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Ministry of Education  
SINGAPORE

13 April 2017

Dear Parent

**Information on 2017 Direct School Admission – Secondary (DSA-Sec) Exercise**

**What is DSA?**

DSA 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). The DSA-Sec Exercise matches students with these talents and achievements to secondary schools with suitable development programmes. The 2017 DSA-Sec Exercise will start in May 2017.

**Should my child apply for DSA-Sec?**

Your child may wish to consider applying for a secondary school through DSA if your child has talents and achievements that matches the talent development programme in that school in either:

- A non-academic area (e.g. sports or visual arts), or
- A specific academic area (e.g. English or Maths)

Your child should also be committed to develop his or her talents in the chosen area, in that school. Likewise, the school is committed to developing your child to his or her fullest potential in both academic studies and areas of talent for the duration of the programme your child is admitted to. Parents and students are encouraged to choose schools wisely based on the student's aptitudes and strengths, bearing in mind the schools' academic and non-academic requirements, and the programmes available to develop the area of talent.

You may wish to discuss with your child about his or her interests and readiness to commit to a school to develop his or her area of talent. If your child is unsure or not ready to do so, the Secondary One (S1) Posting Exercise, by which students are admitted based on their PSLE scores, might be a better option. 9 out of 10 students in previous years were posted to a school via the S1 Posting Exercise.

Students successfully allocated to a school through the DSA-Sec Exercise 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 I apply to?**

You may wish to shortlist a few schools whose programmes can best develop your child. From 8 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
- Calling the school
- Visiting the schools' Open House

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



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enjoy his/her 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 one or two 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, CCA records, a personal statement and/or a character reference. Schools may administer interviews, tests, trials or selection camps.

MOE recently announced that all schools will stop using general academic ability tests such as the General Ability Test (GAT) and Higher Ability Selection Test (HAST) for DSA selection from the 2018 DSA-Sec Exercise. Some schools may choose to stop these tests for the 2017 P6 students. Parents are encouraged to check schools' websites or to call the school for details on their selection criteria.

### 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?
<b>Confirmed Offer (CO)</b>	Your child has a place reserved in the school as long as he/she qualifies for an academic course (i.e. Express, Normal (Academic) or Normal (Technical)) offered by the school based on the PSLE results.	Your child would submit the School Preference Form online* or at his/her primary school in <u>October</u> . If your child has more than one CO or WL, your child may select up to three schools in order of preference.
<b>Waiting List (WL)</b>	Your child will be given a place in the school only if students with COs choose not to take up those offers. On average, 50% of students on a school's WL were successfully allocated a place.	Your child would also submit the School Preference Form from his/her primary school in <u>October</u> . Your child may select up to three schools in order of preference.
<b>Unsuccessful</b>	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 Form. Otherwise, the earlier SSP offer for your child will be void.

For more details on the DSA-Sec Exercise process, refer to the brochure given to your child.

### Find out more

From 8 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](http://www.moe.gov.sg/admissions/direct-admissions/dsa-sec) or scan the QR code.



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