

Holistic learning

As part of a major shift from an over-emphasis on grades, the Education Ministry (MOE) will remove PSLE's aggregate score, and up aptitude-based admissions to polytechnics and universities.

PRIMARY LEVEL



Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) review

First announced by PM Lee Hsien Loong in 2013, the PSLE's aggregate score will be a thing of the past from 2021, to reduce the obsession with academic results.

- The new system, which affects this year's Primary 1 pupils, will involve wider scoring bands, akin to grading at O and A levels. Details will be revealed in the coming months.
- Marks will also no longer be based on how pupils do relative to their peers. The hope is that they will focus on their own learning rather than engage in a race with their peers.
- MOE will take the next few years to develop and test the new exam system, plus how this affects secondary school postings.

SECONDARY LEVEL



Developing resilience

Students will benefit more from outdoor education, to build confidence, teamwork, forge camaraderie and lay a foundation for active and healthy living.

- A five-day Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) camp will be compulsory for all Sec 3 students from 2020, when the new \$250 million OBS@Coney is expected to be ready. Students from different schools will be brought together, giving them a chance to interact.
- MOE's four Outdoor Adventure Learning Centres, such as the one in Jalan Bahtera, will be upgraded to cater to more students.

TERTIARY LEVEL



Aptitude-based admissions

More will be done to match students' interests with their course of study. Students are likely to do better when pursuing what they are interested in.

- Up to 12.5 per cent of the polytechnic intake, starting with next year's cohort, will come through the new Early Admissions Exercise (EAE). It allows students to secure a place in a diploma course, even before they sit the O level exams.
- The EAE will assess students' aptitude, talents and interests in the course being applied for. This may involve interviews, aptitude tests and portfolios.
- A third of poly courses, like those in health sciences and design, can take in up to half their students based on aptitude, up from 30 per cent.
- From next year, one in 10 ITE students who progress on to the polys can also be admitted through a EAE system.
- From next year, Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, and Singapore Management University will admit up to 15 per cent of their annual intake under the Discretionary Admissions Scheme (DAS) – up from 10 per cent. Applicants who do not meet the cut-off point but who show aptitude for the course and possess minimum academic competence to cope may be considered under the DAS.