



Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE

PRESS RELEASE

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INCREASING CAPACITY IN SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS

To meet the increased demand at Pathlight School¹, an additional 300 places will be added in phases from next year, bringing the capacity at Pathlight School to 900 by the end of 2013. This was announced by Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education, during his visit to Pathlight School today. The former Chong Boon Primary School located near to Pathlight School at 6 Ang Mo Kio Street 44 will be refurbished to accommodate the additional students.

2. The expansion of Pathlight School is part of the continual effort by the Ministry of Education (MOE) to meet the needs of children with special needs and to enhance the learning environment in Special Education (SPED) schools. Metta School, a vocational school which caters to children with intellectual disability and autism, will be able to take in another 150 students from 2013 after its new extension block is completed at the end of next year. Delta Senior School, another vocational school for students with intellectual disability, will also be moving to its purpose-built premises at Choa Chu Kang Grove next year. More details on the schools are in [Annex A](#).

3. The increased capacity in SPED schools will enable students with moderate learning disabilities to benefit from the more specialised programme in a SPED school. Some of these students are currently in the mainstream schools. The waiting time for enrolment into an appropriate SPED school will also be reduced.

4. The refurbishment and infrastructure upgrading to expand capacity in the three SPED schools – Pathlight School, Metta School and Delta Senior School – cost about \$30 million. This is in addition to the \$120 million that MOE has invested in building and upgrading the other 17 SPED schools in the past decade.

5. MOE has also been supporting SPED schools in terms of funding, financial assistance, staff training, curriculum support, and staff and student recognition. The Ministry will continue to adopt a “Many Helping Hands” approach to meet the varied and complex needs of students with special needs. It will work closely with the parents, and with Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS), community partners such as the National Council of Social Services and Voluntary

¹ Set up in 2004, Pathlight School is a special needs school for children with autism who have the cognitive ability to benefit from a mainstream academic programme.

Welfare Organisations, to continue to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of the SPED schools.

6. Ms Sim Ann, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Law, will lead a review on the support for the SPED sector. She has begun consulting with stakeholders and will continue to do so over the next six to nine months, to identify areas for further improvement.

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Pathlight School

Pathlight School was set up in 2004 to cater to students with autism (7 to 18 years old) who have the cognitive ability to benefit from a mainstream academic programme. The school offers mainstream academic curriculum along with life readiness skills, leading to the PSLE for primary section and GCE N and/or O-levels for the secondary section. A modified mainstream curriculum track is also offered for students who have higher needs. Currently, there are about 600 students enrolled in Pathlight School.

To encourage greater integration of SPED students, about 100 Pathlight secondary students study in satellite classes at nearby mainstream schools, Chong Boon Secondary and Bishan Park Secondary. Besides attending lessons within the mainstream schools, these students may share facilities and attend common activities, such as school celebrations and National Education activities, together with their mainstream school peers. After school, the students attend specialised programmes at Pathlight.

The expansion of Pathlight will create an additional 300 places for the school and provide a more conducive environment for the students' education.

Metta School

Set up in 2001 by the Metta Welfare Association, Metta School caters to students (7 to 21 years old) with intellectual disability or autism. The school also provides vocational training to prepare students for working life. There are currently about 400 students enrolled in Metta School.

The school offers different curriculum tracks suited for students who have autism and those who have mild intellectual disability. Students aged 16 and above who show readiness for working life are placed in the Vocational Programme, where they can pursue Institute of Technical Education skills certification in the areas of food preparation, baking or housekeeping.

The extension block in Metta School will enhance the school's autism teaching facilities with more space and special rooms like the modulation and occupational therapy rooms. More vocational training facilities such as a food preparation and baking rooms will also be available at the new block.

Delta Senior School

Delta Senior School was established in 1997 by the Association for Persons with Special Needs (ASPN), to provide a transition programme for students with mild intellectual disabilities (16 to 21 years old). The school currently serves about 360 students. Delta Senior School is an Approved Training Organisation accredited by the Singapore Workforce Development Agency to offer the Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications programme.

Delta Senior School's 5-year transition programme provides broad industry skills leading to Workforce Skills Qualifications in one of three areas: Food and Beverages, Hospitality Services, and Horticulture & Landscaping. Students also learn employability skills and skills for communication, relationship management, personal effectiveness, problem-solving and decision making.

The new Delta Senior School building will feature enhanced classrooms and more vocational training facilities such as industrial kitchens, horticulture training areas and mock-up hotel rooms.

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