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Ministry of Education SINGAPORE

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Dear Parent

Information on 2018 Direct School Admission – Secondary (DSA-Sec) Exercise

What is DSA-Sec?

The DSA-Sec allows students to seek admission to a secondary school on the basis of talents and achievements that may not be demonstrated at the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE). It enables students to enter suitable academic and non-academic programmes in Secondary Schools that can develop the students in these areas.

Should my child apply for DSA-Sec?

Before applying to a school through the DSA-Sec, you should discuss with your child their strengths and interests. Your child should also ask themselves if they are committed to developing the talent in the chosen DSA area, in that particular school. In admitting students through the DSA, the school is committed to developing the students to their fullest potential in both academic studies and the area of talent for which the students are selected during the DSA-Sec Exercise.

If your child is not ready to commit to developing the talent in the particular school, they should consider the Secondary 1 (S1) Posting Exercise at the end of the year, in which students are admitted based on their PSLE scores. Majority of P6 students in previous years were posted to a school via the S1 Posting Exercise.

If your child is successfully allocated to a school through the DSA-Sec Exercise, they will not be allowed to participate in the S1 Posting Exercise or transfer to another school after the release of the PSLE results.

Which school should my child apply to?

You may wish to shortlist a few schools with DSA areas that match your child's strengths and/or interests and offer a talent development programme in their area of strength. From 7 May, the MOE DSA-Sec website will list participating secondary schools and the DSA areas, for which participating schools will admit students.

You may get further details on schools' programmes, and their individual application and selection deadlines by:

- Visiting schools' websites
- Visiting the schools' Open House (if applicable)

When selecting a DSA school, you and your child may also wish to consider the academic fit. The pace of learning and academic programmes offered differ across schools. Finding a good fit will help your child enjoy their learning at an appropriate academic pace, and benefit from the school's overall programmes.

How many schools should my child apply to?

Your child may apply to more than one DSA-Sec school. However, it can be taxing for your child to attend too many tests, interviews or trials. We suggest that you consider applying to 1 or 2 schools that best cater to your child's needs. 9 out of 10 students participating in last year's exercise applied to fewer than 3 schools.

How do schools select students?

The selection process differs across schools, and for different DSA categories. Students may be asked to submit a portfolio showcasing their talents and achievements, primary school results and CCA records. Schools may also administer interviews, tests, trials or selection camps.

What are the possible outcomes of my child's application?

By 31 August, your child will be informed of the application outcome by the individual schools. There are three possible outcomes:

Outcomes	What does this mean?	What is my next step?
Confirmed Offer (CO)	Your child has a place reserved in the school as long as they qualify for an academic course (i.e. Express, Normal (Academic) or Normal (Technical)) offered by the school based on the PSLE results.	If your child wishes to be admitted into the DSA school which has given them a CO or WL offer, they will submit the School Preference online or at the primary school in October. If they have more than one CO or WL they may select up to three schools in order of preference.
Wait List (WL)	Your child will be given a place in the school only if students with COs choose not to take up those offers. Your child also has to qualify for an academic course (i.e. Express, Normal (Academic) or Normal (Technical)) offered by the school based on the PSLE results. On average, 50% of students on a school's WL were successfully allocated a place.	
Unsuccessful	Your child has not been given a place in the school.	Your child will join the S1 Posting Exercise. You may still opt for the same school that did not offer your child a CO/WL under the DSA-Sec Exercise.

** If your child has accepted the offer from Singapore Sports School (SSP), you should **NOT** submit the DSA School Preference. Otherwise, the offer from SSP for your child will be void.*

Find out more

From 7 May, MOE DSA-Sec website will be updated with information on the DSA-Sec Exercise process, and on participating schools and their DSA-Sec categories. Visit www.moe.gov.sg/admissions/direct-admissions/dsa-sec or scan the QR code.



Pupil Placement Section
Student Placement and Services Division