Singapore’s Education System: An Overview

PRIMARY 6 years

SECONDARY 4-5 years

POST-SECONDARY

**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. Note: this has not been fully represented in the graphic.**

SPECIALISED SCHOOLS offer customised programmes for students who are inclined towards hands-on and practical learning. Some also offer N(T)-Level exams.

These schools are Northlight School, Assumption Pathway School, Crest Secondary School and Spectra Secondary School.

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.

Secondary 4N(A) students who do well in their GCE N(A)-Levels can apply for the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) Foundation Programme (NFP). NFP is a full-time, one-year practice-based programme that prepares students to pursue a diploma in the creative arts at NAFA. Successful applicants will be given a provisional offer of admission to the diploma courses. Upon successful completion of the NFP, students will be offered a place in their chosen diploma courses.

Alternative Qualifications refer to qualifications not traditionally offered at mainstream schools in Singapore.

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 4N(A). Students who successfully complete the PFP may progress directly into the first year of their respective polytechnic diploma courses.

The Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP) is a through-train pathway to polytechnics via ITE, for students who have completed Secondary 4N(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.

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 Skillsfuture Singapore.

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).