

Primary One Admission  
and  
Secondary School Places Allocation  
Systems

# POA & SSPA Systems

- 2 stages of admission

Stage 1: Discretionary Places (DP)

Stage 2: Central Allocation (CA)

- Proportion of places

	POA	SSPA
DP	50% P1 places	20% S1 places
CA	50% P1 places	80% S1 places

# Revised Arrangements for Ethnic Minority Children (NCS Children)

## - *Why Changed?*

- ◆ Established government education policy to facilitate the integration of ethnic minorities into society
- ◆ Justified wishes of parents of ethnic minority children and concern groups
- ◆ Long-term benefits for ethnic minority children

# What are the changes?

- ◆ Discretionary Places Stage
  - ◆ No change; same for local and NCS children
  - ◆ Parents may apply to one school in any school net
- ◆ Central Allocation Stage
  - ◆ Improved arrangement
  - ◆ Same choices as local children

# POA ~ Central Allocation

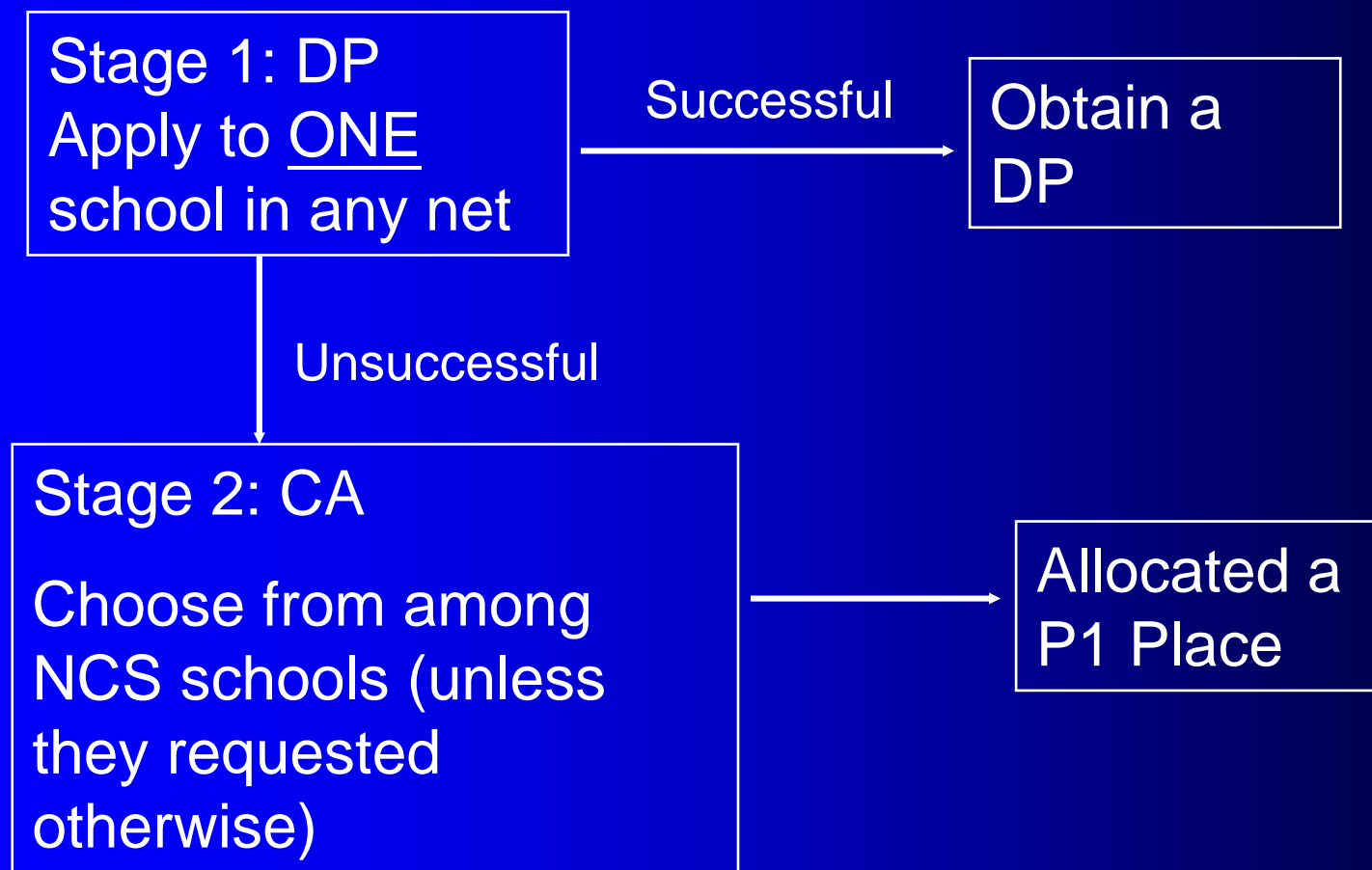
- Part A (10% of CA places)
  - parents may choose 3 schools from any school nets
- Part B (90% of CA places)
  - parents can only choose schools within their home net

# POA ~ Central Allocation

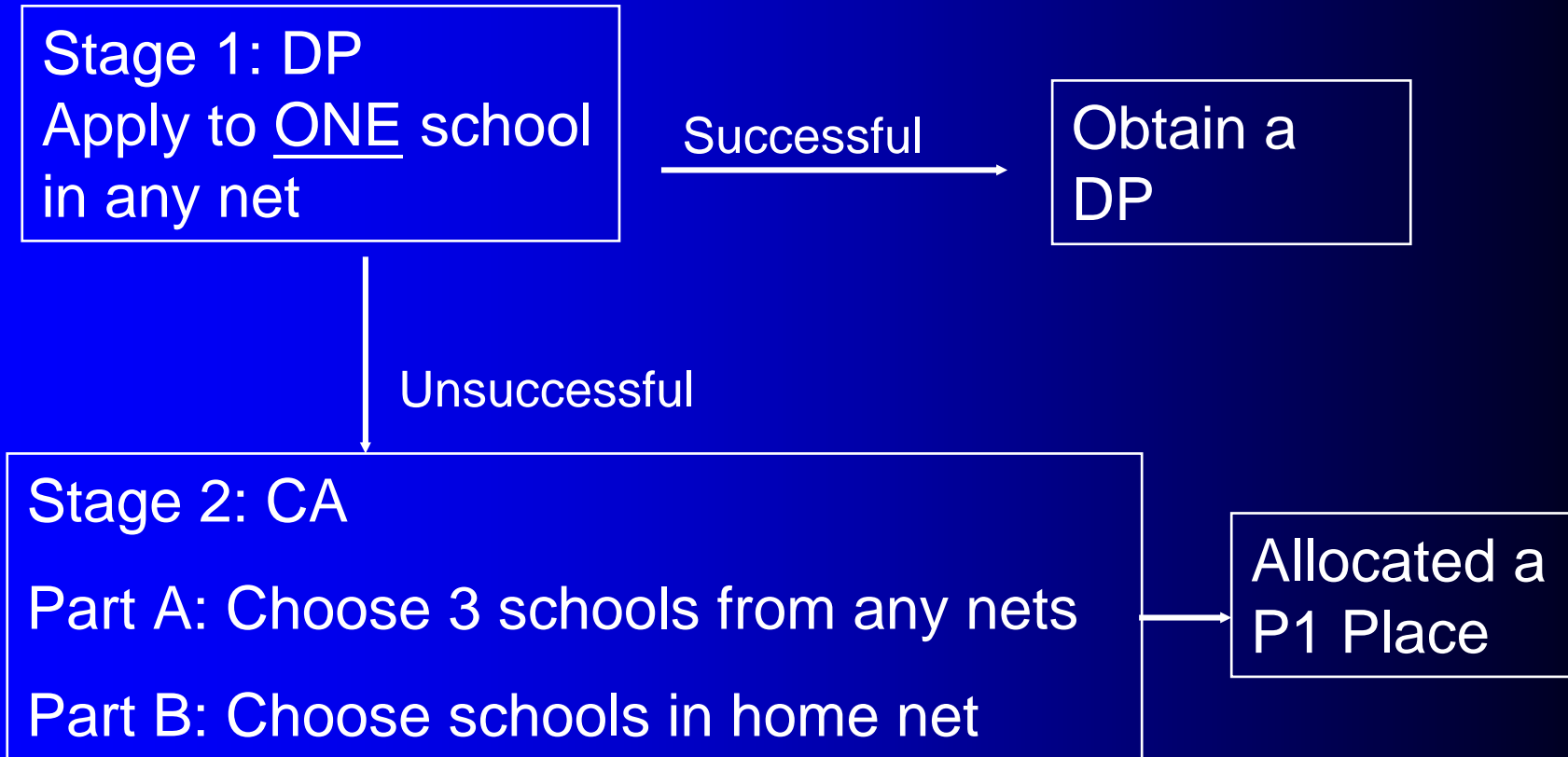
Previous Arrangement	Revised Arrangement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Once the children indicated that they were NCS, they would choose from among the schools with the tradition of taking in NCS children</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Can choose all schools in their residing school net</li></ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>AND</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 3 schools from any school nets (including schools offering P1 places for NCS children)</li></ul>

# POA Arrangements for NCS Children

- *Prior to POA 2004*



- *With effective from POA 2004*





# SSPA ~ Central Allocation

Previous Arrangement	Revised Arrangement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Choose only from among secondary schools offering third language and accepting NCS children</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Can choose all schools in their school net</li></ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>AND</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● schools traditionally having more NCS students</li></ul>

# SSPA Arrangements for NCS Children

Stage 1: DP  
Apply to ONE school in any net

Successful

Obtain a DP

Unsuccessful

Stage 2: CA

*Prior to SSPA 2004*

*As from SSPA 2004*

Allocation on a territory-wide basis  
Choose only from among schools accepting NCS students

Allocation on a net basis  
Choose from any school in own net (Places from schools traditionally having higher intake of NCS students included)

Allocated an S1 Place

What are the Implications?

<b>Previous Arrangement</b>	<b>Revised Arrangement</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="141 371 915 605">● Limited choice of schools (less than 10 schools)</li><li data-bbox="141 742 915 961">● Children may need to travel long distance to school</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="957 371 1585 509">● Same choices as local children</li><li data-bbox="957 728 1658 865">● May attend schools near their homes</li></ul>

<b>Previous Arrangement</b>	<b>Revised Arrangement</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="123 307 880 458">● Inadequate exposure to Chinese language</li><li data-bbox="123 499 815 814">● Less competitive in pursuing further studies and getting jobs</li><li data-bbox="123 856 698 1089">● Comparatively narrower social connection</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="942 307 1608 458">● More exposure to Chinese language</li><li data-bbox="942 499 1645 814">● More competitive in pursuing further studies and getting jobs</li><li data-bbox="942 856 1718 1240">● Children with different ethnic background would mix together; facilitate integration in the wider society</li></ul>

# POA 2004 Allocation Results ( NCS Children )

# POA Allocation Results – All Applicants

No. of applicants: 53,701

Discretionary Places:

= 27,950 (52%)

Central Allocation:

= 25,751 (48%) [1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> choices: 20,229 (78.6%) ]

Type A: 2,886

Type B: 17,343

Overall Satisfaction Rate

= DP + CA (1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> choices) = 89.7%

# POA Allocation Results - NCS Children

No. of NCS applicants: 541

Discretionary Places:

= 290 (54%)

Central Allocation:

= 251 (46%) [1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> choices: 194 (77.3%) ]

Type A: 34

(nearly 50% - chose mainstream schools)

Type B: 217

Overall Satisfaction Rate

= DP + CA (1st – 3rd choices) = 89.5%



# POA Redress Measures

NCS children allocated to mainstream schools:

- (a) Chose only NCS schools in Part A; allocated to a mainstream school they had not chosen
- (b) Chose only NCS schools in Part A; allocated to a mainstream school of their choice in Part B

If these parents express great difficulties, we shall offer alternative placement to NCS schools


# SSPA 2004 DP Results ( NCS Children )

# NCS Students Participating in SSPA 2004

No. of participants: 451

No. admitted at DP stage: 210 (47%)

No. requiring CA: 241 (53%)

No. of CA places from 3 NCS schools:  
464  Sufficient NCS places  
provided

# Support Measures

# Support Measures Provided by EMB

## 1. Bridging Programme

- A 'Bridging Programme' would be organized for NCS children entering P1 in mainstream schools in September 2004 through the POA System.
- The four-week programme will be conducted during the summer vacation. It aims at helping these children adapt to the new learning environment and widening their learning experience/exposure in using Cantonese as the medium of instruction.

2. Organise experience sharing session in September/October to enable schools allocated with NCS children to share their authentic experiences in teaching those children and to learn from the good practices of those schools which have traditionally admitted a greater number of NCS children
3. Help the schools to build up their school network of mutual support and sharing of good practices
4. Officers with experience in teaching Chinese to children whose first language is non-Chinese have been recruited to strengthen the support.

5. Liaise closely with schools and see to the needs of school, parents and NCS children and to provide support as appropriate.
6. Through networking and liaison by EMB, some secondary student-volunteers will offer free tuition / academic support to NCS students

## **7. Support to Newly Arrived Ethnic Minority Children**

- School-based Support Scheme -- schools are provided with a grant calculated on a per capita basis of the newly arrived children admitted by the school within the school year. Schools can flexibly make use of the grant to run school-based support programmes.
- Induction Programme -- 60-hour programme run by NGOs under government subvention. The programme contents include knowing the environment, basic learning skills and Chinese language.



- **Initiation Programme --** A full-time 6-month programme aiming at providing the newly arrived children with real classroom experience, enhancing their skills in learning the core academic subjects as well as helping them in their adjustment and their personal development. Newly arrived children may choose to attend the programme first before joining mainstream schools.

8. Existing support measures to cater for the different learning and adaptation needs of primary students

- Student Guidance Service
- Intensive Remedial Teaching Programme



If NCS children encounter difficulty in learning in mainstream schools after the school term has commenced, parents can still approach EMB for assistance

# Summary

- Promote genuine integration but **WITHOUT** forcing it
- Enhance choice of school category
- Those determined to get into NCS schools still can do so
- Never under-estimate learning potential of children aged 5 – 8
- Most important stakeholders in education: students
- Ultimate test: Long term interest of students

Thank You !