



# P4 SUBJECT- BASED BANDING

Catering to Your  
Child's Abilities

# SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

- Offers students the option of **Standard** and **Foundation** subjects, depending on their strengths.
- Allow students to **focus on** and **stretch** their potential in the **subjects** they are **strong** in while building up the fundamentals in the subjects they need **more support** in.
- The new PSLE scoring system **will not change** the considerations for deciding on a student's subject combination.

# SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

Schools will continue to recommend based on the following:

- Student's **aptitude, motivation** and **performance** in each subject;
- Student's ability to **cope** with a particular subject combination;
- Whether the subject combination provides **sufficient focus** on **literacy and numeracy**; and
- Whether the subject combination helps the child to move on and be **well-placed** in secondary schools.

# SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

- Offering subjects at Foundation level is not a disadvantage to the students.
- It enables them to focus on **building strong fundamentals** in these subjects and better prepares them for progression to secondary school.

# ASSESSMENT WEIGHTING

P4 ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTING	TOTAL
SA1	25%	100%
CA2	15%	
SA2	60%	

# ACHIEVEMENT BANDS

ACHIEVEMENT BANDS	MARK RANGE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Band 1	85 and above	Is very good in the subject
Band 2	70 – 84	Is good in the subject
Band 3	50 – 69	Has adequate grasp of the subject
Band 4	Below 50	Has not met requirements for the subject

# How does Subject-based Banding work?

## Primary 4

**Student sits for school-based examinations**

School recommends a subject combination based on students' results

Parents fill up an option form indicating the preferred combination



## Primary 5

**Student takes subject combination chosen by parents**

English Language, Mathematics, Science and Mother Tongue Language are available at standard and foundation levels.

Higher Mother Tongue Language is also available.

School assesses students' ability to cope with the current subject combination at the end of the year. Adjustments to the number of standard and foundation subjects can be made, if necessary.



## Primary 6

**Student takes subject combination decided by the school and sits for the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) at the end of Primary 6**

# Subjects Offered in Primary School

## SUBJECT-BASED BANDING

### Subject Combinations

#### STANDARD SUBJECTS

- ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- MATHEMATICS
- SCIENCE
- MOTHER TONGUE
- HIGHER MOTHER TONGUE

#### FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

- FOUNDATION ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- FOUNDATION MATHEMATICS
- FOUNDATION SCIENCE
- FOUNDATION MOTHER TONGUE



# How does Subject-based Banding work?

Your child (P4 exam)	Your child may be recommended to take
Passes all 4 subjects well and performs very well in Mother Tongue language	4 Standard Subjects + Higher Mother Tongue Language
Passes all 4 subjects	4 Standard Subjects
Passes all 3 subjects	4 Standard Subjects
Passes all 2 subjects or less	4 Standard Subjects; or
	3 Standard Subjects + 1 other Foundation Subject; or
	2 Standard Subjects + 2 other Foundation Subjects; or
	1 Standard Subject + 3 other Foundation Subjects; or
	4 Foundation Subjects

# HIGHER MOTHER TONGUE (HMT)

Consider carefully  
if your child  
should take HMT.

Does he/she have  
an interest in and a  
flair for the Mother  
Tongue Language?

Is he/she coping  
well in English,  
Mathematics, Science  
and Mother Tongue?

Should he/she be  
spending more  
time on these  
subjects?

# HIGHER MOTHER TONGUE (HMT)

- An additional hour per week outside curriculum is required to complete the HMT syllabus.
- If your child opts to do HMT at P5, he/she must continue to take HMT for the whole year. This is also to teach your child to honour their decisions.
- Even if he/she does not take HMT in primary school, he/she may still be offered HMT in secondary school.

# ELIGIBILITY FOR HMT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- The eligibility criteria for taking HMT is intended to ensure that students can cope with the higher academic load, and takes reference from the current criteria.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL HMT

- (i) PSLE Score of **8 or better**  
**OR**
- (ii) PSLE Score of 9 to 14 inclusive; **and** attain
  - AL1 / AL2 in MTL **or**
  - Distinction / Merit in HMT

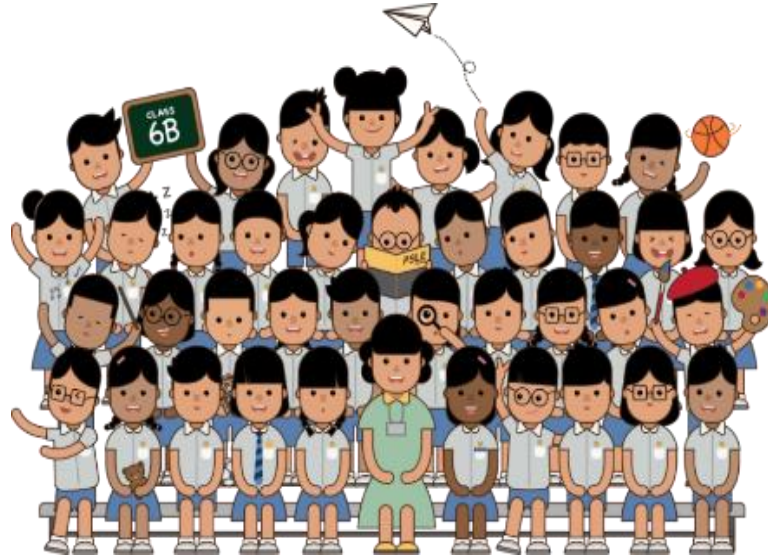
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- For students who do not meet the above criteria, secondary schools will continue to have the flexibility to offer HMT to students, if they are assessed to have high ability and interest in MTL and are able to take HMT without affecting their performance in other subjects.

# PSLE SCORING AND S1 POSTING SYSTEMS



# WHAT IS THE INTENT OF THE PSLE?



**A useful checkpoint at the end of primary school**

**A fair way to determine secondary school posting**



**1**

Reducing fine differentiation of students' examination results at a young age.

**2**

Recognising a student's level of achievement, regardless of how his/her peers have done.

**3**

Encouraging families to choose secondary schools holistically based on students' strengths, interests and abilities.

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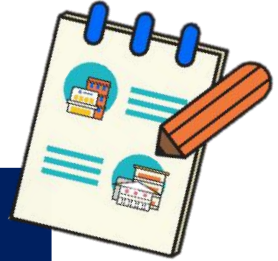
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# HOW THE PSLE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

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# FROM T-SCORE TO SCORING BANDS

**Reduces fine differentiation of students' examination results at a young age**

**Reflects a student's individual level of achievement**

<b>AL</b>	<b>RAW MARK RANGE</b>
1	≥ 90
2	85 – 89
3	80 – 84
4	75 – 79
5	65 – 74
6	45 – 64
7	20 – 44
8	< 20

# GRADING OF FOUNDATION SUBJECT GRADES

- Foundation subjects graded in scoring bands from **AL A to AL C**.
- AL A to AL C for Foundation level subjects are **mapped to AL 6 to AL 8 of Standard level subjects respectively** to derive a student's overall PSLE Score.
- Based on the learning and assessment load of the subjects, and informs students of how ready they are for the curriculum in secondary school.

FOUNDATION LEVEL AL	FOUNDATION RAW MARK RANGE	EQUIVALENT STANDARD LEVEL AL
A	75 – 100	6
B	30 – 74	7
C	< 30	8

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

- The PSLE Score can range from 4 to 32, with 4 being the best.
- Students are placed in secondary school courses based on their PSLE Score G1, G2 and G3 – Express, Normal (Academic) or Normal (Technical).

ENGLISH LANGUAGE	AL 3
MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE	AL 2
MATHEMATICS	AL 1
SCIENCE	AL 2
<b>PSLE SCORE: 8</b>	

PLACEMENT OUTCOME	PSLE SCORE
EXPRESS	4 – 20
EXPRESS / N(A) OPTION	21 – 22
N(A)	23 – 24
N(A) / N(T) OPTION	25
N(T)	26 – 30, with AL 7 or better in both EL and MA

*Express, N(A) and N(T) courses will be phased out by 2024.*

# FULL SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (FULL SBB)

EXPANDING SUBJECT-BASED BANDING TO FULL SBB IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE CHANGES TO PSLE SCORING TO RECOGNISE EACH STUDENT'S OWN LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO CHOOSE SECONDARY SCHOOLS THAT FIT THEIR STRENGTHS AND INTERESTS.

TO FURTHER NURTURE THE JOY OF LEARNING AND DEVELOP MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO CATER TO THE DIFFERENT STUDENT PROFILES. THROUGH FULL SBB, WE WANT STUDENTS TO:



- have greater ownership of their education, and learn each subject at the level that best caters to their overall strengths, interests and learning needs, and
- have more opportunities to interact with friends of different strengths and interests.
- not be held back by negative self-concepts and labelling.
- have increased access to post-sec pathways, while having strong fundamentals in their subjects so that they are able to thrive in the pathway they choose.



# FULL SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (FULL SBB)

THE FOLLOWING ARE CHANGES THAT STUDENTS WILL EXPERIENCE FROM FULL SBB:

- Removal of Express, N(A) and N(T) courses
- Mixed form classes
- Common Curriculum subjects
- Offering subjects at a more demanding level, including Humanities subjects
- Common National Examinations
- Post-secondary Admissions *(More information will be made available at a later date.)*



# FULL SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (FULL SBB) TIMELINE

Link to PSLE-FSBB Microsite



<https://go.gov.sg/pslefsbb>



**2020**

Full SBB pilot commenced in 28 secondary schools. Feedback from pilot schools has been positive.



**2022**

Full SBB will continue to be rolled out to more schools in phases.



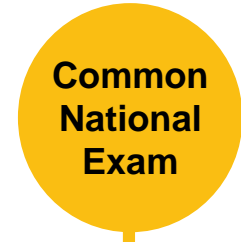
**2023**



**2024**

From 2024,

- There will no longer be Express, N(A) and N(T) courses.
- Students will be able to study subjects at different levels that suit their interests, strengths and learning needs.



**2027**

From 2027, students will sit for the common national examination and receive a new national certification with subjects at different levels.

# FIND OUT MORE ON THE PSLE-FSBB MICROSITE!



<https://go.gov.sg/pslefsbb>



# OTHER RESOURCES

## 1 SchoolFinder Tool

**SCHOOL  
FINDER**



<https://go.gov.sg/secschoolfinder>

## 2 “Welcome to Secondary School” video



<https://go.gov.sg/welcome-to-secondary-school>

## 3 Secondary School Education Booklet



<https://go.gov.sg/psle-sec-sch-brochure>

## 4 ECG Parent Guide



<https://go.gov.sg/parent-guide>

# THANK YOU

