Regional Workshop ENHANCING INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA THROUGH INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

SEAMEO RETRAC, May 12-13, 2022

ISO 9001:2015

Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE

Enhancing inclusive and equitable education in Singapore: Uplifting every child, upskilling every teacher and harnessing the community

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Our Education Agenda: Learn for Life

Stay future-ready:
Refreshing Our Curriculum for the Future

Encouraging Lifelong Learning through SkillsFuture

Structural changes:
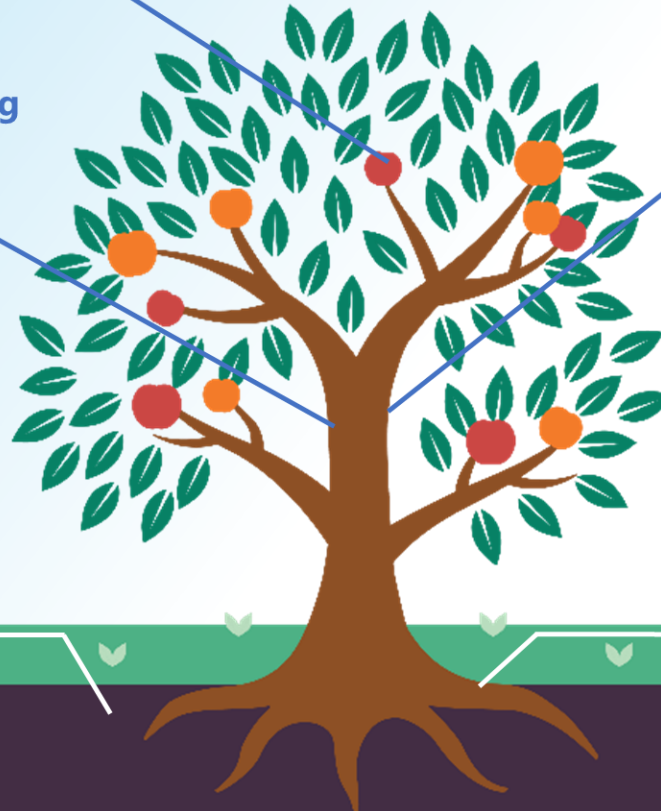**Nurturing the Joy of Learning**

One Education, Multiple Pathways

Support our educators:
Strengthening our Workforce

Structural changes:
Developing a Quality Preschool Sector

Strengthen Support for Special Educational Needs

Developing a Quality Higher Education Sector

Basic purpose:
Education as an Uplifting Force

Hold onto our roots:
Learning Languages for Life

2

Confronting COVID-19

Dynamically adjusting our responses according to the national situation

- A dynamic balance between **sustaining essential learning and school life** and **protecting our students and teachers against COVID**

- Special attention paid to **students from disadvantaged/at-risk families**, to minimise outsized effect of disruption on these groups

- The COVID-19 crisis accelerated disruptive changes in our economy and heightened the urgency to prepare our people for a unpredictable and evolving future

Learn for Life:
Staying Resilient in a Changing World

- We are **pressing ahead with structural reforms**, to **develop the diverse strengths and interests of our students**, and to **ensure that every child can access opportunities at every stage of their lives**

- Beyond immediate responses to COVID, **we are seizing opportunities to accelerate efforts in ensuring inclusion and equity**

  - **Digital Inclusion**

  - **SkillsFuture for Educators**

  - **Community Partnerships**

DIGITAL INCLUSION

Ensuring access to digital learning opportunities regardless of background

Launched National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP) in 2020

1. **Access to hardware: Equip students with Personal Learning Devices (PLDs)**
   - Accelerated roll-out of PLDs (e.g. iPads, Chromebooks) to all secondary students by end-2021 (originally 2028)
   - MOE helped to defray device purchase costs for all students; additional subsidies for disadvantaged students

2. **Access to quality online resources: Singapore Student Learning Space (SLS)**
   - Support personalised and customised teaching and learning and home-based learning (HBL)

3. **Access to digital literacy: Students to be effective learners**
   - Help students Find, Think, Apply, Create in an increasingly digital world
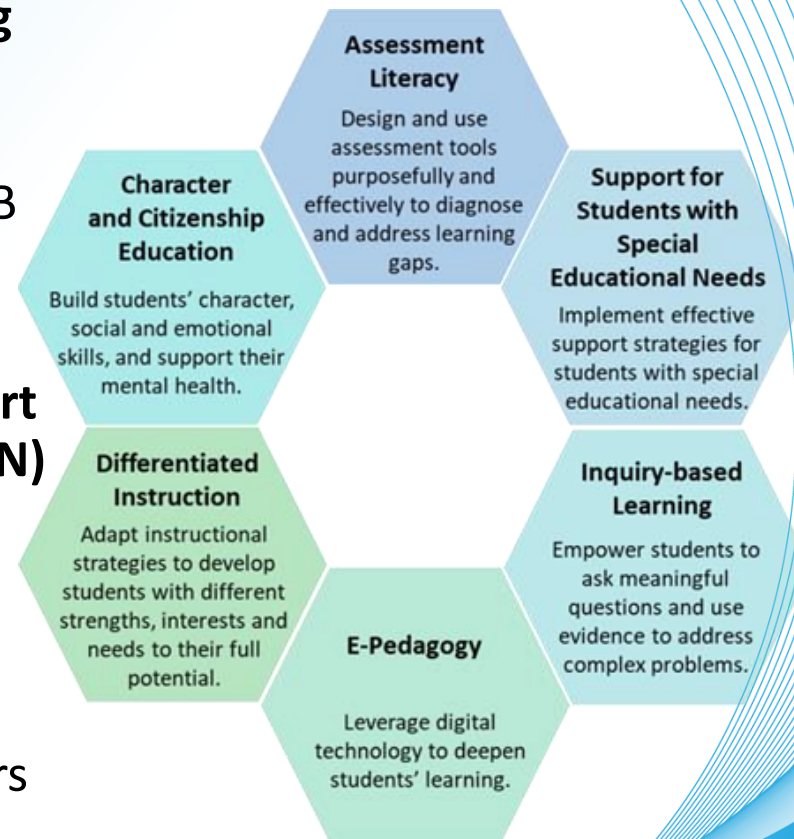
SKILLSFUTURE FOR EDUCATORS (SFEd)

Ensuring access to opportunities for students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and different academic abilities

1. **Levelling up educators' capabilities to support students through Full Subject-Based Banding (FSBB), which also enhances social mixing**
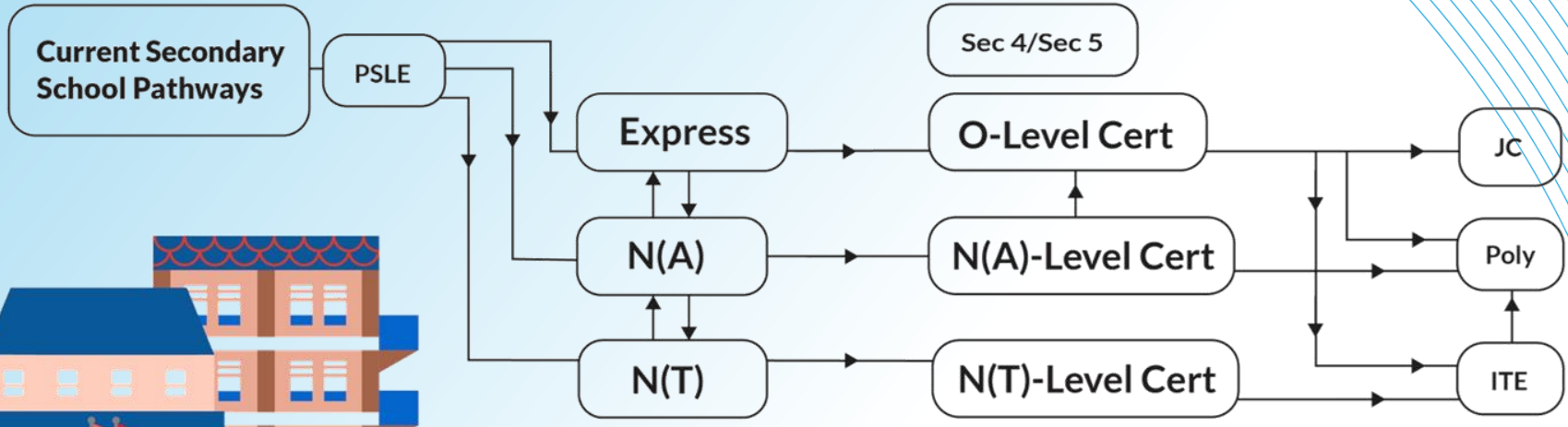
   - MOE to phase out of secondary school streaming by 2024, and replace it with FSBB
   - SFEd strengthen educators' capacity for differentiated instruction

2. **Levelling up educators' capabilities to support students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)**
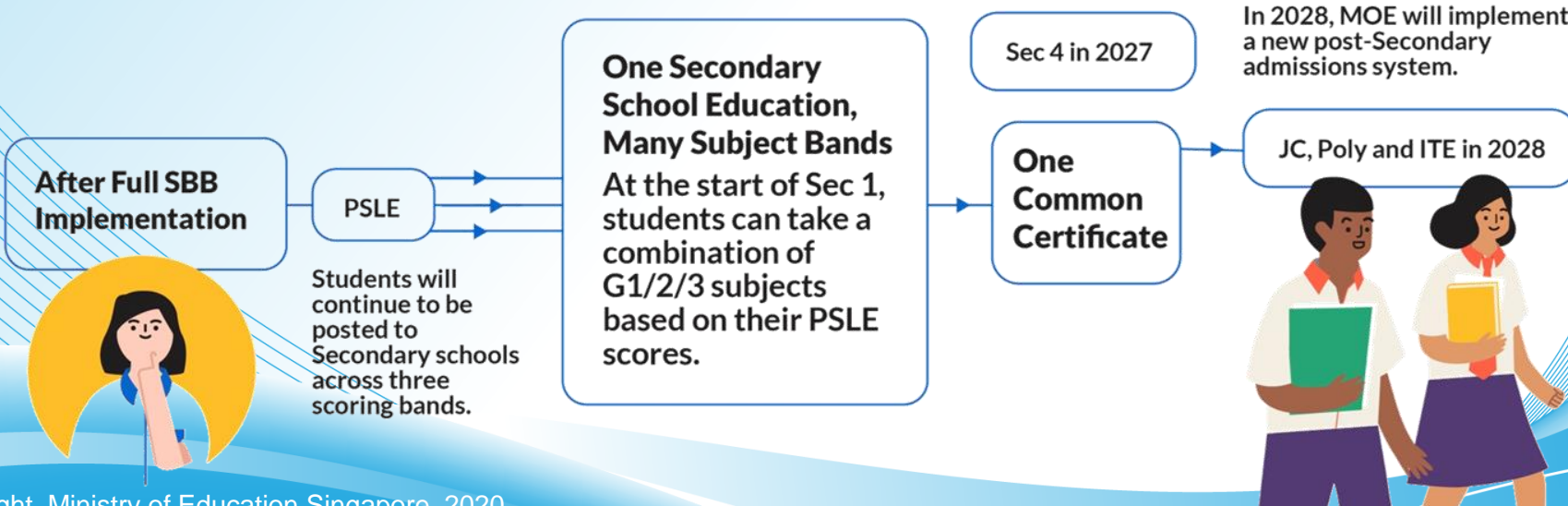
   - Today, around 80% of students with SEN learn in mainstream schools, supported by teachers and allied educators with specialised skills.
   - SFEd enhances SEN training for all educators in mainstream schools.

Assessment Literacy
Design and use assessment tools purposefully and effectively to diagnose and address learning gaps.

Character and Citizenship Education
Build students' character, social and emotional skills, and support their mental health.

Support for Students with Special Educational Needs
Implement effective support strategies for students with special educational needs.

Differentiated Instruction
Adapt instructional strategies to develop students with different strengths, interests and needs to their full potential.

Inquiry-based Learning
Empower students to ask meaningful questions and use evidence to address complex problems.

E-Pedagogy
Leverage digital technology to deepen students' learning.

6

Remaking Secondary School Pathways

Current Secondary School Pathways → PSLE

Sec 4/Sec 5

Express → O-Level Cert → JC

N(A) → N(A)-Level Cert → Poly

N(T) → N(T)-Level Cert → ITE

Secondary School students take most subjects at the level offered by their courses.

After Full SBB Implementation → PSLE

Students will continue to be posted to Secondary schools across three scoring bands.

One Secondary School Education, Many Subject Bands
At the start of Sec 1, students can take a combination of G1/2/3 subjects based on their PSLE scores.

Sec 4 in 2027

One Common Certificate

JC, Poly and ITE in 2028

In 2028, MOE will implement a new post-Secondary admissions system.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Ensuring access to opportunities regardless of background

1. **Parents as partners**

   - Through platforms such as Parents Gateway, and working with Parent Support Groups to connect with and support parents with resources and tips

2. **Partnering the community**

   - Strengthening partnerships with community groups through Youth Mental Well-being Network to support students' mental well-being

   - Uplifting Pupils in Life and Inspiring Families Taskforce (UPLIFT) to support disadvantaged students

     - Additional resources for schools with higher proportions of disadvantaged students

     - Student Care Centre (SCC) in primary schools and after-school programmes in secondary schools

     - UPLIFT Community Network, to match needs of students and families to local resources through UPLIFT Town-Level Coordinator

PRINCIPALS AS NETWORK LEADERS
Building inclusive and equitable networks

1. **Strengthening network within community**

   - In engaging with parents/students, Principals encourage broader definitions of success
   - In engaging with educators, Principals create an inclusive school environment that embraces all learners
   - In engaging with the community, Principals promote strong partnerships to address inequity

2. **Strengthening network between schools**

   - Monthly Cluster Board Meetings
   - Communities of Practice and Networked Learning Communities (cluster, zonal and national level)
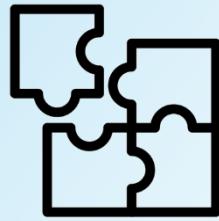   - Mentoring and coaching

Challenges for the Next Phase of Education

Balancing trade-offs as a system

Rigour vs Joy
A robust and comprehensive curriculum versus one that makes learning fun.
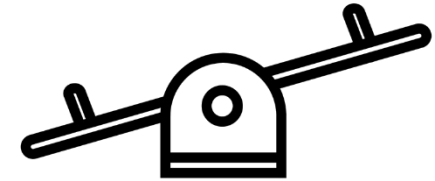
Customisation vs Stigmatisation
Catering to different learning paces but not inadvertently stigmatising certain groups of students who are less academically inclined.

Sharpening vs Blurring of Achievements
Examination results as a useful tool for school placement, against less finely defining learning outcomes and avoiding an overly competitive culture in our schools.

Skills vs Paper Qualifications
Attaining credentials versus acquiring skills that make a person effective for the job.

THANK YOU

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