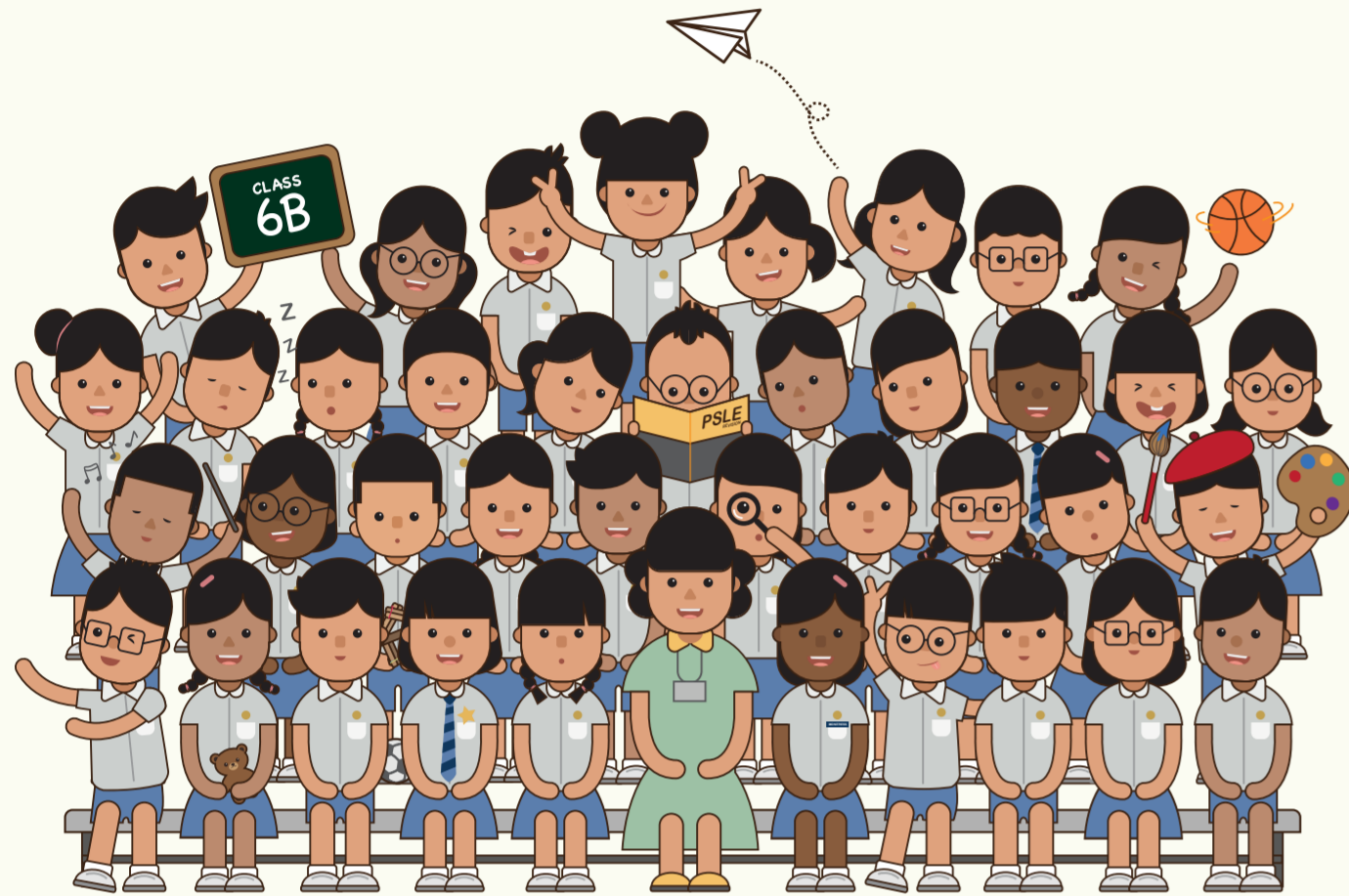


# CAN YOU TELL WHICH CHILD WILL SUCCEED

IN LIFE?



# ALL OF THEM CAN. AND THEY WILL DO IT IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

Some kids ace exams. Some are dreamers, who shine in other ways. Some are quick off the starting block. Some are late bloomers. Some talk better than they write and some write better than they add. Some come alive in the music class, the playing field or when helping others.

Each child has different skills, talents and interests. And primary school is where they can discover who they are, and what they are good at, regardless of their starting point. At their age, they have a long runway ahead of them and unbounded potential.

Should they be preoccupied with chasing academic results at this point in their lives?

Or should they be pursuing interests and experiences that enable them to grow into thinking, caring members of society?



“ Today, there is a deeply ingrained mindset that the PSLE is a very high-stakes exam. Many perceive that a child’s PSLE T-score at the age of 12 determines his or her success and pathway in life. We know that this is not true, yet such a mindset has persisted. As a parent, I can empathise.

The point of the PSLE is to understand a child’s strengths to help him or her pursue subjects at an appropriate pace in secondary school. It should not be about chasing every mark or comparing scores. This leads to too many anxious nights, too much tuition, and too little time for play and exploration and this comes at a cost.

We want our children to grow up with a sense of curiosity and a love for learning. And we can encourage them to find out who they are and what they are good at by moving away from a narrow focus on academics and reducing some of the stress associated with the PSLE.

It is up to us as adults to set the right tone for our children. Let us work together to help our children find their strengths and do their best, each in their own way. ”

Mr Ng Chee Meng  
Acting Minister for Education (Schools)

## CHANGES TO THE PSLE SCORING & S1 POSTING

The changes are meant to help us, as a society, look beyond test scores. Let us help our children enjoy learning for its own sake, not for scores or competition. Let us nurture and appreciate different aspects of a child’s character that cannot be measured. Let us help them understand that their grades are only a part of who they are.

Here is an overview of the changes we are looking at.



## FROM T-SCORE TO WIDER SCORING BANDS

Scores for each subject will be classified into 8 scoring bands known as Achievement Levels (AL). For example, AL 1: 90-100 marks; AL 8: less than 20 marks. Your child’s total PSLE Score will be the sum of the four subject grades. If a child gets AL 4 in each of 4 subjects, his PSLE Score will be 16.

The subjects remain the same: English, Math, Science and Mother Tongue.

Secondary 1 admission will be based on your child’s PSLE Score.

### How will this help your child?

The T-score finely differentiates children on the basis of every mark. In the new system, children with similar scores will be grouped into the same AL. For example, whether a student gets 76 or 78 marks in a subject, he will still get AL 4.

The child’s PSLE Score, which will range from 4 to 32, will be less differentiated than the T-score Aggregate.

It is unnecessary at this young age to make such fine distinctions between children. A student who gets 1 mark more is not necessarily smarter or more ready for secondary school than the next student.

In the long run, a few marks are not an accurate indicator of a child’s potential and other qualities may play a greater role.

## SCORES TO REFLECT CHILD’S OWN PERFORMANCE

Currently, a child’s score depends on how well he or she does relative to their cohort. In the new system, once a student shows a level of ability that meets the professionally set standard expected at a certain AL, he will receive the grade regardless of how his cohort performs.

The subject grades will also be an accurate indicator of a child’s strengths, which will help him pursue each subject at a suitable level in secondary school.

### How will this help your child?

The emphasis is on how well your child has learnt, and not how well he or she has done compared to others. Your child does not have to look over his shoulder at others’ performance. He can focus on his own learning and strive for excellence in life.



## CHOICE ORDER OF SCHOOLS TO MATTER MORE IN POSTING

Posting will continue to be based on academic merit, using the PSLE Score.

Students will submit a list of 6 schools in order of preference. If 2 students with the same score are being considered for the last place in a school, the following tie-breakers will be used:

- **Citizenship** (priority given to Singapore Citizens, then Singapore Permanent Residents, then International Students)
- **Choice order of schools** (priority given to the student who indicates a certain school as a higher choice)
- **Computerised balloting**

If 2 Singapore citizens have the same PSLE Score, the student who indicates a school as 1st choice has priority over a student who indicates it as 2nd choice.

### How will this help your child?

Academic merit remains the first criterion for posting. With choice order as a tie-breaking factor, we will recognise the different considerations families have when choosing secondary schools, for example, distance or programmes.

We hope students and parents will look beyond cut-off points to a school’s unique programmes that will enable your child to build on the interests discovered in primary school.





# CONFIDENT LEARNERS READY FOR THE FUTURE

Schools provide an array of experiences that engage every aspect of the child - the head, heart and hands. Some are designed to help understand and stretch a student's strengths and his knowledge. Some are aimed at building the right values. Some are meant to help a child discover and build on his interests. The PSLE is just one of these many, varied experiences – spread over 10 years of school – that enable a child to understand who he is, and grow into a confident person, who owns his learning and is ready to contribute to our shared future.

DEVELOP CHARACTER, VALUES AND LOVE FOR SINGAPORE

## THE PSLE CHANGES ARE PART OF A BIGGER STORY

Over the years, we have been fine-tuning the education system so that we can help our students discover and develop their talents and interests while moving away from an over-emphasis on exam results. The changes to the PSLE scoring and Secondary 1 posting are another step in this direction.

Over the years, we have:

- Introduced Direct School Admission (DSA), which looks beyond marks to recognise students' talents
- Stopped naming PSLE's top scorers
- Stopped revealing the highest and lowest score on result slips
- Split more challenging PSLE questions into parts to make them more accessible. Students could still gain partial marks and the test could still evaluate the students' grasp of concepts without compromising rigour in the examination
- Released past PSLE papers to make examination standards clearer

At the same time, we are building programmes and weaving opportunities into the students' educational journey to ensure that they learn meaningfully and acquire values and relevant skills beyond just textbooks.

Some of these initiatives are:

### Broader Exposure in Primary School

- Programme for Active Learning (PAL)
- PE, Art and Music (PAM)
- Junior Sports Academies (JSAs)

### Distinctive Programmes in a Diverse Secondary School Landscape

- Applied Learning Programme (ALP)
- Learning for Life Programme (LLP)
- Enhanced Art and Music Programmes (EAP, EMP)

### Refreshed Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) Curriculum at All Levels

### Multiple Pathways at All Stages

- Greater flexibility in offering subjects at a higher level in secondary school
- Enhanced NITEC foundation programme
- Polytechnic foundation programme
- More universities such as SUTD, SIT and UniSIM
- Lifelong learning through SkillsFuture movement

ENCOURAGE REAL-LIFE PROBLEM-SOLVING AND THINKING SKILLS

CULTIVATE CURIOSITY AND LOVE OF LEARNING

BUILD A STRONG FOUNDATION IN LITERACY AND NUMERACY

