# WHAT'S AFTER
# THE N-LEVEL EXAMINATIONS?

**Secondary 4NA Parent Engagement Session 2026**
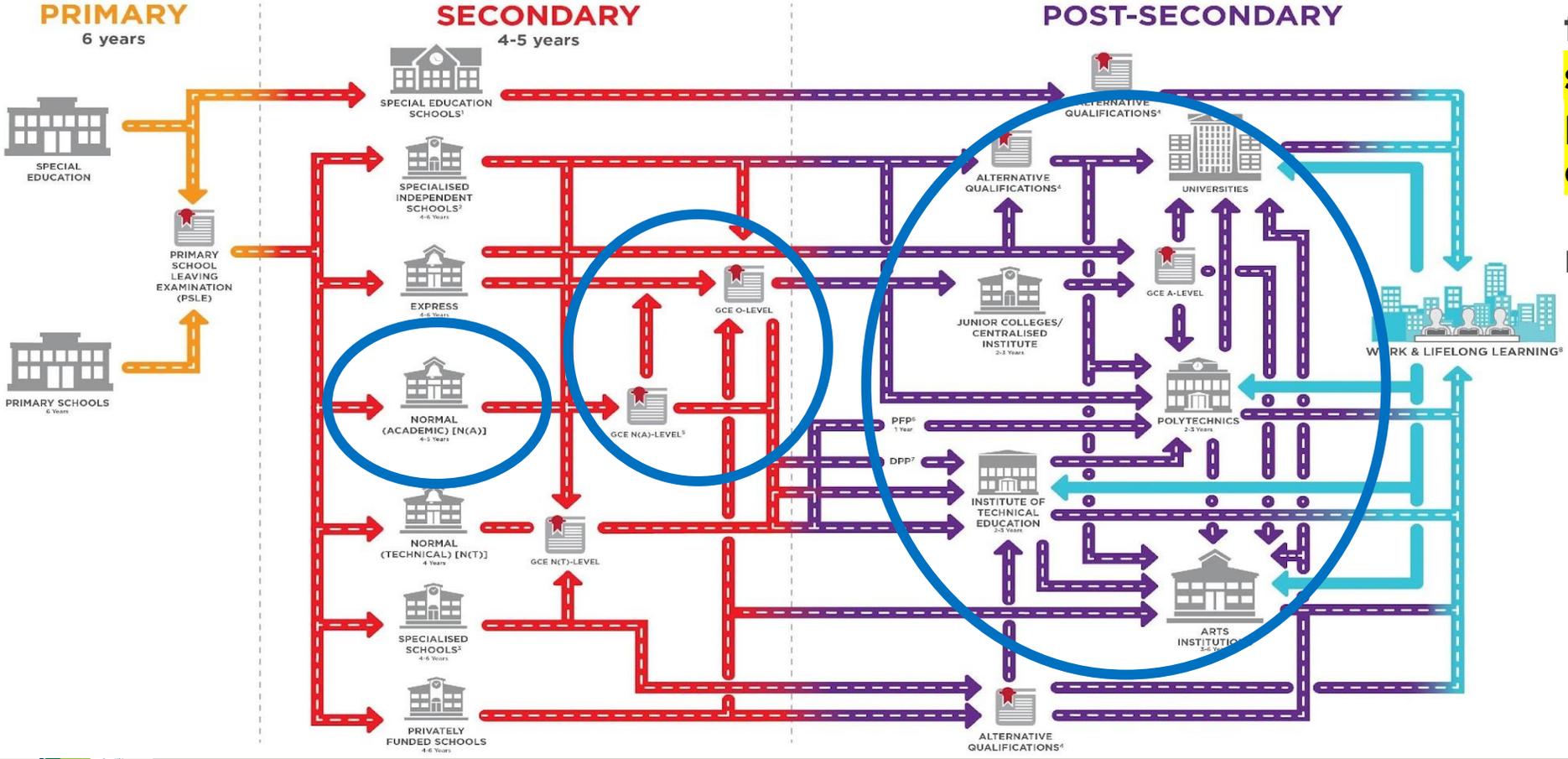Presented by: Ms Atikah, ECG Counsellor

*Beyond Self, Beyond School.*

# Dynamic Education Landscape



Singapore's Education System : An Overview

A more porous system that allows for "U-turns, side steps, slowdowns, pauses, experimentations."
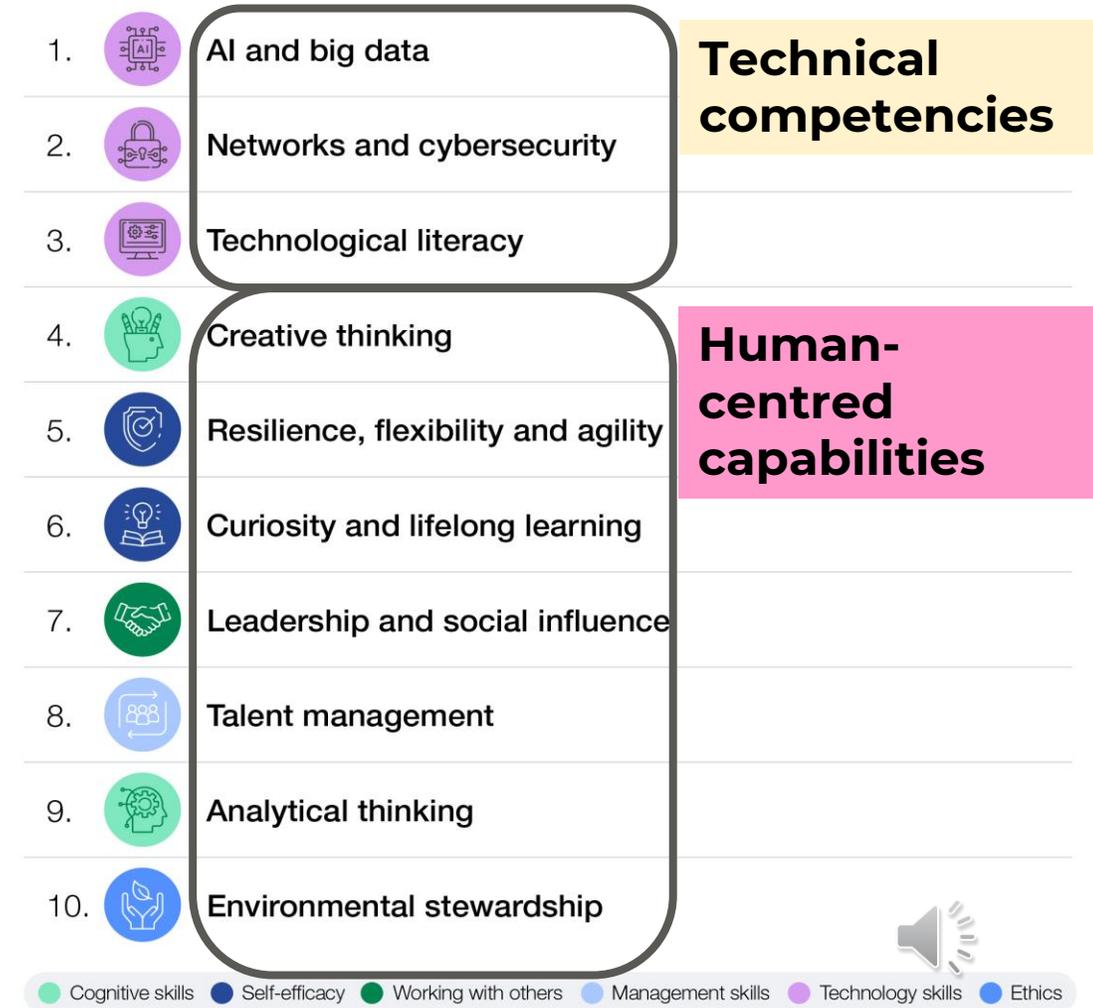
PM Wong, 2024

# The Future: Importance of human-centered capabilities

When PM Lawrence Wong told Parliament that **academic results are no longer the be-all and end-all**, it wasn't just policy talk — it was a sign of a global shift.

Lawrence Wong

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

## Top 10 fastest growing skills by 2030

1. AI and big data
2. Networks and cybersecurity
3. Technological literacy

**Technical competencies**

4. Creative thinking
5. Resilience, flexibility and agility
6. Curiosity and lifelong learning
7. Leadership and social influence
8. Talent management
9. Analytical thinking
10. Environmental stewardship

**Human-centred capabilities**

Cognitive skills   Self-efficacy   Working with others   Management skills   Technology skills   Ethics

**Note:** The skills selected by surveyed organizations to be increasing most rapidly in importance by 2030.

**Source:** World Economic Forum. (2025). *Future of Jobs Report 2025*.

Instead, there will be a focus on the more important aspects of a child's experiences in school – developing life skills, interpersonal relationships, good character and values. "In the working world, we all know that grades might still get you through the door, but how you are as a person determines how you do," said Mr Lee.

# Overview of Post-Secondary Institutions

| Polytechnic | Institute of Technical Education (ITE) | Arts Institution: NAFA |
|---|---|---|
| <ul><li>Independent learning</li><li>Responsible for own performance</li><li>Mixed assessments: group projects, written tests, assessments, presentations etc.</li></ul> | <ul><li>70% practical, 30% theory</li><li>Skills-based modules</li><li>Mixed assessments: group projects, written tests, assessments, presentations etc.</li><li>Strong industry partnerships</li><li>High employability and recognition</li></ul> | <ul><li>Deepen creative talents</li><li>Leads to degree programmes specialising in the field of study</li><li>Requires deep passion and talent</li></ul> |

# Overview of Pathways

| | Secondary 5 | Poly Foundation Programme (PFP) | Institute of Technical Education (ITE) | Arts Institution: NAFA Foundation Programme (NFP) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Focus | Academic rigour | • Applied learning<br>• Work attachments | • Applied learning<br>• Work attachments | Deepen creative talents |
| Curriculum | O-Level syllabus | Hands-on, practical learning | Practical and skills-based, hands-on, real-world applications | Arts modules at tertiary level |
| Admissions requirements | Raw EMB3 ≤ 19<br>& Min. Grade 5 for all subjs | Raw EMB3 ≤ 12<br>& min subject grade requirements | Best 4 subjects & meet subj grade requirements | Net EMB3 ≤ 15 |
| Duration | 1 year | 4 years | 2 – 3 years | 1 year bridging programme |
| Qualification | O Level | Poly Diploma | Higher Nitec Cert | Progress into Diploma programme in NAFA / UAS |
| Progression (not necessarily in order) | JC / Poly / ITE | University; Workforce | ITE Diploma;<br>Poly Diploma;<br>University;<br>Workforce | University; Workforce |
| | | | | |
| Apply through | • School | • PFP [offered to eligible students] | • ITE EAE<br>• DPP (2-yr Higher Nitec) [offered to eligible students]<br>• JIE 'N' (3-yr Higher Nitec) | • NAFA website |

<mark>Net aggregate score = Raw score minus bonus points</mark>

# Bonus Points

| Type | Bonus points |
|---|---|
| CCA grade: Excellent | 2 |
| CCA grade: Good | 1 |

**Bonus points can be deducted from raw score:**
- To enter **PFP cluster choice / ITE / NFP**

*Beyond Self, Beyond School.*

# ADMISSIONS

| Merit-based admissions Using N-Level results | | Aptitude-based admissions BEFORE receiving N-Level results | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Poly Foundation Programme (PFP) | 4-yr Poly Raw EMB3 ≤ 12 & meet subj grade requirements | Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) | 3-yr ITE |
| 2. Direct-Entry-Scheme to Poly Programme (DPP) | 2-yr ITE Raw EMB3 ≤ 19 & meet subj grade requirements | • Students who accepted EAE offer cannot participate in JIE 'N', but may be offered PFP and/or DPP. | |
| 3. Joint Intake Exercise for 'N' Levels (JIE 'N') | 3-yr ITE | | |

# Merit-based admissions:
# Poly Foundation Programme (PFP) [4-yr Poly]

**1. Design, Engineering & Technology Cluster**
**2. Design Sub-cluster**
**3. Engineering & Technology Sub-cluster**
**4. Sciences Cluster**
**5. Diploma in Nursing**

| | Minimum Required Grades |
|---|---|
| English Language Syllabus A | 3 |
| Mathematics Syllabus A / Additional Mathematics | 3 |
| One of the following relevant subjects:<br>- Design and Technology<br>- Food and Nutrition / Nutrition and Food Science<br>- Science (Chemistry, Biology)<br>- Science (Physics, Biology)<br>- Science (Physics, Chemistry) | 3 |
| Any two other subjects excluding CCA | 4 |

**1. Humanities, Art, Media & Business Cluster**
**2. Diploma in Early Childhood Development & Education**
**3. Diploma in Tamil Studies with Early Education***

| | Minimum Required Grades |
|---|---|
| English Language Syllabus A | 3 |
| Mathematics Syllabus A / Additional Mathematics | 3 |
| One of the following relevant subjects:<br>- Art<br>- Geography<br>- History<br>- Humanities (Social Studies, Geography)<br>- Humanities (Social Studies, History)<br>- Humanities (Social Studies, Literature in English)<br>- Literature in English<br>- Principles of Accounts | 3 |
| Any two other subjects excluding CCA | 4 |

*Students applying to the Diploma in Tamil Studies with Early Education must also obtain one of the following scores:
- Grade B4 for O-level Higher Tamil Language
- Grade B3 for O-level Tamil Language
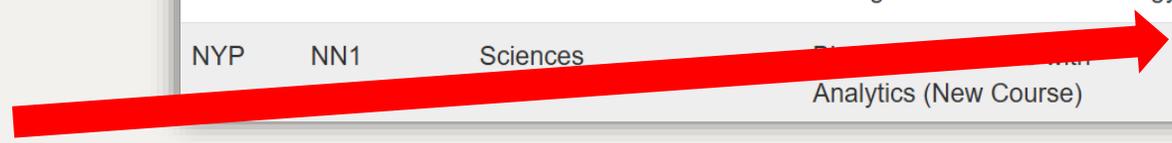- Grade1 for N(A)-level Tamil Language.

# Merit-based admissions:
# Poly Foundation Programme (PFP) [4-yr Poly]

- PFP is ==competitive==, with limited vacancies

- What is 'cluster' in PFP?
  - Courses are grouped in clusters e.g. Design, Tech & Engineering Cluster = Courses related to design, technology & engineering
  - In Year 0, students will learn modules of the cluster in general, before choosing a course within the cluster in Year 1.

- Students ==may be offered== PFP: Raw EMB3 ≤ 12 & met min. subj requirements

- ==Being eligible does not guarantee placement into desired cluster.==

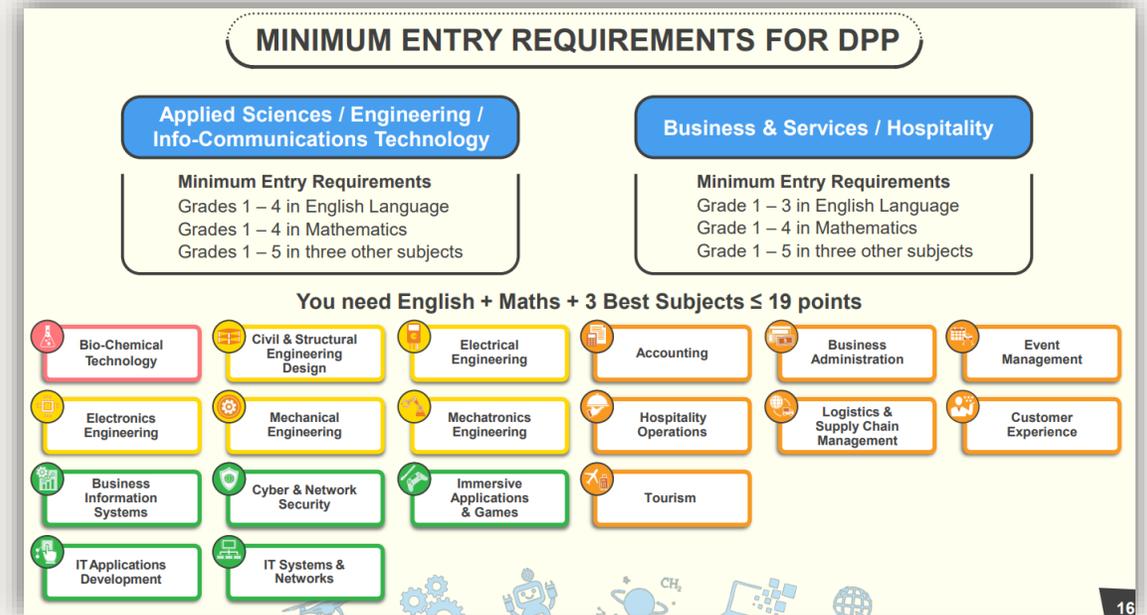| NP | NP3 | Design, Engineering & Technology (DET) | Common Engineering Programme |
|----|-----|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| NP | NP3 | Design, Engineering & Technology (DET) | Common ICT Programme |
| NP | NP3 | Design, Engineering & Technology (DET) | Computing with Law (New Course) |
| NP | NP3 | Design, Engineering & Technology (DET) | Cybersecurity & Digital Forensics |
| NP | NP3 | Design, Engineering & Technology (DET) | Applied AI & Analytics (formerly known as Data Science) |

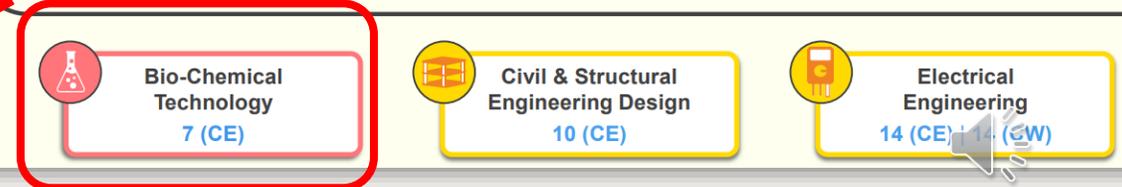| ⇕ Poly | ⇕ Cluster Code | ⇕ Cluster/Course | ⇕ Polytechnic Year 1 Course | Net ELMAB3 ⇕ Range for PFP2026 |
|--------|----------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| NYP | NN1 | Sciences | Applied Chemistry | 3 to 7 |
| NYP | NN1 | Sciences | Biologics & Process Technology | 3 to 7 |
| NYP | NN1 | Sciences | Analytics (New Course) | 3 to 7 |

==Net aggregate score = Raw EMB3 minus bonus points==

# Merit-based admissions:
# Direct-Entry-Scheme to Poly Programme (DPP) [2-yr ITE]

- Students **may be offered** DPP: Raw EMB3 ≤ 19 & meet min. subj grade requirements

- Enter 2-year Higher Nitec, with guaranteed mapped course in Poly if they meet min GPA ≤ 2.5 in ITE.

- **Being eligible does not guarantee a course placement.**



Beyond Self, Beyond School.

# Merit-based admissions: PFP & DPP

## More info on PFP



https://go.gov.sg/pfp-clustermers-20
26

## More info on ITE / DPP
### in ITE Course Booklet 2026



https://go.gov.sg/itecoursebooklet-2
026

# ITE Early Admissions Exercise (EAE)

## Preparing for ITE EAE

| Think about interests and abilities | → | Explore course / career options & shortlist top 3 courses | → | Prepare application write-ups and Portfolio |

## Application opens in May 2026

**More info on ITE EAE:**

JURONGVILLE

*Beyond Self, Beyond School.*

# Preparing for Post-Secondary Admissions

**Explore post-secondary courses offered by ITE:**

**MOE CourseFinder**

**https://www.moe.gov.sg/ coursefinder**

## Higher Nitec in Business (3 years)

**Look at 3-yr JIE 'N' programmes**

☑ Admission Type: **JIEN, ITE EAE**

| College | Course code | ELB3 net aggregate |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|
| ITE College Central | HF3BA | 2 - 3 |
| ITE College East | HF3BA | 2 - 6 |
| ITE College West | HF3BA | 2 - 3 |

**Aim for this**

Learn more on:

- Course details
- Minimum entry requirements
- Career prospects
- How to register

**Take note of this**

# WHEN
## Admissions timeline

| MAY | DECEMBER | JANUARY 2027 |
|---|---|---|
| EARLY ADMISSIONS EXERCISE **ITE-EAE** | JIE 'N' | PFP |
| | DPP | DPP |
| | NFP | |

JURONGVILLE

# Preparing for Post-Secondary Admissions

## ECG Efforts @ JVS:

- ITE Open House
- Applied Learning Modules (in ITE/Poly)
- Portfolio Preparation (COOL Project)
- ITE EAE Preparation Workshops
- ECG Counselling / Group Guidance
- Cohort talks
- Learning journeys / industry visits
- T2WX Career Fair:
  - EAE Admissions talks
  - Interview Skills workshop
  - PSEI booths
  - Career Talks by Professionals



*Beyond Self, Beyond School.*

# Preparing for Post-Secondary Admissions

**WHO AM I?**

- What kind of learner am I?
- Which learning environment do I thrive in?
- What do I enjoy doing?
- What are my strengths?

**WHERE DO I WANT TO GO?**

- Which institution / course am I aspiring towards?
- Which career path am I intending to embark on?

**HOW DO I GET THERE?**

- What qualifications do I need?
- Which pathways lead to my course choice?

**WHERE AM I NOW?**

- Are my goals realistic and well-informed?
- What are my back-up options?

# For further ECG support:

## ECG Counsellor, Ms Atikah

- Email: atikah_saad@schools.gov.sg
- Book an ECG chat session

*Beyond Self, Beyond School.*