

# Schools keep cut-off points

**Selection.** The decision to maintain last year's cut-off points was informed by the poor performance in the 2025 Primary Leaving Examinations. ...P.4-5

School	2025 Boys	2025 Girls	2026 Boys	2026 Girls	School Fees
NABISUNSA GIRLS SCHOOL		7		7	
KIBULI SEC. SCH	7	8	7	8	2,100,000
LUBIRI SENIOR SEC. SCH	8	9	9	9	849,000
KIGEZI HIGH SCHOOL	8	11	9	10	970,000
GULU HIGH SCHOOL	11	15	12	15	750,000

Detailed list inside >>

Most rural schools, especially in hard-to-reach areas, keep their cut-off points high to accommodate more learners.

06

**Maintained.** Ntare Boys' School in Mbarara City and its Bushenyi counterpart, Maryhill High School, maintained last year's 6 points.

09

**Tightened.** Sacred Heart Gulu tightened their intake from Aggregate 9 to 5. Similarly, Bweranyangi Girls School tightened from 9 to 8 aggregates. Tororo Girls School maintained 9 points.

10

**Cut-off points.** Jinja College and Kira College Butiki are taking 10 and below aggregates. Masaka SS is admitting boys with 10 and girls with 11.

28

**Both sex.** Most USE schools maintained their cut-off points at Aggregate 28 for both boys and girls. The selection exercise is expected to attract approximately 2,600 schools.

BY MONITOR TEAM

The majority of secondary schools, including traditional giants, non-traditional institutions, powerful and average schools, as well as government-sponsored ones, that turned up for the first day of the two-day Senior One (S1) selection and placement exercise yesterday maintained last year's cut-off points.

Some schools were forced to relax their points further to accommodate more students, while others, overwhelmed by the number of applicants, tightened their cut-off to eliminate the large numbers seeking placement.

Officials from these schools, who thronged the multipurpose hall of the Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) in Kampala, told this publication that the decision to maintain last year's points was informed by the poor performance in the 2025 Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE).

Some of the traditional and powerful schools that maintained last year's cut-off points include Kibuli SS, which admitted boys with Aggregate 7 and below and girls with a maximum of 8; Nabisunsa Secondary School is taking 7; Kawempe Muslim SS 8; Lubiri SS 9 for both boys and girls; Kitende SS at 8 for girls and 9 for boys; and St Henry's College Kitovu at 9 points.

Ntare Boys' School in Mbarara City and its Bushenyi counterpart, Maryhill High School, also maintained last year's 6 points. Mbarara High School kept 7 points, while Kyeizooba Girls SS maintained 9, St Maria Goretti 10, and Immaculate Heart Girls HS 7 points.

Speaking to *Daily Monitor* yesterday, Mr John Baptist, the director of studies at St Henry's College Kitovu, explained that the school received more applications than it could accommodate.

"This year we got so many applicants than we got last year, yet we can only take in 230 students," he said.

Mr Ibrahim Ssendawula, the director of studies at Nabisunsa Girls Secondary School, said performance was not as good as the previous year, though applications increased.

"The general performance was not as good as last year. Last year we had so many students with 6 and we were even unable to take all of them, but this time we have gone to 7 because the numbers increased and also the performance was relatively not as good as last year," he said, stressing that the school received 240 applicants compared to 200 the previous year.

Similarly, Mr Joseph Kamagara, the deputy head teacher of Maryhill High School, said the school received more applicants than it could accommodate, 324 against a capacity of 200.

"Our intake depends on the performance of the students. If they perform well and we have so many applicants, that means we have to take a higher value," he said.

Other schools adjusted their cut-off points.

Teso College Aloet tightened from 11 points last year to 10, Sacred Heart Gulu from 9 to 5, and Bweranyangi Girls School from 9 to 8. Tororo Girls School maintained 9. Ngora High School and Entebbe SS relaxed from 10 (boys) and 11 (girls) last year to 11 and 12 respectively. Trinity College Nabingo relaxed from 6 to



## Schools retain cut-off points after poor PLE performance

7, St Peter's College Tororo from 11 to 12, St Leo's College Kyegobe from 12 to 13, and Elite High School, Entebbe from 8 to 10.

Mr Onyango Lawrence, the head teacher of Elite High School, Entebbe, attributed the relaxation to poor PLE performance.

"As an institution, we know that the performance was not so good. We are trying to see that we accommodate as many students as we can. We have lowered the cut-off points from 8 to 10 for both boys and girls. Also, the content of the new curriculum is not so demanding. Children who didn't get super first grade in PLE can still excel if they work hard," he said.

Jinja SS is admitting students with Aggregate 12, while Jinja College and Kira College Butiki are taking 10 and below. Masaka SS is admitting boys with 10 and girls with 11.

### Hard-to-reach schools

It was evident from the exercise that most rural schools, especially in hard-to-reach areas, keep their cut-off points high to accommodate more learners. Head teachers attributed this to inclusive education, the Universal Secondary Education (USE) policy, and poor standards in rural primary schools.

Mr Edward Okwir, the deputy head teacher of Moroto Parents Secondary School in Karamoja, said rural schools focus on inclusivity.

"Most parents in rural areas don't have the money to take their children to private schools, which are quite expensive. We therefore want to accommodate both the slow learners and the poor," he said.

Mr Jameson Atujwikire, the director of studies at St James Kagulu SS in Buyende District, said the USE policy requires absorbing every learner who passed PLE, regardless of aggregates.

"The policy is that we absorb all learners into secondary education. So when we lower cut-off points similar to private

schools in Kampala, then we're going to leave many learners unabsorbed," he said.

An administrator from Lyantonde Secondary School, who preferred anonymity, said the USE policy bars rural schools from lowering cut-off points.

"Because the government says it introduced USE to cater for the rural poor, when you choose to admit only those with first grades, you'll leave out the slow-learning poor and eventually you'll be arrested for falling short of government directives," he said.

Ms Caroline Chemutai, the head teacher of Nombe SS, said most government-aided rural schools must absorb all learners regardless of performance.

Mr Jackson Obwole, the head teacher of Mukongoro Secondary School, said poor standards in rural primary schools make lowering cut-off points impractical.

"Most primary schools in our rural areas are UPE schools that have less competition from private schools. These days schools are of poor standards and produce poor grades. Take an example

of my district, Madi-Okollo, which had only two first grades. Do you expect me to say I only admit those with first grades?" he asked.

Mr Ochen Livingstone, the deputy head teacher, called on the Ministry of Education and Sports to revise the USE policy to allow rural schools to lower cut-off points.

"The USE policy is costing us with poor performance. If the ministry would allow us to lower the cut-off points, we could compete effectively and meet education standards," he said.

Most USE schools maintained their cut-off points at 28 aggregates for both boys and girls.

The selection exercise is expected to attract approximately 2,600 schools. It is anticipated that about 80 percent of learners who passed the 2025 PLE will be placed during this exercise.

Compiled by Jane Nafula, Sylvia Katushabe, Sylvia Namagembe, Karim Muyobo, Stephen Otage, Vicent Lusambya, Moses Ndhaye, and Busein Samilu



**Reason.** "The policy is that we absorb all learners into secondary education. So when we lower cut-off points similar to private schools in Kampala, then we're going to leave many learners unabsorbed," Mr Jameson Atujwikire, the DOS at St James Kagulu

**BELOW ARE SOME CUT OFF POINTS IN SCHOOLS**

**07 CUT-OFF POINTS FOR KIBULI SS**

School	2025 Boys	2025 Girls	2026 Boys	2026 Girls	School Fees
NABISUNSA GIRLS SCHOOL		7		7	
KIBULI SS	7	8	7	8	2.1M
MASAKA SS	10	11	10	11	
LUBIRI SSS	8	9	9	9	849,000
KIGEZI HS	8	11	9	10	970,000
GULU HS	11	15	12	15	750,000
ST JOSEPHS COLLEGE LAYIBI		11		11	850,000



School representatives during the official opening of the Senior One selection and placement exercise at UMA Show Grounds in Lugogo in Kampala, yesterday. PHOTO/ MUTUMBA GEOFFREY

School	2025 Boys	2025 Girls	2026 Boys	2026 Girls	School Fees
KOLOLO HIGH SCHOOL	18	18	17	17	USE
KOLOLO SS	15	15	15	15	USE
ST MARY'S COL RUSHOROZA	10	10	11	11	977,000
ST KIZITO KATIKAMU KISULE	16	16	16	16	140,000
JINJA COLLEGE		8	10	10	1.3M
JINJA SSS	11	12	12	12	350,000
KIGEZI COLLEGE BUTOBERE	10		10		650,000
KIRRA COLLEGE BUTIKI	10		10		1.3M
NABUMALI HS	12	12	12	12	989,000
KAMPALA HS	15	17	15	17	USE
STANDARD HS, ZZANA	13	16	10	13	1.4M
MASHERUKA GIRLS SS		11		11	USE
TORORO GIRLS SCHOOL		9		9	1.5M
KISUBI HS	16	16	14	14	1.2M
MBARARA SS	12	14	12	14	USE
KAKO SSS	12	14	12	13	840,000
MERIKIT SSS	28	28	28	28	USE (50,000)
KAPCHORWA PARENTS SS			22	22	625,000
KAYALA SS	18	18	18	18	USE (160,000)
ARCH. BISHOP BAKYENGA SS	18	18	15	15	400,000
USUK SS	28	23	28	23	363,000
KATAKWI HIGH SCHOOL	24	26	23	23	336,000
KETINE SSS	28	28	28	28	140,000
ST PIUS SSS, NYAMUSEGABIRA	21	21	22	22	450,000
SEBEI COLLEGE, TEGERES	13	14	13	14	635,000
KASEREM SS	28	28	28	28	USE
JAMES OCHOLA MEMORIAL	28	28	28	28	
KIREWA SS	28	28	28	28	USE
RWABUKOBA SS	28	28	28	28	USE
ST MARIA GORETTI	10	10	10	10	2.5-1.6
BRILLIANT HIGH SCHOOL	12	12	12	12	
ST JAMES KAGULU SS	28	28	28	28	
KINYASOMO GIRLS HS	23	23	23	23	
KASULE SEED SSS	28	28	28	28	USE
COMPREHENSIVE COLLEGE	28	28	28	28	917,000
HILL VIEW COLLEGE, BULANGIRA	24	24	24	28	650,000
RWOMUKOMA SEED	17	19	19	21	USE
KALIRO HS	16	28	16	28	USE
YY OKOT MEMORIAL COLLEGE		19		19	520,000
ST MARYS GIRLS SOROTI		15		15	750,000
BULAAGO SSS	26	28	26	28	USE
MAKINDYE SSS	15	15	12	15	
KASESE SS	18	20	16	18	570,000
NKOWA SSS	20	20	20	20	
KALAMBI SSS	16	16	16	16	400,000/600,000
NYAKIYUMBA SS	25	25	23	23	390,000
MUNKUNYU SS			21	21	175,000
ST THEREZA SSS KASESE		16		14	600,000
KITOLHU SSS	28	28	24	24	180,000
OLOULET SSS KALAKI	28	28	28	28	134,000/110,000
LAKE KATWE SSS, KASESE	28	28	26	26	USE
BOMBO SSS	24	24	18	20	730,000

School	2025 Boys	2025 Girls	2026 Boys	2026 Girls	School Fees
KIBUNZANGA HS	28	28	28	28	USE
IHANAROVOC. SSS	28	28	28	28	USE
KANARA SSS	18	18	18	18	160,000
SAN GIOVANNI SCH. KAMBUGA	18	20	18	20	400,000
BUGOBI HS	28	28	28	28	79,000
NABWEYO SEED SSS			28	28	USE
ST PETER'S SS KIGUMBA	28	28	28	28	USE
POKOT SS	28	28	28	28	USE
BUKABOOLI SEED SS	28	28	28	28	USE
KASHONGI HS	26	28	26	28	USE
ST PETER'S SSS RWANZU	28	28	28	28	USE
KADANDI SS	23	23	21	21	USE
BUSULWA	28	28	28	28	USE
ST JEROME SS NDAMA	14	15	14	15	USE
ST. FRANCIS BUHUNGA HS	28	28	28	28	USE
NYAKAGYEME SS	28	28	28	28	USE
NYABITEETE SS	28	28	28	28	USE
KOCHI SS. KOBOKO	20	22	19	24	USE
KAMBUGA SS	28	28	28	28	USE
KAMEKE SSS, PALLISA	28	28	28	28	USE
KASHENYI SS	22	23	22	28	USE
MAMBA SS	28	28	28	28	USE
ERUSSI SS	28	28	28	28	USE
BUSIIKA MUSLIM SS	24	25	20	22	875,000
ST THERESA SS, BULOBA	24	24	20	22	800,000
MOMBE SS	14	14	14	14	USE
KIMOMI GIRLS SS	13	13	13	13	USE
KASHAKA GIRLS	8	8	5	10	USE
BUSAGA SS	20	24	17	22	USE
PALARO SS	28	28	28	28	USE
KABUMOLE SS	25	25	24	24	USE
KYATO SS.KALUNGU	17	17	20	20	USE
LYANTONDE SS	25	25	25	25	USE
ST KAGGWA BUSHENYI SS	9		9		USE
KOLIR COMP SS	28	28	28	28	USE
MAKYENYI SS	22	22	22	22	
KABUWOKO SS	20	20	20	20	
KABANGO SS	28	28	28	28	
BULUCHEKE SS	23	23	22	22	
BUDUDA SS	23	23	21	21	
MABOA SS	28	28	28	28	
SHITUMI SS	28	28	28	28	
NABBOMBO SS	28	28	28	28	
BUKOOLO COLLEGE20	20	20	20	20	
BANDA SS, NAMAYINGO	26	28	26	28	
KARUGU TC SS	24	24	19	19	
ST STEVEN BUGIRI SS			20	20	
CITIZENS SS IBANDA			12	13	
KITGUM MATDI SEED SS	28	28	28	28	145,000
LOKING SS, LAMWO	25	28	25	28	134,000
PAJULE SS, PADER	25	18	24	28	230,000/280,000
RWAMANJA SSS, KAMWENGE DISTRICT	19	20	19	20	USE
BULOPA SS, KAMULI	24	24	26	26	

School	2025 Boys	2025 Girls	2026 Boys	2026 Girls	School Fees
Lumino HS	20	24	22	25	USE
MASABA COLLEGE BUSIA			24	24	USE
BUKALIKHA SS			26	26	USE
BUSIIME SS	28	28	28	28	USE
RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL			22	22	USE
BUSOLWE SSS			23	24	USE
MULAGI GIRLS SS		21		21	USE
KYEIBARE GIRLS SS		18		20	USE
ABIM SS			25	25	USE
OFUA SEED SS	25	28	26	28	USE
BIYAYA SS	22	28	20	25	USE
ALERE SS	27	28	27	28	USE
KITOJO SEED SS			27	28	USE
ST JOHN'S SS NY-ABWINA	10	11	11	12	USE

School	2025 Boys	2025 Girls	2026 Boys	2026 Girls	School Fees
NYABUBARE SS BUSHENYI	12	13	12	13	USE
RUYONZA SS BUSHENYI	12		14		
KAKANJU VOC SS BUSHENYI	23	23	20	20	USE
ST CHARLES LWANGA HS	16		12	14	USE
NYANKWANZI HS	28	28	28	28	USE
KABALE BRAIN-STORM HS	11	12	11	12	890,000
S FRANCIS KYAN-AMIRA	28	28	28	28	USE
JUBILEE 2000 SS KARENGA	26	26	26	26	727,500

Visit [www.monitor.co.ug](http://www.monitor.co.ug) for the full cut-off points list