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This article is, more accurately speaking, a webpage that can be found on MOE’s website. This article, rather unfortunately, is not dated, neither was there any mention of an author. The earliest date mentioned in this article is March 2012, thus we can assume that this article is written sometime during 2012 to 2013.

MOE provides FAS to only Singaporean citizen students in Government or Autonomous Schools. Regardless of financial background, MOE strives to achieve all Singaporeans an equal opportunity in education. A subsidy is offered to students studying in independent schools, except SSS, NS, APS, and SOTA which offers schemes tailored to their students’ needs. A student is eligible if GHI is no more than $2500, or that the PCI is no more than $625. It is noted that, at JC/ Pre-University level, textbooks and school uniform are no longer free. Under the same criteria, if one is studying in an independent school, one is applicable for ISB.

This Article is on the MOE website, thus the author should most likely be someone working in the MOE, possibly a staff member in charge of FAS and IBS schemes. By anonymously publishing an article like this on MOE, it shows that, in some sense, this article is written by MOE itself, instead of an individual staff member.

Currency:

This article is up-to-date, where compared with other sources, such as an actual form to apply for the Financial Assistance Scheme.

Coverage:

The coverage is rather fair and it has pretty much served its purpose of being informative. However, one can easily note that MOE does not aid international, ASEAN, or Permanent Resident students.

Objectivity:

This article overall has an excellent coverage, having a well-balanced introduction to the various Financial Assistance Schemes and Subsidies. It is complete with a link to another document available for download, which simply provides more detailed information about the support MOE has provided for Singaporean students.

Audience:

This article is most likely targeted at parties interested in applying for the schemes, such as family members of a student eligible for FAS or IBS.

Facts:

1. The criteria are slightly lowered for Independent Schools.

2. Free Uniform and textbooks is not offered at JC/Pre-University level.

Opinions:

None. This article is posted on a website of a Government Body, MOE to be exact. It is a must for the writer to maintain a neutral point and not state any opinions, biased statements, so as to not influence the readers.

Fact 1: The criteria are slightly lowered for Independent Schools.

We agree. This is due to the fact that, the government, by default, subsidises all students their school fees. The $5 or $6.50 we pay is a meagre amount compared to the actual amount of school fees. In independent schools, where the government does not subsidise school fees, the school fees pay are at a considerably higher price, as we pay the full price of our school fees. Thus, it is considered reasonable and it makes more sense to push the criteria to ensure that more students can receive subsidy.

Fact 2: Free Uniform and textbooks is not offered at JC/Pre-University level.

We disagree. At JC/ Pre-University level, a bursary is offered. But, without free uniform and textbooks, the Bursary is most certainly used for things such as school materials, textbooks, uniforms, and for some, household expenses. As a result, the money, originally meant for buying resources to supplement one’s education, has been compromised and limited educational resources are actually bought.

In our opinion, MOE FAS scheme should continue providing, or at the very least, continuing subsidising uniforms and textbooks. At this point of education, after the foundation of education has been laid, learning resources and educational materials are essential the supplement one’s knowledge, be it in Chemistry, Mathematics or General Paper. All these resources and materials help prepare one for Teritiary Education, or even a diploma in their desired field of study.

In conclusion, this article is rather informative and enlightening as to how MOE trys to ensure that no child is left behind in education, in regard of financial status. By challenging even a government resource, we can see how in-depth and thoughtful everything is. The article is relatively well-planned and not hap-hazard at all.

Notes:

The footnotes were exceptionally confusing and unclear, as to what it was referring to.

No mention of PRs, ASEAN students, and international students at all. This has made us curious, as to whether something similar will apply to PRs and the minorities, but under a different idea, applying the same concept. Naturally, we feel that these privileges should apply to PRs too, and ASEAN and International students should have something tailored to their needs.