

Information Note for LegCo Education Panel

**Results of Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) 2004
Ethnic Minority Children**

Purpose

This note informs Members of the allocation results of ethnic minority children [referred hereafter as Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) children] under the revised SSPA arrangement.

Background

2. At the Education Panel meeting held on 21 June 2004, we explained to Members the justification for refining the revised SSPA allocation arrangement to enhance NCS students' choice of schools. Noting that some NCS students may still prefer schools with a higher intake of NCS students (NCS schools), sufficient places in such schools had been reserved in all the school nets with NCS students. We also undertook to report to Members of the allocation results of the NCS students in due course.

Results of SSPA 2004

3. The SSPA results were released on 13 July 2004. A total of 451 NCS students participated in the SSPA. Among them, 210 successfully obtained S1 places at the Discretionary Places (DP) Stage and the remaining 241 students were allocated S1 places through the Central Allocation (CA). Altogether, 401 NCS students were allocated to their first 3 school choices including DP places.

4. A comparison of the DP successful rate and overall satisfaction rate between NCS and all students is presented in the table below:

DP Successful Rate		Overall Satisfaction Rate	
NCS students	All students	NCS students	All students
46.6%	16.8%	88.9%	79.4%

The overall satisfaction rate represents the portion of students securing a place through the DP or allocated in the CA a place of their first three choices.

5. Out of all the 241 NCS students taking part in CA, only 18 were allocated to mainstream secondary schools. Among them, ten have been allocated to schools according to schools of their choice with six to schools adopting English as the medium of instruction in most academic subjects.

6. For the other eight students allocated to schools using Chinese as the medium of instruction (CMI schools) outside their choices, the result was not due to insufficient NCS places as there are more than sufficient places from a number of NCS schools reserved even if all NCS students participating in the CA were to choose NCS schools. Rather, an analysis of the school choice exercised by the parents indicates the following probable reasons:

- only a very limited number of school choices were made (7 choices the most, 1 choice the least);
- none or only one of the NCS schools were selected; and
- other choices are all much-sought after schools using English as the medium of instruction.

7. Nevertheless, preferring to err on the safe side and as an additional facility to the eight students allocated to CMI mainstream secondary schools, we have provided them with information of schools that traditionally accept more NCS students or offer a third language and which still have vacancies after the CA.

8. In addition, we have contacted individual mainstream secondary schools allocated with NCS children to share with them how they may prepare the schools and their staff to help build an integration-friendly environment and brief them on the support measures available for both the schools and the students. When the enrolment situation settles in early September, another experience sharing session will be organised in September/October for schools to share their authentic experiences in teaching NCS children and to learn from the good practices of those schools which have traditionally admitted a greater number of NCS children.

Advice Sought

9. Members are invited to note the SSPA results of NCS students under the refined SSPA arrangement as elaborated in paragraphs 3-6 above.

Education and Manpower Bureau
July 2004