

Haze Press Conference | 16 Oct 2026

Minister for Education's remarks on School Continuity Measures and National Exams

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The haze can impact health, especially our children.

Some parents and students have also expressed concerns about whether learning and examinations can continue during the haze, and how families will manage if schools have to close.

These are serious considerations. We must look after the well-being of our children and students, especially younger ones who are more vulnerable.”

Minister for Education Desmond Lee

MOE and Special Education (SPED) schools continuity plans

- Available forecasts and advisories, as well as actual ground situation will be taken into consideration to make an informed decision.
- School leaders will take into account the 1-hour PM 2.5 readings and exercise judgement in managing school-based learning and activities.
- Measures will be adjusted where needed to safeguard the health and well-being of our students and staff.
- **If there is a need to move nationally, MOE will make the announcement through our schools and official channels.**

Our schools have already been taking precautionary measures

- Adjusting activities
- Deploying air purifiers
- Paying extra attention to students who report to be unwell and/or have pre-existing health conditions
- Taking practical steps to reduce exposure to haze where necessary

If the 1-hr PM2.5 reading is elevated (56 – 150)

- Prolonged or strenuous outdoor physical activities will be avoided.
- Indoor non-strenuous activities such as light physical exercises may continue.
- Students who are unwell or have pre-existing heart or lung conditions will be excused from these activities.
- Air purifiers will be deployed in indoor spaces, such as classrooms, labs, school halls, and Indoor Sports Halls.

If the 1-hr PM2.5 reading is high (151 – 250)

- Students will remain in enclosed indoor spaces with air purifiers.
- Students will avoid both outdoor activities and strenuous indoor activities, and have their meals indoors.
- Schools will operate as per normal school hours.
- Schools will replace outdoor activities (such as CCAs and camps) with indoor activities where possible. If not, the organisers will cancel or postpone them.

If the 1-hr PM2.5 reading is very high (251 and above)

- Schools will scale down lessons, by reducing the intensity of indoor activities, and suspend all physical and after-school activities.

If the 24-hr PSI forecast for the following day is in the hazardous range (300 and above)

- MOE, MSF and ECDA will strongly encourage parents and guardians to keep their **infants and young children** at home.
- MOE will consider closing schools and transitioning to home-based learning for younger students from **preschool up to secondary level**.
- Kindergarten programmes, Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC and EIPIC-P) programmes, private programmes, as well as preschool-based early intervention programmes such as the Development Support-Plus programme and Development Support-Learning Support programme, will also be suspended.

To support students whose parents/guardians are unable to make alternative care arrangements

- **MOE Kindergartens (MKs) and our Kindergarten Care (KCare)** as well as ECDA-licensed preschools will remain physically open.
- Indoor activities such as reading and hands-on activities may be conducted during the opening hours.
- Appropriate haze mitigation measures, such as the use of air-purifiers in enclosed rooms, will be put in place for children who report to the preschools.

To support students whose parents/guardians are unable to make alternative care arrangements

- **Primary and secondary schools (including SPED schools), as well as Student Care Centres and Special Student Care Centres** in our schools and SPED schools, will remain physically open.

Junior Colleges, Millennia Institute and Post-Secondary Education Institutions

- Junior Colleges (including the JC sections of Integrated Programme schools), Millennia Institute, ITE, polytechnics, Autonomous Universities and University of the Arts Singapore, because students are older, will generally continue in-person lessons.
- We will also take reference from forecasts as well as actual circumstances on the ground in deciding whether to continue in-person activities or what measures should be adopted.

National Examinations

- Students taking the O- and A-Level exams will sit for their papers in enclosed air-conditioned venues with air purifiers.
- If they are unwell and unable to take or continue with an exam, they should see a doctor, obtain a medical certificate (MC), and apply for special consideration through their schools. Their schools will guide them on the necessary procedure.

National Examinations

- Should the 24-hour PSI forecast reach hazardous levels, we will consider rescheduling O-Level papers in line with the health advisory for younger students.
- The A-Level papers are generally less likely to be affected as the students are older, but we will also take reference from forecast as well as actual ground circumstances in making decisions on whether they will continue.

National Examinations

- Details of any rescheduling of O- and A-Level papers to the earliest practicable date will be publicly announced by the Singapore Examinations and Assessments Board (SEAB).
- Schools will also inform students and parents directly if any national exam needs to be rescheduled because of haze conditions.

Scan to read
Minister Desmond Lee's remarks in full.



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