

EDUCATION BUREAU
CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 177/2025

From : Secretary for Education

To : Heads of Primary Schools
(excluding ESF Schools and
International Schools)

Ref. : (13) in 1188-2005-8030-9045-00002-P002

Date : 14 November 2025

**Invitation to Participate in
Secondary School Places Allocation System 2025/2027**

Summary

The purpose of this circular memorandum is to invite primary schools to participate in the Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) System 2025/2027.

Details

2. The Primary School Data Form (Form) with pre-printed school data will be transmitted to the school concerned via the Fast Information Transmission System – School Messaging Module shortly. Schools are requested to indicate on the Form whether they will participate in the SSPA System 2025/2027, irrespective of whether they have participated in the SSPA System 2024/2026. The Form, duly completed and signed, should be returned to the School Places Allocation (SPA) Section (SSPA) on or before **1 December 2025 (Monday)**.

3. Primary schools are requested to note that upon participation in the SSPA System 2025/2027, relevant data of their students would be retrieved from the Student Information Management System for the processing of student entry and allocation. **Schools should ensure that students participating in the SSPA System 2025/2027 are all eligible for admission to public sector schools in Hong Kong. For details, please refer to the prevailing Education Bureau (EDB) Circular on “Entry of Non-local Children and Children Holding a Form of Recognizance to Schools in Hong Kong”. If a student is found ineligible, please inform the Liaison Officer concerned of the SPA Section at once.**

4. Schools not participating in the SSPA System 2025/2027 should note the following:

Their Primary 6 leavers in the 2026/27 school year will not be allocated subsidised Secondary 1 (S1) places through the SSPA System. It is therefore the school’s responsibility to notify parents in advance and to ensure that parents are fully aware of the consequences of the school’s non-participation and the ways for them to apply for a subsidised S1 place in the 2027/28 school year for their children as follows:

(i) Apply for a discretionary place of government, aided and caput secondary schools and Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) secondary schools participating in the SSPA System. Parents may visit the SPA Section of EDB on Podium Floor, West Block, Education Bureau Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon during office hours from early December 2026 to mid-January 2027, bringing along the **originals and photocopies** of the following supporting documents of student applicants:

(1) birth certificate;

- (2) attendance certificate of Primary 6 or graduation certificate of primary school; and
- (3) [applicable to student applicants who are non-residents of Hong Kong only] valid identity documents proving applicants' eligibility for admission to public sector schools in Hong Kong,

to complete necessary procedures. Eligible applicants will be issued with the Application Form for Secondary One Discretionary Place and the Activation Code of the SSPA e-platform (eSSPA)¹. Parents could then submit applications for S1 discretionary place to not more than two secondary schools participating in the SSPA System during the application period. The application is not restricted to districts and secondary schools would admit students according to their educational philosophy and characteristics.

(ii) Apply to DSS secondary schools not participating in the SSPA System. As these schools have their own application period and administrative arrangements for admission, please approach the schools direct.

(iii) Apply for a subsidised S1 place to be allocated by EDB. EDB will allocate school places to eligible student applicants after Central Allocation in accordance with established criteria. Should parents wish to apply for their children, they may visit the SPA Section during office hours from May to August 2027, bringing along the originals and photocopies of the supporting documents of student applicants to complete necessary procedures. Supporting documents of student applicants include:

- (1) birth certificate;
- (2) attendance certificate of Primary 6 or graduation certificate of primary school;
- (3) Hong Kong residential address proof; and
- (4) [applicable to student applicants who are non-residents of Hong Kong only] valid identity documents proving applicants' eligibility for admission to public sector schools in Hong Kong.

Enquiries

5. For enquiries, please contact the SPA Section at 2832 7740.

Cliff HUI
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections/Heads of Secondary Schools – for information

¹ Parents may register for an eSSPA account with the Activation Code and submit electronic applications via the eSSPA as well as use the other services. For details, please visit EDB website.