

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What is the rationale for MOE to set aside 40 places in Phase 2C for all primary schools? Will MOE consider setting aside more places in the future?

MOE has carefully weighed the different considerations and trade-offs when deciding the number of places to set aside for Phase 2C, to ensure more children have access to schools near where they live, regardless if they have prior connection to the schools. We recognise the convenience for a child to study in a nearby school, as it reduces travelling time, allowing the child and family to spend time more meaningfully.

While some schools may find the increase of 20 places under Phase 2C benefitting children in their immediate neighbourhood, this will invariably put pressure on the earlier Phases, especially for Phases 2A1 and 2A2. We therefore have to strike a balance, and are of the view that the doubling of reserved places in Phase 2C from 20 to 40 is one step in the right direction.

MOE will continue to closely monitor the annual trends in the P1 Registration Exercise and carefully consider if any further changes are necessary in the future.

Q2. How many schools will benefit from the increase in reserved places for Phase 2C?

With this change, all primary schools will now have at least 40 reserved places available in Phase 2C. As an indication, the latest 2021 P1 Registration Exercise data tells us that 32 primary schools (close to 20%) would most clearly benefit from this change i.e. they will have a minimum of 40 places in Phase 2C.

Q3. Why did MOE decide to give one third of the remaining places from Phase 2A to 2B? Why not have an equal proportion to be given to both Phase 2B and 2C, as per the current P1 Registration Framework?

This is proportionate to the 20 and 40 reserved places for Phase 2B and Phase 2C respectively. It is also in line with our broader objective of setting aside more places for Phase 2C to ensure that more children with no prior connection to the school can attend a nearby school. Parent volunteers, church and clan members, as well as active community leaders will continue to be eligible for Phase 2B.

Q4. Will MOE consider giving one more year for alumni members to enjoy Phase 2A1 priority, i.e. delay the changes for one year to start only in 2023 P1 Registration Exercise (for P1 starting in 2024)?

These changes have been announced after carefully weighing the different considerations and trade-offs, in order to ensure our schools remain accessible to students from all backgrounds. As the changes to the P1 Registration Framework are inter-connected, they should be implemented as a package. If we delay combining Phases 2A1 and 2A2, some registrants in Phase 2A2 would be very severely impacted as there may be relatively few or no places left in Phase 2A2 for several schools. On the other hand, if we delay all the changes by one more year, this would also deprive those who would benefit from the increase in reserved places in Phase 2C.

While alumni members will continue to have priority under the combined Phase 2A, we encourage them to also consider various options when choosing their primary school for next year, including in other phases like Phase 2C.

Q5. Did MOE consult any stakeholders prior to the announcement?

Over the years, and especially during each year's P1 Registration Exercise, MOE receives public feedback from various stakeholders.

As part of this review, MOE had also engaged a range of stakeholders to seek their views and suggestions for enhancing open access to primary schools. These stakeholders include School Leaders from primary schools, representatives from School Management/Advisory Committees and Alumni Associations of primary schools, former students, Grassroots Leaders and parents.

The feedback received from all these engagements were all carefully considered. We will continue to review our P1 Registration Framework regularly to meet with the evolving needs of Singaporeans. We thank all who have contributed their feedback and suggestions.