

# Subject-Based Banding

Briefing for Parents





## Previous System (before 2008)

- \* Students who did not perform well in Primary 4 examinations
  - \* Streamed into EM3 classes in Primary 5 and 6
  - \* Took all subjects at the foundation level
  - \* Might take Mother Tongue (MT) at the standard level if they were strong in MT



# Why introduce Subject-Based Banding?

- \* To recognise the different abilities of students
- \* Provide more flexibility in subject combinations for students with strengths and abilities that vary across subjects
- \* Removal of Merged and EM3 streams in Primary 5 and 6



# What Subject-Based Banding means for your child

- \* Greater **flexibility** in subject combinations
- \* Your child has the choice to take a combination of standard and foundation subjects, depending on his/her strengths



# How does Subject-Based Banding Work?

**[At P4]**

School recommends subject combination, based on P4 exam results. Parents indicate preferred combination.



**[At P5]**

Student takes subject combination chosen by parents



# How does Subject-Based Banding Work?

**[End of P5]**

<b>Student who takes 1 or more foundation subject(s) and does very well in them</b>	<b>Student who takes standard subjects and has difficulty coping</b>	<b>All other students</b>
School may allow him to upgrade 1 or 2 subjects to standard level if school believes he can cope; or continue the same subject combination in P6	School may allow him to take 1 or more subjects at foundation level in P6	School will allow them to continue the same subject combination in P6



**[At P6]**

Student takes subject combination decided by school



**[End of P6]**

Student sits for Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE)



# Subject-based Banding and Secondary School admission

- \* Progression to secondary level depends on PSLE Score.
  - \* The scoring system is not new
  - \* **Different expectations of standard and foundation subjects** will be taken into account when the PSLE score is calculated
- \* Offering weaker subjects at foundation level is not a disadvantage.
  - \* Your child will be able to focus on building up strong fundamentals in the weaker subjects



# SBB FAQs

- \* What are the different subject combinations?
- \* How does the school offer the various subject combinations?
- \* Can the school simply give my child all foundation subjects as it will be more helpful for her?
- \* What is the percentage mix between mid-year and end of year results?
- \* What will happen to students who score unfavourable results after given a preferred combination?
- \* Can we make changes after selecting preferred subjects?



# WGPS subject combinations?

If your child (for P4 Exam)	Your child may be recommended to take
Passes all 4 subjects and performs very well in MTL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 standard subjects + Higher Mother Tongue Language</li></ul>
Passes all 4 subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 standard subjects</li></ul>
Passes 3 subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 standard subjects</li></ul>
Passes 2 subjects or less	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 standard subjects;</li><li>• 3 standard subjects + 1 other foundation subject;</li><li>• 2 standard subjects+ 2 other foundation subjects;</li><li>• 1 standard subject + 3 other foundation subjects; o</li><li>• 4 foundation subjects</li></ul>



# School Considerations for SBB

1. Performance at P4
2. Performance at P1-P3
3. Recommendations by form and subject teachers

## **Note :**

*SBB is not about giving pupils an Easy Option hence Standard subjects are offered to majority of pupils. Offering subjects at Standard level for certain weaker students at end of P4 is not a disadvantage*



# P4 Overall Results

**SA1 – 30 %**

**SA2 – 70%**



## At the end of P5

- \* Child's performance at end of P5
  - \* Change in subject combination
  - \* Offering of HMT
- \* The School's decision is **Final**



# PSLE Aggregate

Higher Mother Tongue is NOT included in the Computation of the **PSLE Score** which replaces the PSLE Aggregate or T-Score,.

## **Note :**

\*Except for application to SAP Schools.



## STUDENTS WITH SIMILAR SCORES IN EACH SUBJECT WILL BE GROUPED INTO THE SAME ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL

- There will be 8 Achievement Levels (ALs), with AL1 being the best.
- A student's AL for each subject will reflect his level of achievement, rather than how he has performed relative to his peers.

PER SUBJECT
AL 1 (BEST)
AL 2
AL 3
AL 4
AL 5
AL 6
AL 7
AL 8 (UNGRADED)



## THE T-SCORE AGGREGATE DETERMINES S1 POSTING

- It shows how well a student has done compared to his cohort.
- The T-score Aggregate largely determines which secondary school a student is posted to.
- A student with 'better' letter grades may have a lower T-score Aggregate than a student with 'poorer' letter grades.

SUBJECT	GRADE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	A
MOTHER TONGUE	A
MATHEMATICS	A*
SCIENCE	A*
<b>T-SCORE AGGREGATE</b>	<b>244</b>
SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE ELIGIBLE FOR	EXPRESS



# WHY 8 ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS?

- This offers a good balance.
- It reduces fine differentiation between students while still giving parents and educators a gauge of a student’s progress at the end of primary school.
- Students can then be matched to suitable academic programmes in secondary schools.

PER SUBJECT
AL 1 (BEST)
AL 2
AL 3
AL 4
AL 5
AL 6
AL 7
AL 8 (UNGRADED)



# REFERENCE RAW MARK RANGES

- To guide school-based assessments, we will provide reference raw mark ranges for each AL.
- These are based on learning objectives of the curriculum.

## CONSIDERATIONS

- To have educationally meaningful differentiation of students.
- At the top ALs, the ranges are narrower as the PSLE is designed to show what students can do – on average, about half of the students will score AL4 or better.

AL	RAW MARK RANGE
1	$\geq 90$
2	85 – 89
3	80 – 84
4	75 – 79
5	65 – 74
6	45 – 64
7	20 – 44
8	$< 20$



## FOUNDATION-LEVEL SUBJECTS WILL ALSO BE SCORED ON ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS

- Foundation-level subjects are designed to support a small number of students who may not be able to cope with Standard-level subjects.
- This enables them to focus on building up strong fundamentals so that they are better prepared for secondary school.
- This way, the student will also build confidence to pursue learning at a level suitable for them.





## 4 SUBJECT ALs WILL BE ADDED TO FORM THE PSLE SCORE

- The PSLE Score replaces the T-score Aggregate.
- The PSLE Score ranges from 4 to 32, with 4 being the best.
- Compared to the T-score Aggregate, students are less finely differentiated.



ENGLISH	AL3
MOTHER TONGUE	AL2
MATHEMATICS	AL1
SCIENCE	AL2

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**PSLE SCORE: 8**



## STUDENTS WILL BE STREAMED BY THEIR PSLE SCORE

- Students will continue to be placed in the appropriate Secondary School courses – Express, Normal (Academic), Normal (Technical) or option bands.

PLACEMENT OUTCOME
EXPRESS
EXPRESS / N(A) option
N(A)
N(A) / N(T) option
N(T)



# HOW POSTING WILL WORK

The **PSLE Score** will be the **first criterion** for posting.

If 2 students with the same **PSLE Score** vie for a place in a school, the following tie-breakers will be used.

## 1. CITIZENSHIP

(Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents, then International Students)

## 2. CHOICE ORDER OF SCHOOLS

**(NEW)**

## 3. COMPUTERISED BALLOTING





## CHOICE ORDER OF SCHOOLS TO MATTER MORE

### WITH BROADER SCORING BANDS:

- More students will have the same PSLE Score.
- Schools will be less differentiated based on cut-off points.

### WHY CHOICE?

We recognise that families have different considerations when choosing secondary schools, for example, the school's ethos, culture, programmes and CCAs, as well as distance between the school and home.





# Higher Mother Tongue

- \* Should my child take Higher MT, Standard MT or Foundation MT ?
- \* Do streaming/banding results include Mother Tongue?
- \* How does one get into banded class or offered Higher Mother Tongue?
- \* How will my decision affect my child at the end of the Primary School Education or in Secondary School?



# Key Determinants for offering HMT

## 1. School's Recommendation

Based on your child's:

- \* Potential and consistency in his/ her Mother Tongue Language
- \* Performance and ability to cope in other subjects, i.e. English, Mathematics and Science

## 2. Parents' Option



# Offering HMT at P6

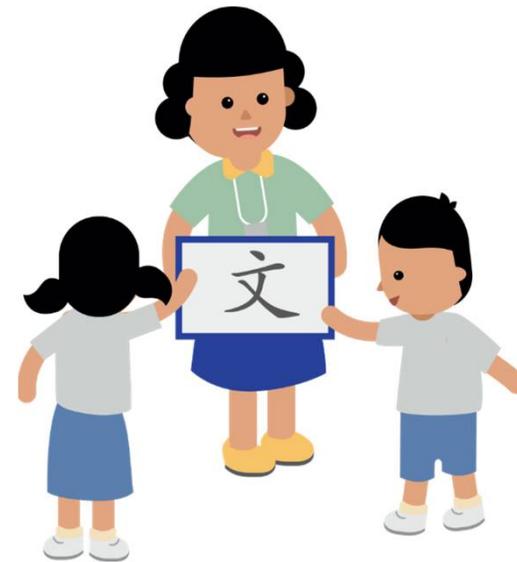
- \* If the child does not meet HMT requirements at end of P5, he/she will need to drop HMT at P6
- \* The School's decision is **Final**



## STUDENTS' HCL GRADES GIVE POSTING ADVANTAGE FOR SAP SCHOOLS

Currently, for admission to SAP schools, students are awarded bonus T-score points based on their HCL grade:

- 3 points for Distinction
- 2 points for Merit
- 1 point for Pass





# THIS HCL POSTING ADVANTAGE FOR ENTRY TO SAP SCHOOLS WILL CONTINUE

- Students will be ranked taking into account their performance in HCL.
- This posting advantage applies before the tie-breakers for S1 posting.

1st		7	NO HCL
2nd		8	DISTINCTION
3rd		8	MERIT
4th		8	PASS
5th		8	NO HCL
6th		9	DISTINCTION



# Getting into banded class

- \* Outstanding performance in English, Maths and Science (top 2 classes)
- \* Grouping for MT classes is done separately based on performance in the subject



# Support for our children

- \* **NO NEED FOR ANY SPECIAL PREPARATION**
- \* Set realistic expectations
- \* Provide a conducive study environment at home
- \* Pay attention to child's activities eg cyber activities
- \* Monitor work and Motivate child
- \* Work hand in hand with teachers



**Thank you**