE score apply for places in the same SAP school, those with better HCL grades will be allocated a place ahead of other students. (E.g. If two students both have a PSLE score of 8 and are competing for the final spot in a SAP school, the student with the higher HMT grade will be admitted first.)

Frequently asked questions

6. **If my child takes a subject at Foundation level at P5, can he/she revert back to Standard level at P6?**

   No, students who take the subjects at Foundation level at P5 would not be able to revert back to Standard level at P6. Reason being that the child would not be able to catch up with the curriculum at the standard level.

HCL POSTING ADVANTAGE TO SAP SCHOOLS



- Students' HCL results are denoted as 'D' (Distinction), 'M' (Merit) or 'P' (Pass).
- Students who obtain (i) a Distinction / Merit / Pass in HCL and (ii) a PSLE Score of 14 or better are eligible for posting advantage to SAP schools.
- Students are ranked taking into account their performance in HCL.
- This posting advantage applies before the tie-breakers for S1 Posting.

FIND OUT MORE ON THE PSLE-FSBB MICROSITE

https://go.gov.sg/pslefsbb



THANK YOU

