How To Choose A Secondary School

ZENITH

Work out your PSLE score, then find the options that fit it.

Key Rules

1. The PSLE score is the sum of 4 AL scores, from 4 to 32.
2. You can list up to 6 schools, all in the same Posting Group.

PSLE Score (AL) Calculator

Write each subject's AL in the boxes and add them up. The best possible score is 4, and lower is better.

ENGLISH	+	MATH	+	SCIENCE	+	MOTHER TONGUE	=	TOTAL

Marks needed for each AL:

AL1 90 and above	**AL2** 85 to 89	**AL3** 80 to 84	**AL4** 75 to 79
AL5 65 to 74	**AL6** 45 to 64	**AL7** 20 to 44	**AL8** Below 20

Foundation subjects: Grades A, B and C count as AL6, AL7 and AL8.

Example: English AL3 + Math AL2 + Science AL3 + Mother Tongue AL4 = **12**. That falls in Posting Group 3 (G3 subjects).

4 to 20	21 to 22	23 to 24	25	26 to 30
PG3 · G3	PG2 or PG3	PG2 · G2	PG1 or PG2	PG1 · G1

Where Does Your Score Fit?

Find your score band, then read the section that applies to you.

A — SCORE 21 TO 22, OR 25

Two Posting Groups To Choose From

Compare the two groups and pick one.

B — SCORE 4 TO 20

The G3 Band: SEC Route, IP Or IB

Compare the routes through secondary school.

C — EVERYONE

Choosing Your Schools

Daily life, open houses and a school checklist. Scores 23 to 24 and 26 to 30 start here.

The Three Levels: G3, G2 And G1

Subjects are taught at three levels. Your Posting Group sets the starting level for most subjects.

G3
MOST DEMANDING

The fastest pace and deepest content. It keeps every pathway open, including JC, because JC admission uses G3 subjects.

G2
BALANCED PACE

A steady pace with more support. Your child can move up to G3 in a subject when ready. Polytechnics accept G2 and G3 subjects.

G1
MOST SUPPORT

The most supported pace, to build strong foundations. Your child can move up when ready. ITE accepts G1 grades.

Important: Levels Are Per Subject, Not Per Child

One child can study different subjects at different levels.

G2 English	G3 Math	G3 Science	G2 Mother Tongue

An example of one child's subject levels.

- Your child joins a class by level for each subject, within a mixed form class
- Levels can be adjusted at set points, so a subject can move up when your child is ready
- At the end of Secondary 4, the Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) shows the level of each subject

A. Two Posting Groups To Choose From

The group you pick applies to all 6 school choices.

PSLE 21 to 22	**PG2 or PG3**: Starting at G2 or G3
PSLE 25	**PG1 or PG2**: Starting at G1 or G2

How To Decide

- Look at each subject's AL, not just the total
- Ask if your child can cope with a faster pace and heavier homework
- Think about pathways: G3 keeps JC open, and G2 and G1 lead to polytechnic and ITE
- Levels can be adjusted by subject later. Students who did well may take some subjects at a more demanding level

B. The G3 Band: SEC Route, IP Or IB

For a score of 4 to 20. Some schools offer the six-year IP, and some of those end in the IB Diploma.

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
SEC Route	Secondary 1 To 4				JC A-Level	
					Or polytechnic or ITE	
Integrated Programme	Secondary 1 To 6, Straight Through					

Ends with the A-Level, IB Diploma or NUS High School Diploma, depending on the school. There is no SEC at Secondary 4.

Why Pick The SEC Route

- Clear checkpoint at Secondary 4
- More choice of JC, polytechnic or ITE afterwards
- Time to settle subject levels first
- Suits students who like regular benchmarks

Why Pick The IP

- Direct path to pre-university
- More room for projects and enrichment
- No SEC year
- Suits strong, self-directed learners

Choose by fit, not name. IP places are very competitive, so check last year's PSLE score ranges on SchoolFinder. Some schools run both the IP and the SEC programme, and you list them as separate choices. In those schools, affiliation priority only applies to the SEC programme.

C. Choosing Your Schools

For everyone. Six choices, ranked.

What Is Different From Primary School

- Longer school days, usually about 7.30am to 3pm, though each school differs
- CCA is compulsory in secondary school, and it takes place after lessons
- Your child may travel further each day

Visit School Open Houses

- Secondary schools hold open houses, and parents can visit directly
- Walk around the campus, meet teachers and ask about subjects and CCAs
- Check each school's website for dates and sign-up

Is This School A Keeper?

Run each school on your shortlist through these questions. Blue arrows mean yes, and orange arrows mean no.

Start Here: I Am Shortlisting A School

Q1 — **Does it offer your child's Posting Group?**
- No → **Drop It**: It would waste one of your 6 choices.
- Yes ↓

Q2 — **Is your child's PSLE score at or better than last year's range for it?**
Ranges move up to a few points each year.
- No → **A Reach School**: Keep only a couple of these on your list.
- Yes ↓

Q3 — **Can your child travel there comfortably, every day?**
Think bus, MRT and walking time. It adds up over 4 years.
- No → **Think Twice**: A long daily trip affects sleep, CCAs and energy.
- Yes ↓

Q4 — **Does it offer CCAs and programmes your child will enjoy?**
Check the CCA list on the school website.
- No → **Look Further**: A child who likes their CCA is happier at school.
- Yes ↓

Q5 — **Does it offer the subjects and language options you need?**
Higher Mother Tongue, a third language, and the SAP school Chinese requirement.
- No → **Check With The School**: Not every school offers every option.
- Yes ↓

Keep It On Your List
Rank it by how much your child wants to go.

Also Worth Checking

Four More Things

- **School type:** Government, government-aided or independent
- **SAP schools:** Need Higher Chinese or Chinese
- **Affiliation:** Priority only if it is your first choice, and at least 20% of places go to non-affiliated students
- **Money:** Singapore Citizens can apply for financial assistance and scholarships

Build a balanced list of 6. A couple of reach schools, some realistic ones, and 2 to 3 whose last-year cut-off is easier than your child's score. Then rank them by **true preference**. If students tie on score and citizenship, the higher-ranked choice wins.

Good To Know

Last Year Is A Guide
Score ranges change with each cohort's results and choices.

Choice Order Counts
It decides ties, and it shows what your family values.

Unplaced?
Students not placed in any choice go to a school with vacancies, by score and address.