Singapore’s Education System: An Overview

**Primary Schools:** 6 years

- **Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE):** 4-5 years

**Secondary Schools:** 4-6 years

- **Special Education Schools:** 4-6 years
- **Specialised Independent Schools:** 3-6 years
- **Express:** 4-6 years
- **Normal (Academic) [N(A)]:** 4-5 years
- **Normal (Technical) [N(T)]:** 4 years
- **Specialised Schools:** 3-6 years

**Post-Secondary:**

- **Polytechnics:** 2-3 years
- **Universities:**
  - **GCE A-Level:**
  - **Diploma in Higher Nitec:**
  - **Intermediate/Technical Institute:**
- **Institutes of Technical Education:**
  - **GCE M(A) Level:**
  - **GCE N(A) Level:**
  - **GCE N(T) Level:**
- **Junior Colleges/Centralised Institute:** 2-3 years
  - **A-Level:**
  - **International Baccalaureate:**
  - **GCE A-Level:**
  - **Diploma Programme in Higher Nitec:**
- **Alternative Qualifications:**
  - **PFP**
  - **DPP**
  - **DPP**
  - **Alternative Qualifications**

**Notes:**

1. Students in special education schools which offer the national primary curriculum will sit for PSLE. Some students in Pathlight School who take the national secondary curriculum may also sit for the GCE N or O-Level examinations.
2. Specialised schools offer customised programmes for students who are inclined towards hands-on and practical learning. Some also offer N(T) Level examinations.
3. These schools are Northlight School, Assumption Pathway School, Crest Secondary School and Spectra Secondary School.
4. Specialised Independent Schools offer specialised education catering to students with talents and strong interests in specific fields, such as the arts, sports, mathematics and science, and applied learning. These schools are the School of the Arts, Singapore Sports School, NUS High School of Mathematics and Science, and the School of Science and Technology. Eligible students of the Singapore Sports School can progress directly to Republic Polytechnic. Eligible students of the School of the Arts can pursue a diploma programme at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts via special admissions after their fourth year of study.
5. Alternative Qualifications refer to qualifications not traditionally offered at mainstream schools in Singapore.
6. The Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) is a diploma-specific foundation programme conducted by the polytechnics over two academic semesters for students who have completed Secondary 4(A). Students who successfully complete the PFP may progress directly into the first year of their respective polytechnic diploma courses.
7. The Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP) is a through-train pathway to polytechnics for students who have completed Secondary 4(A). DPP students who successfully complete a two-year Higher Nitec programme at ITE and attain the required qualifying Grade Point Average (GPA) scores are guaranteed a place in a polytechnic diploma course mapped to their Higher Nitec course.
8. Adults and working professionals are encouraged to upskill and reskill through quality learning options in lifelong learning provided by our Institutes of Higher Learning as well as Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) training providers accredited by the Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA).

Note: Students can opt to transfer laterally between Express, N(A) and N(T). If they are assessed to be more suitable for these courses. (This has not been fully represented in the graphic.)