



آغا خان یونیورسٹی
THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

Examination Board

September 20, 2021

Dear School Leaders,

Equity in education is the process of reforming practices, policies, and procedures at the educational institution level to support academic fairness and inclusion and ensure that every child has resources, recognition and support they need to be successful.

Equity has been a driving force for the Aga Khan University Examination Board since its founding in 2002. We are cognizant that there are differences in resources and opportunities to students from low and middle socio-economic background versus their peers. For example, students from urban centers may have additional resources and fund to pay for tutoring outside school or a better school infrastructure as compared to students from rural or remote regions.

Over the years, AKU-EB's focus on broadening access to high-quality assessment, examination, school and teacher support, access and outreach for students from the low and middle socioeconomic backgrounds has enabled students to perform at par and enter university for higher education. For example, our annual university destination survey shows that 92% of our outgoing HSSC students (96% response rate) enter university. Out of these, 53% of our students enter top 15 universities of Pakistan (ranked by Higher Education Commission).

Recognition of achievement is a motivational factor for students to continue education with the same or improved academic performance. Every year, AKU-EB announces high achievers to recognize the efforts of the student which also reflects the enormous support of the school, and teachers. AKU-EB also awards AKU-EB Bridge Scholarship (need and merit based) through the generous donation of the Fancy Foundation. Our data shows that a positive impact occurs in the academic performance in HSSC after a student receives recognition for his/her academic efforts in SSC.

Therefore, to bring equity in recognizing students' academic performance, starting from 2021 AKU-EB high achievers recognitions will be as follows:

1. SSC

- a. Overall: Only 1 overall national level position will be announced.
- b. Overall - Province wise: Top 3 positions from each province will be announced



- c. Group (Science/ Humanities) - Province wise: Top 3 positions from each province will be announced

2. HSSC

- a. Overall: Only 1 overall national level position will be announced (In 2021, overall position will not be announced as only elective subject examinations were held).
- b. Overall - Province wise: Top 3 positions from each province will be announced (In 2021, overall position will not be announced as only elective subject examinations were held).
- c. Group (Pre-Engineering/Pre-Medical/ General Science/ Commerce/ Humanities) - Province wise: Top 3 positions from each province will be announced

- 3: Students securing 80% scores and above are eligible for high achiever awards for both qualifications (SSC and HSSC).

We hope that schools will welcome the decision of AKU-EB and they will stand together to celebrate students' achievements from all the provinces in the coming days.

Yours sincerely,

AKU Examination Board