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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>POA</th>
<th>SSPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DP</td>
<td>50% P1 places</td>
<td>20% S1 places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>50% P1 places</td>
<td>80% S1 places</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
### Previous Arrangement
- Once the children indicated that they were NCS, they would choose from among the schools with the tradition of taking in NCS children

### Revised Arrangement
- Can choose all schools in their residing school net
- **AND**
- 3 schools from any school nets (including schools offering P1 places for NCS children)
POA Arrangements for NCS Children

- **Prior to POA 2004**

  **Stage 1: DP**
  Apply to **ONE** school in any net

  - **Successful**
    - Obtain a DP
  - **Unsuccessful**
    - **Stage 2: CA**
    Choose from among NCS schools (unless they requested otherwise)

  - **Allocated a P1 Place**
With effective from POA 2004

Stage 1: DP
Apply to ONE school in any net

Successful
Obtain a DP

Unsuccessful

Stage 2: CA
Part A: Choose 3 schools from any nets
Part B: Choose schools in home net

Allocated a P1 Place
## SSPA ~ Central Allocation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous Arrangement</th>
<th>Revised Arrangement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ● Choose only from among secondary schools offering third language and accepting NCS children | ● Can choose all schools in their school net  
  **AND**  
  ● schools traditionally having more NCS students |
SSPA Arrangements for NCS Children

Prior to SSPA 2004

Stage 1: DP
Apply to ONE school in any net

Successful
Obtain a DP

Unsuccessful

Stage 2: CA

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?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous Arrangement</th>
<th>Revised Arrangement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Limited choice of schools (less than 10 schools)</td>
<td>● Same choices as local children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Children may need to travel long distance to school</td>
<td>● May attend schools near their homes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More exposure to Chinese language
Less competitive in pursuing further studies and getting jobs
Comparatively narrower social connection

More exposure to Chinese language
More competitive in pursuing further studies and getting jobs
Children with different ethnic background would mix together; facilitate integration in the wider society
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\textsuperscript{st} – 3\textsuperscript{rd} choices: 20,229 (78.6%) ]
   Type A: 2,886
   Type B: 17,343

Overall Satisfaction Rate
   = DP + CA (1\textsuperscript{st} – 3\textsuperscript{rd} choices) = 89.7%
POA Allocation Results - NCS Children

No. of NCS applicants: 541

Discretionary Places:
  = 290 (54%)

Central Allocation:
  = 251 (46%) [1st – 3rd 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
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!