

Summary of Secondary One (S1) Posting changes

Course Placement Criteria

Students will continue to be admitted to a secondary school and course - Express, Normal (Academic) and Normal (Technical) - based on their overall PSLE performance.

Choice Order of Schools

Similar to the T-score system, S1 posting under the AL system continues to be based on academic merit (i.e. PSLE Score) first. Under the new system, school choice order has been introduced as a new tie-breaker. This means that if two or more students have the same PSLE Score and same citizenship status and are vying for the last remaining place(s) in a school, the student who ranked the school higher will be considered first. This recognises the different considerations that students and parents have in making school choices, e.g. a school's ethos, culture, programmes and CCAs, as well as compatibility with students' interests and strengths.

In summary, the following tie-breakers are used for students with the same PSLE Score:

- i) Citizenship
- ii) Choice Order of Schools **[New]**
- iii) Computerised Balloting

Use of HCL for Admission into SAP Schools

Students who take Higher Chinese Language (HCL) will receive a posting advantage for admission to Special Assistance Plan (SAP) schools. If students with the same PSLE Score are vying for limited places in the same SAP school, those with better HCL grades [in the order of Distinction (D), Merit (M) and Pass (P)] will be allocated a place ahead of other students. This applies before the tie-breakers for S1 posting.

Release of 2021 Secondary One Posting Results Frequently Asked Questions

1. With the new PSLE scoring and S1 posting systems, did MOE observe any changes in the choice patterns of students and parents?

Choice patterns have remained broadly similar under the new system. The PSLE Score ranges for secondary schools for the 2021 PSLE cohort are largely comparable to the indicative PSLE Score ranges based on the 2020 PSLE cohort. Likewise, the schools' COPs for 2021 have remained largely stable compared to the indicative COPs for 2020. This suggests that students and their parents, like in previous years, have generally made informed school choices by selecting a range of schools with different COPs that have included those that the student was able to meet.

2. How is the cut-off point (COP) for each secondary school determined?

The PSLE Score range of a school is the PSLE Score of the first and last student admitted to the school, and the COP is the score of the last student admitted to the school. Schools' PSLE Score ranges are not pre-determined by MOE or schools, and may vary from year to year depending on the cohort's PSLE results and their school choices in that year's S1 Posting Exercise.

3. What is the highest COP for IP schools? Was this a pre-determined COP?

The Cut-Off Point (COP) for each secondary school course is not pre-determined by MOE or schools before posting. It depends on the cohort's PSLE results and their school choices in that year's S1 Posting Exercise. The COP of the last student posted to the IP schools this year ranged from 6 to 9(M).

4. What is the incidence of tie-breaking for citizenship, school choice order and computerised balloting? How does this compare with the previous years?

The overall proportion of students who underwent computerised balloting is around 1 in 10, and the proportion of students who were posted to one of their 6 school choices remains consistent with the past years at above 90%. Similar to the previous T-score system, tie-breaking applies to a minority of students. Most students who require tie-breaking were tie-broken by citizenship and school choice order.

5. Will MOE consider appeals more favourably this year, given that this is the first year the new posting system is in effect? Must students meet the school's COP to appeal for a school transfer?

Similar to previous years, students who wish to appeal for a school transfer due to non-medical reasons must meet the school's COP of that posting year. This is required as it ensures that the S1 posting system remains fair, transparent and objective. Admitting students who do not meet the COP under appeals would not be fair to the students who obtained a similar or better PSLE Score, but had failed to obtain a place in the school through the S1 Posting Exercise. In addition, similar to previous years, we would like to emphasise that all appeals, even if they meet the school's COP, will continue to be subject to vacancies.