



Homebush West Public School Excellence in Public Education

Empowering every student to be active, informed, creative and successful

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Special Points of Interest

- ANZAC Day
- School Development Day, Aboriginal Education Focus
- Year 6 Peer Support Training
- Cross Country next Monday
- Stewart House Donation Drive
- Enrol now for Kindy 2024
- Opportunity Class 2024
- Healthy Choices at HWPS

From The Principal



Welcome to Term 2 - Warami

We are thrilled to welcome everyone back to school for another exciting term at Homebush West. It is encouraging to see our students return to school with renewed energy and enthusiasm. This week we all focussed on being "in the zone" for the challenges ahead.

As is always the case, Term 2 has started strong. On our School Development Day Monday we hosted over 200 staff from seven local schools as we focused on Aboriginal Education Policy and practice. We also had five staff learning 'On Country', with Mendinee Central School. On Tuesday our school leaders and P&C representatives proudly represented our school and community at the Strathfield Anzac Ceremony at Davey Square Reserve. On Wednesday as students returned they had the opportunity to view our new Yarning Circle in the heart of our school. Our Year 6 students trained to be Peer Support Leaders, our dance groups prepared for auditions and our Stage One students had their first session of their Swimming Program on Friday, reinforcing key learner traits and characteristics such as resilience, courage, and perseverance. This Friday we also hosted our school's Anzac Day Ceremony. Read on to find out all about these incredible experiences in just the first few days of the new school term.

This Friday we were honoured to have Strathfield Mayor, Mrs Karen Pensabene and former Navy Officer, Mr Ashley Van Amstel, and members of our P&C executive team as guests at our school's Anzac Ceremony. Mr Van Amstel spoke to our school community about his service in the Royal Australian Navy, the hardships of being at war and the special skill set one must have to enlist. Mrs Pensabene acknowledged our school's commitment to this important event and presented Sanjana C, a school leader, with a certificate of appreciation for the poem she submitted in the Strathfield ANZAC Poetry Competition.

Right: ANZAC Day Ceremony

Monday

Cross Country, 8 years old and up
Wrapped with Love
Spanish 3.15pm

Wednesday

Musica Viva Performance
Soccer X
Coding Club

Thursday

Stage 1 Swimming Program #2
Scripture
SISA Stage 3
Soccer X
Chess

Friday

Winter PSSA

See below for a copy of this poem, we are most proud. Our ceremony was respectful and solemn, and we commend our Year 6 Leaders, the students who laid wreaths, and the wider student body for their outstanding conduct, maturity and respect during this assembly. Thanks to our parents and community members who were able to attend. Our thanks to the ANZAC Day team including; Mr Penman, Miss Healy, Mrs Rich, Mrs Tsiamis, Miss Makisi and Ms Ziazaris.

ANZAC Day Ceremony
Fearless fighters, forever in our hearts
We remember you today
Fighting for freedom of every soul,
On realms far away

Our flag doesn't fly because
the wind moves it,
but because of the last breath
of each fighter
who died protecting it.

Many didn't come home,
but some did,
The Anzacs were dauntless
And never hid
By Sanjana

*We value
Respect for others*

Over the coming weeks, creativity and collaboration will be evident in various CAPA and enrichment programs such as our dance and choir ensemble rehearsals, Maths Olympiad, Debating, Multicultural Perspectives Speaking Competition, and the Operation Art exhibition, which will be open for parents and community to view. So much to look forward to, we thank our dedicated staff for setting us all up for success for the term ahead.

School Development Day - Aboriginal Education Focus

Early in the week, our staff engaged with professional learning in Aboriginal Education, a key focus of the Department of Education, with the goal to improve our knowledge and understanding of First Nations history and cultures and improve outcomes for all students. As mentioned we hosted 200 teachers and staff members from seven schools in our network, our Wingara Group who participated in a Smoking Ceremony and an extended Acknowledgement of Country, led by Les and Terry, indigenous cultural facilitators from Koomurri Incursions. Special guests included Deputy Secretary, Jan Green (Rel) and our Director Educational Leadership, Maria Serafim, as well as members of the P&C Executive team. We were excited to open our new Yarning Circle, a place where we can come together to reflect, share stories and learn from and with each other.

As part of this event, four of our early career teachers, accompanied by Mr Fung, ventured out to Menindee Central School for a two night stay, an 'on-country' experience, one that has its roots in the Connected Communities initiative. A rich learning experience for all involved, that included exploring the Central Western NSW rural communities along 'The Barka', or Darling River and engaging with local students and teachers. It was an inspiring start to the term, connecting with colleagues, and developing professional capacity. We are thrilled to have teachers from across our school and network take up five week professional development 'residencies' in the school this year. Ms Santoro is currently at Menindee Central School for five weeks and will not only build capacity in our school but she will increase connections and learning opportunities for students.



Peer Support Training – Year 6

This term our Year 6 students have completed training to lead groups of 10-12 students from Kindergarten to Year 5 in social skills education through a special program called Peer Support. This is a rewarding responsibility and challenge, and we know our Year 6 students are well equipped and resourced to rise to this challenge and extend their developing leadership skills.



*We value
A caring and safe
environment*



Cross Country Monday Week 2

We remind our students who are in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 and also 8 years olds in Year 2 to be ready for Monday's great Cross Country event at Airey Park. Get ready to give this challenge your best!!

Regards,
E Southall, Principal
R Picoaga, Deputy Principal

Coming Up

- Operation Art, Open Classrooms 8 May
- Walk Safely to School Day, 19 May

Upcoming P&C Meeting

The P&C would like to invite you to their next meeting which will be held at Homebush West on Tuesday 9 May at 7pm.

ANZAC Day Ceremony at Davey Square

During the holidays, five of our School Leaders, Wyatt, Darsh, Suren, Anushka and Leo, together with Mrs Prouty and members of our P&C, joined a number of schools and principals from the Strathfield Network of schools, in attending the annual Commemoration of ANZAC Day on Tuesday 25th April at Davey Square Memorial in Strathfield. They represented our school at this very special service and we were so proud about how well they engaged with our local member for Strathfield, Mr Jason Yatsen Li MP as well as our Strathfield Mayor, Mrs Karen Pensabene. We thank them very much for attending this commemoration and showing their respect to past and present servicemen and women.



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environment*

Stewart House Donation Drive 2023

Win a \$4000 Holiday to a destination of your choice.

Your donation supports the 1800 children who attend Stewart House each year from public schools across NSW and ACT.

Envelopes were sent home with students this week. Please place \$2 in the envelope provided and return to the school office. Fill in your contact details on the back of the envelope. You may enter as many times as you like. Entries can also be in any envelope as long as they are labelled correctly and your contact details are on the back of the envelope. Entries must be returned to school by Thursday 18 May to be able to reach Stewart House by the following week. The draw will take place on Friday 26 May 2023.

For more information visit www.stewarthouse.org.au or phone 9938 3021

Kindergarten 2024

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2024 are now being accepted. Children born between 1st August 2018 and 31st July 2019 are eligible to enrol.

Next steps

- Parents / carers who would like to enrol a child for Kindergarten next year please visit our website and complete the online enrolment form <https://homebushw-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/enrolment.html>
- Wait to be contacted by the school.

Once staff have processed the application form you will be contacted to make an appointment to come to the school to have a readiness conversation and provide the following supporting documentation:

- Child's birth certificate for proof of age
- Passports and visas for families born overseas
- 100 point Proof of residence (e.g. Council rate notice, gas, rental agreement, electricity account or bank account). Please visit https://homebushw-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/doi/sws/schools/h/homebushw-p/100_pt_Residential-address-check.pdf for further information.
- Immunisation Certificate
- Health Plans if required (allergy, asthma etc.)

*We value
Quality in all that
we do*

Opportunity Class 2024

Opportunity classes cater for highly achieving, academically gifted students. These classes support gifted and talented students to learn by grouping them with other gifted and talented students, teaching them in specialised ways and providing educational materials at the appropriate level.

Applications for opportunity class placement for current Year 4 students, for Year 5 entry, are considered mainly on the combined results of the Opportunity Class Placement Test and school assessments. The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be held on Thursday 27 July 2023.

For consideration for entry into an OC class in 2024 parents need to apply online using a valid email address (not the student's email address).

Detailed instructions on how to apply online will be available from 30 March 2023 in a printed application information booklet or at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5> The application website opens on Thursday 30 March 2023 and closes on Monday 15 May 2023. No late applications will be accepted.



There are no paper application forms. Please contact the school for assistance if you are not able to do this. You must submit only ONE application for each student.

Please return the 'Intention to Apply' notification that was sent home earlier this week. Please return the Intention to Apply to the office by 4 April 2023. Copies of this form are also available on the school app.

Mrs Tamsett

Continuing Covid Guidelines

With the number of Covid cases on the rise again, it's important we all remain vigilant. **Children should not attend school if they are unwell.** Any child or staff member, with even mild symptoms must remain home from school and seek medical advice. Testing requirements for flu-like symptoms remain a requirement. We thank you for your commitment to best practice.

Please read the guidelines for parents and families here:

- Translated Advice in 36 different languages - <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/translated-documents/covid-smart-measures-for-schools>
- Covid Smart measures in schools - <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families?deliveryName=DM15900#COVID-smart0>

COVID-smart measures in schools 2023, NSW DoE

While COVID-19 remains an unpredictable virus, NSW Health advise that it will continue to present a health risk to the community. Accordingly, schools will continue to implement baseline COVID-smart measures to help reduce the risk of transmission for students and staff members. These key COVID-smart measures include:

- staying home and getting tested if unwell, and only attending school when symptom free
- rapid antigen testing for symptomatic students and staff. People exposed to COVID-19 should follow NSW Health guidance and test to identify infection early even if they are not experiencing any symptoms.
- strongly encouraging COVID-19 vaccinations for students, staff and their families, including a booster shot (when eligible) and maintaining double dose vaccination requirements for staff who work in an SSP
- good hygiene practices including regular hand washing with soap and warm water and/or use of hand sanitiser
- maintaining natural ventilation, with consideration of local environmental circumstances
- boosted cleaning during the day, with particular attention given to high touch surface areas
- wearing a mask for all staff and visitors when working with or visiting Schools for Specific Purposes (SSPs), support units or schools with students who are at greater risk of serious illness should they contract COVID-19 particularly indoors and when physical distancing is not possible
- assessing risk and applying appropriate safeguards across activities and events
- learning remotely where face-to-face learning is not possible.

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A caring and safe
environment*

Healthy Choices at Homebush West Public School

HWPS encourages a healthy lifestyle.

- Breakfast - nutritious, include fruit
- Crunch & Sip – fruit or vegetable and water
- Recess & Lunch - healthy food, snacks, and water
- Physical Activity – Three lessons weekly (2 x fitness, 1 x sport)
- Wear a hat in the sun or play in the shade
- Uniform – yellow shirt, green pants, white socks and black shoes
- Sleep

Crunch & Sip, Recess and Lunch

Students are asked to bring three items of food for school each day packed in separate containers or zip lock bags for easy access. Suggestions are listed below.

Crunch and Sip	Recess	Lunch
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit or vegetables cut into small pieces • Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoghurt, crackers, popcorn, fruit, cheese, egg, etc • Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandwiches, salads, sushi, pasta, noodles, rice etc. • Water

* Please supply a fork or spoon for your child if necessary.

** Please **DO NOT** send glassware to school (bottles, cups, cutlery) – plastic or aluminium only

Waste Free Lunches

We encourage students to use waste free options for their lunches. These include avoiding single use packaging such as plastic bags and cling film, using reusable containers for lunches and a reusable water bottle.



Children's Birthdays at HWPS

Sending food, cakes, lolly bags or gifts to school for other students for your child's birthday **is not permitted**, particularly under NSW Dept for Health COVID Guidelines. Please do not send anything to school.

Get 10 Hours to be ready for life and learning

See the table below for recommended sleep for primary students. Is your child getting enough sleep?

Toddlers: 1 to 2 years	11 to 14 hours (including naps)
Pre-schoolers: 3 to 5 years	10 to 13 hours (including naps)
Grade-schoolers: 6 to 12 years	9 to 11 hours
Teens: 13 to 18 years	8 to 10 hours

CHESS!!

Learn to be a chess champion! Coaching for students at Homebush West Public School is held on Thursdays from 3:00pm to 4:00pm, starting on 27 April 2023.

Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment. Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games.

Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.

If your child is interested in taking part, you can collect an enrolment form from the school office, or email enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au for a copy. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.



HOMEBUSH WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

SOCCER X SCHOOL PROGRAM / FUN - EDUCATIONAL - ACTIVE

Starting in Term 2, Soccer X will be running two separate 9 Week Soccer programs at Homebush West Public School every **Wednesday OR Thursday** from **3:05pm - 4:05pm** beginning **May 3rd OR 4th**.

The program is available to students from **Kindy -Year 6**. Children will be split into groups according to age. All sessions will be run by **qualified coaches** who hold WWCC. The sessions will be **fully inclusive & fun-based**, catering for all abilities.

Cost: \$145 / 9-weeks. Choose Wed. or Thurs. **Active Kids Vouchers Accepted**

For more information and online registrations please visit

www.sports-x.com.au Contact: **chrisd@soccer-x.com / 0435 994 894**



ALL SKILL LEVELS
WELCOME

JUNIOR AUSTRALIAN SPORTS PROGRAM



8-week multi-sport program for kids aged between 4 to 12

Sports include: Soccer, Cricket, Basketball, Hockey, Touch Football,
AFL, Netball & Volleyball

Learn sport skills, meet new friends, qualified coaches, all sport equipment supplied

WHERE: Bark Huts Reserve, 23 Elliott St, Belfield NSW 2191

DATES: Tuesday 2nd of May 2023 to Tuesday 20th of June 2023
(8 x Tuesday afternoon weekly sessions)

TIME: 5:00pm - 6:00pm

COST: \$100 or **FREE** if you use your **Active Kids Voucher**
Utilise your voucher before the year ends!

HOW TO REGISTER: www.juniorsport.com.au

CONTACT: 1300 903 227 or info@juniorsport.com.au



Australian International
Sports Organisation





Black Box Parenting Program:

Black Box Parenting is a gentle and supportive program created for parents experiencing conflict, domestic violence and other challenges. The program helps parents improve their relationships with their children and build on their parenting skills.

Participants will take part in group-based learning and discussion over 5 sessions, which are held fortnightly and go for 2 hours each. Staff also connect with participants through a phone call every other week to offer personalised feedback and support.

Sessions held on **Wednesdays** from **12:30pm** - **2:30pm** on:

- **10/05/23 (Session 1)**
- **24/05/23 (Session 2)**
- **07/06/23 (Session 3)**
- **21/06/23 (Session 4)**
- **28/06/23 (Session 5)**

Pre-session
meet-up on
3 May 2023
(Wednesday)
12:30pm - 1:30pm

Venue

Strathfield Library
65-67 Rochester St,
Homebush NSW 2140

To register, contact

Kay Oo
(02) 9789 3744
kay.oo@metroassist.org.au



CROSSEYED YOUTH

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN YEARS 6-12
RUN BY BAYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
ALL LEADERS ARE SCREENED & TRAINED
TO ENSURE A SAFE FUN EXPERIENCE

USE THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER



FRIDAYS
7-9PM

ARTHUR STREET CENTRE
59 ARTHUR ST HOMEBUSH WEST
(PARKING CNR BADGERY AVE & FRASER ST)
WWW.BAYSIDECC.COM.AU FOR MORE INFO

BAYSIDE SPONSORS OUR SCHOOL CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

Information for applicants

For entry to opportunity classes in Year 5 in 2024

education.nsw.gov.au/oc



Ready to apply?

Apply online at:

shsoc.education.nsw.gov.au

Note: there may be changes to the dates and procedures in this document.

For the latest updates visit:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/oc>

Key dates

Applications open

12am, Thursday 30 March 2023

Applications close

11:59pm, Monday 15 May 2023

Test centre and test authority advice released

Thursday 13 July 2023

Opportunity Class Placement Test

Thursday 27 July 2023

Illness/misadventure requests submitted

Thursday 3 August 2023

Last day to change opportunity class choices

Sunday 6 August 2023

Placement outcome expected to be released

Friday 20 October 2023

The opportunity class placement process for Year 5 entry is administered by the Selective Education Unit[^].

[^]Please Note: In this document, the Selective Education Unit is referred to as the Unit.

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Tip: Print this page and stick it on your fridge so you can refer to it regularly.

Stages of the placement process

What	Who	When
Applications open for parents/carers to submit online	Parents/carers	From 30 March to 15 May 2023
Requests for reasonable adjustments for disability and supporting documentation to be submitted	Parents/carers	From 30 March to 19 May 2023
Verification of student details and information	Principals	From 17 May 2023 to 2 June 2023
Last day to edit current school/student details in application dashboard	Parents/carers	5 June 2023
'Test authority' letter and test information bulletin is made available in the application dashboard and parents/carers advised of reasonable adjustments arranged for the test, if applicable	Parents/carers	13 July 2023
Students sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test for entry to Year 5 in 2024 in allocated test centres	Students	27 July 2023
'Report of academic merit' due for interstate and overseas students unable to sit the test	Parents/carers	27 July 2023
Last day to submit requests for special consideration for illness/misadventure	Parents/carers	3 August 2023
Last day to change opportunity class school choices in application dashboard	Parents/carers	6 August 2023
Selection committee meets	Selection committee	September 2023
Placement outcomes expected to be released overnight	Selective Education Unit/Parents/carers	20 October 2023
Last day to submit an appeal, if applicable	Parents/carers	27 October 2023

What	Who	When
Offers are accepted or declined	Parents/carers	From 20 October 2023 to the end of Term 1, 2025
Orientation information sent to parents/carers with accepted offers	Schools	Late October/early November 2023
Appeals outcomes are released to parents/carers who submitted appeals	Selective Education Unit/Parents/carers	11 December 2023
Students with accepted offers are withdrawn from reserve lists	Selective Education Unit	At 5pm on 18 January 2024
'Authority to attend' letters are made available in application dashboard to parents/carers who have accepted placement for students to take to the school on the first day of term in 2024	Parents/carers	19 January 2024

What are opportunity classes?

Opportunity classes cater for high potential and intellectually gifted students.

They help students learn by:

- grouping them with other gifted students
- using specialised teaching methods so students can learn concepts in more detail and more quickly
- supporting their wellbeing needs.

Most students in opportunity classes enjoy learning more when their classmates have similar abilities and interests.

Opportunity classes are unzoned so you can apply no matter where you live.

Resources in other languages

Find translated videos and fact sheets at:
edu.nsw.link/shsoc_languages



Types of opportunity classes

Year 5 enrolments are available at 76 primary schools with opportunity classes in NSW each year

- 45 schools are located in metropolitan Sydney
- 30 schools are located in rural or regional centres
- a virtual class, Aurora College, for rural and remote students is available to be accessed in 618 authorised host schools

There are 1,840 Year 5 places across NSW offered each year.

Parents/carers apply when their children are in **Year 4**. Students successfully placed attend the opportunity class full time in Years 5 and 6 at the relevant public school.

This is a **two-year** placement program and there is no provision to apply for Year 6 entry only.

In the majority of cases, students who have accepted a place in an opportunity class will leave their current school to attend the school with the opportunity class.

List of schools with opportunity classes

Find out more about specific opportunity classes using the [list of primary schools with opportunity classes](#) with links to their websites. A [map](#) is also available.

Aurora College

If your child attends or intends to enrol in one of the public schools in a **rural or remote area**, you can apply for a place in the virtual opportunity class at Aurora College. The school must be an authorised host school.

View the list of [authorised host schools](#).

Students attend their local public schools and join the opportunity class for science, technology and mathematics lessons that are delivered online. Students connect with their teachers and other students through the online virtual learning environment and also through residential school programs. Read the Aurora College fact sheet [Opportunity class for parents and carers](#) to learn more about how the class operates.

Parents/carers of non-government school students successfully placed will need to enrol their children in the local public school to be eligible to participate in the online opportunity class.

Aurora College's selection committee may contact the principal of your child's current school to determine whether this type of learning environment is likely to be best for your child.

Find out more about Aurora College at:

<https://aurora.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning/primary-school.html>

Students at schools with opportunity classes, or at schools within the drawing areas of existing opportunity classes will not be eligible to apply for Aurora College. It is also not available to city and regional students.



Equity placement

Creating fair and equitable access for educationally disadvantaged and under-represented students

The Equity Placement Model helps to make access to opportunity classes fairer for the following under-represented groups:

- Students from low socio-educational advantage backgrounds
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students
- Students from rural and remote locations
- Students with disability

A 2018 Review of selective education access found that these groups were missing out due to unintended barriers to entry.

To help compensate for this, the Equity Placement Model makes available a percentage of student places at each school for students from these equity groups to help increase their participation (see the table below).

The application process is **the same** for all students. Students will be considered for the available equity places only if their placement test results are within 10 percent of the minimum first round offer of general applicants for the school (or as determined by the selection committee). This is not a quota

system. If there are not enough applications from equity group students who meet the minimum test performance requirements, the available equity places will be offered to general applicants.



The percentage of available places for each equity group

Equity group	% of places held
Students from low socio-educational advantage backgrounds	10%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students	5%
Rural and remote students	2.5%
Students with disability	2.5%

Is opportunity class placement the right fit for my child?

What does high potential and intellectually gifted mean?

High potential students are those whose potential **exceeds** that of students of the same age.

Gifted students are those whose potential **significantly exceeds** that of students of the same age.

This could be in one or more areas, such as:

- intellectual
- creative
- physical
- social-emotional

Tips for identifying if your child has high academic potential

High potential and gifted students often have some, or all, of the following characteristics, they:

- enjoy learning
- have intense curiosity
- display a good memory
- ask complex questions
- enjoy learning new and often complex ideas or skills
- require fewer repetitions when learning new things
- are creative
- become intensely focused in their area of interest or passion

Please keep in mind that these traits are only one way to identify high potential students. Some high potential and intellectually gifted students may not act like this, for example, due to lack of opportunity, disability or disadvantage.

Ask your child's teacher if you want advice about whether your child might benefit from attending an opportunity class.

More information is available in the department's [High Potential and Gifted Education Policy](#).



Who can apply?

Parents/carers can apply if their child is:

- enrolled in a NSW government primary school
- enrolled in a NSW non-government primary school
- home schooled in NSW; or
- enrolled in an interstate or overseas school – if they expect to meet residency requirements by the time offers are made, and they will live in NSW by the start of Term 1, 2024.

Age and school Year

Students are usually in Year 4 at the time of applying and when sitting the test. They are usually born between 1 January 2013 and 1 August 2014. These students will be aged between 9 years and 5 months and 11 years at the time they start Year 5.

If your child is out of the age range or in another school Year when you apply, the online application will prompt you to explain why you want your child to skip or repeat a year.

The selection committee will carefully check the reasons you give. They may ask for more information or for an interview if

the child is very young to determine whether there is specific support the school can provide.

Applications from parents/carers who wish to have their child repeat Year 5 may not be accepted even after the student has sat the test. The selection committee may also:

- decide not to accept students who are much older than the usual age range
- consider that students doing the test for a second time have gained an unfair advantage from their previous test experience

- require evidence of consultation with the school principal if seeking acceleration from Year 3 in 2023 to Year 5 in 2024. They may also consider acceleration inappropriate for some students.

Siblings

Placement in opportunity classes is based on academic merit, so the placement of one twin or triplet does not guarantee the placement of another. Siblings of twins or triplets will be offered a place at the same opportunity class only if their level of performance is high enough to qualify.

Where older or younger siblings of students placed in opportunity classes are not in the catchment area for that school, parents/carers may apply directly to the school for out-of-area enrolment at that school. There is no guarantee that their application for out-of-area enrolment of siblings will be successful.

Residency status

Your child must be a permanent resident of Australia or a citizen of Australia or New Zealand to enrol in an opportunity class.

You can apply if your child is not yet a permanent resident but you expect permanent residency will be granted before initial offers are made in October 2023.

Your child can also sit the test. However, even if your child qualifies on academic grounds, your child will not be offered a place in an opportunity class unless permanent residency has been granted.

Students must be living in NSW at the beginning of the school year of entry to an opportunity class.

Offers will be cancelled if based on false or misleading information.

Interstate or overseas

You can apply while you are temporarily living interstate or overseas provided you are a permanent resident or citizen of Australia or a citizen of New Zealand. If possible, your child should be in NSW to sit the test.

If your child is unable to sit the test in NSW you will need to submit, at your own expense, a Report of academic merit which includes a WISC-V IQ report, and standardised tests of English and mathematics. The report is due by **Thursday 27 July 2023**.

For more information refer to Interstate and overseas applicants.

Applicants do not need to supply school reports or assessments from their interstate or overseas primary schools.

If your child is enrolled in a NSW primary school, and cannot sit the test because you are temporarily interstate or overseas, you should submit an illness/misadventure request through your application dashboard within 5 working days of the test.



How to apply

Applications are open from
30 March 2023 – 15 May 2023

Parents/carers must apply by using
the online application

Start your application here:

shsoc.education.nsw.gov.au

Fees

There are no fees for submitting an application.

There are **no extra fees** for attending an opportunity class. Schools may ask for materials and voluntary contributions as do other public schools.

Steps to apply

1. Go to shsoc.education.nsw.gov.au and complete the application in full and submit it. (The application will not go through unless you press 'Submit'.)
2. Check your email for the confirmation message that it has been submitted correctly. Your screen will also show a green 'Submitted' status.
3. If required, upload any extra documents (for example, medical reports, etc) and press submit again.



Remember to press 'Submit' each time you make any changes in the application dashboard – especially changes to your school choices, or there will be no record of it.

Using the application dashboard

You can log in to the application dashboard at any time and:

- review the information you have already entered
- make any changes or add extra information or documents.
- send and receive messages about your application
- reset your password, if you have forgotten it.

Application tips

Selecting school choices

You can apply for up to two schools with opportunity classes in the order you prefer. Think about your choices carefully. List only the schools you would like your child to attend and in your preferred order.

Offers are made on the basis of your order of choice. Where students qualify for both schools, they will be offered only their first choice of school.

Schools do not select students based on whether their school was chosen first or not. Selections for each school are based on the academic merit of the students who have applied for that school.

Make sure that all the schools you choose are suitable for your child and that travel times are reasonable. You can refer to the [map of schools with opportunity classes](#).

You can also learn more about individual schools by visiting their websites at [Opportunity classes available in NSW](#). The selection committee does not consider your child's travel times or transport needs.

Find out more about [Choosing an opportunity class](#).

It is important to note that Maryland Public School is located in the Newcastle area, not in the Sydney suburb of Merrylands.

Change of school choice

You can change your school choices until **Sunday 6 August 2023** by logging in to your application, selecting new schools and resubmitting. You cannot change choices after that date unless there are serious extenuating circumstances, for which you must have documentary evidence. A request for a change of choice after 6 August must be approved by the Unit and/or the school principal of the school with the opportunity class.

You cannot change your school choices after your placement outcome is released, nor can students transfer between primary schools with opportunity classes.

Parent/carer details

If possible, provide a second email address. Keep your contact details and your child's current school up to date by logging in to your [application dashboard](#) using the email address you registered and the password you used to apply.

Who can make enquiries or decisions about my child?

The Unit will communicate only with the parents/carers that you list on the application. If you want other adults to discuss your child's application with the Unit, record their details on the application.

If relevant court orders or legal restraints about communication or decisions apply, upload a copy to your application so the Unit can comply with them.

The Unit does not correspond with students or speak to them on the telephone. Please ensure your login details are kept secure and shared only with authorised parents/carers.

Where parents/carers live at the same address as the student

Record the details of other parents/carers in the application if they are likely to contact the Unit or if they are entitled to make decisions on behalf of the child.

Where parents/carers live at different addresses

If parents/carers do not live together but have equal shared responsibility for the care and welfare of the student, the parent/carer who lives at the same address as the child for most of the time should submit the application.

If the student lives with each parent/carer for equal time, the parent or carer with whom the child is staying at the time should apply. Additional parents/carers can be added to the application and can ask to receive information about the child's application.



Please **do not submit** two different applications for the same child. You must apply once only for a student. Duplicate applications will be deleted.

The Unit will not participate in parental disputes and will accept decisions about school choices and placement made by the parent or carer who applied, unless there are court orders stating otherwise.

Where parents/carers cannot agree, the matter will be dealt with according to the department's [Family law guidelines](#).

Changes to the application

It is your responsibility to check and correct or make changes to your application and resubmit if required. Log in to your application dashboard to check all details are accurate and to add documents or make changes. Some changes, such as requests for adjustments for disability, changes of school choice, submission of illness/ misadventure requests and appeals, will be restricted to certain dates.

Applying without internet access

If you have no internet access at home, please seek the assistance of your child's school to help submit your application. If you have a disability that prevents you from using a computer, please contact the [Unit](#) for assistance.

The option to receive postal mail is not available. If you cannot access email regularly, please ask a friend, a family member or your child's school to assist.

NSW non-government schools

If your child is at a NSW non-government school, a 'Principal's page for provision of information' about the application is emailed to you as soon as you submit your application. It is **compulsory** to give it to the school within 7 days of applying so the principal can supply the information to the Unit by **Friday 2 June 2023**.

Late applications

Late applications may be approved only in serious and well documented extenuating circumstances or where a school may be short of suitable candidates. Late applications can be requested through the application dashboard for a limited time after the closing date.

Privacy

In the online application form you will see a privacy notice. It has details of how personal information will be used and disclosed. You will be asked to read the privacy notice and consent to the specific uses of personal information when you apply.

It is a parent's/carers' responsibility to ensure details in the application are accurate and updated, especially the contact details, current school and school choices.

Supporting documents

Please ensure you upload copies of the following supporting documents to your application at the time of applying (or as soon as possible afterwards) if any of these apply to your child:

- information about a disability, including medical or behavioural conditions such as blindness or low vision, deaf or hard of hearing, autism, learning difficulties, diabetes, anaphylaxis, or other serious illness
- information about the reasonable adjustments that may be required to sit the test. Learn more about [Reasonable adjustments for the test](#)
- a copy of court orders if they relate to decisions about the child's education or communication about the child
- an explanation of why the child is older or younger than the usual age range for Year 4, or if he or she is not in Year 4 in 2023
- supporting information from the school if intending to repeat the student in Year 5. Applications from parents/carers who intend for their child to repeat Year 5 are very rarely accepted even if supported by the school and even after the student has sat the test

- a Report of academic merit, required for students living interstate or overseas and who are not sitting the test in NSW. This report must include a full WISC-V IQ report, in English, with a reliable full-scale IQ score, and standardised reading and mathematics test results.

The Unit may need to confirm your child's Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background if public school records do not confirm it. Please refer to the AIATSIS website for information about Proof of Aboriginality. Supporting evidence includes confirmation from a Local Aboriginal Land Council or an Aboriginal community organisation.

Please do not upload school reports, certificates or other test results unless asked to do so.



What do I need to know about the test?

The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be held on Thursday 27 July 2023 in designated test centres in NSW.

The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be held from 9:00 am to approximately 11:40am on **Thursday 27 July 2023** in designated test centres in NSW.

The test* will be in English and is paper based. There will be three multiple choice tests conducted on the one day, consisting of reading, mathematical reasoning and thinking skills. The test is designed to measure ability rather than performance on the curriculum. Its only purpose is for placement in opportunity classes.

Test component	Duration	Number of items
Reading	30 minutes	25
Mathematical Reasoning	40 minutes	35
Thinking Skills	30 minutes	30

Students record their answers on an answer sheet for each test that is later scanned by a computer. Students bring their own 2B lead pencil, sharpener and eraser to the test centre. Students use a pencil to show their answers. Some students may require adjustments to show their answers.

Important: If your child does not follow instructions and marks the answers on the question paper instead of the answer sheet, the answers will not be counted.

If your child marks a series of answers on the wrong lines on the answer sheet, the misalignment cannot be corrected.

See the website for more information about the test.

Sample timetable

The following timetable is approximate and will vary according to the size and location of the test centre.

Activity	Time
Parents/carers transport candidates to test centre	by 9am
Administration	9am-9:30am
Test 1 – Reading (30 minutes)	9:30am-10am
Test papers collected Break (candidates remain in test centre)	10am-10:10am
Test 2 – Mathematical Reasoning (40 minutes)	10:10am-10:50am
Test papers collected Break (candidates remain in test centre)	10:50am-11am
Test 3 – Thinking Skills (30 minutes)	11am-11:30am
Test papers collected	11:30am-11:40am
Candidates dismissed	11:40am

*The test is not available to be translated into other languages.

Authority to sit the test

On **Thursday 13 July 2023**, you will be sent a message telling you that the 'Test authority' letter is available in your application dashboard. The letter tells you where to take your child to sit the test.

Your child must take a printed copy of the 'Test authority' letter to the test.

You will also receive a link to a document 'Test information for parents/carers and students'. This provides details about the test and what your child should bring. It also tells students how to show answers.

Students from the same primary school will usually attend the same test centre. It is usually not possible to change test centres after they are allocated.

You must arrange for your child's travel to and from the test centre.

Malpractice

The department has robust measures to identify student malpractice for the Opportunity Class Placement Test. These measures are to ensure that no student receives an unfair advantage, or causes disadvantage to other students. If malpractice is found, parents/carers are notified and are given an opportunity to appeal the decision. If the decision is upheld, students are not eligible for placement. Learn more at [Malpractice](#).

Practice tests

Practice questions for the new test are published on the website at [The test](#). Encourage your child to practise answering the questions on the sample answer sheet.

The samples and practice tests are intended to allow students to become familiar with the test format and style of questions. Any results may not reflect your child's performance in the actual test. The selection committee will not make any decisions based on your child's performance on practice items or any other unauthorised tests.

Reasonable adjustments for disability

Reasonable adjustments are practical arrangements designed to support students to make a fair attempt to show their ability under test conditions, in accordance with the national [Disability Standards for Education 2005](#).

When completing the application online, parents/carers must provide important information about a child's disability, including a medical or behavioural condition that could affect his or her safety or performance during the test, could cause disruption to the test or that might require a life-saving response.

You can ask for [reasonable adjustments](#) when you apply and upload relevant documentation when prompted in the application.

Information that parents/carers and schools provide about disabilities is used for approving reasonable adjustments for the test. It may also be used to determine whether students are included in an equity group as part of the [Equity Placement Model](#).

The Unit sends advice to invigilators in test centres to ensure the adjustments are implemented.

Information parents/carers provide about disability cannot be used to restrict access to opportunity class placement.

If you believe your child requires reasonable adjustments for the test you will need to explain your child's needs in detail in the application (such as exact font size if requesting large print) and upload diagnostic evidence and other relevant documents to your application. You can also add supporting documentation after submitting your application up until **Friday 19 May 2023**.

The Unit may contact you and/or the school to confirm the adjustments the student has at school. In many cases, if the requested adjustments are already provided at school, they can be arranged for the test. This may include adjustments such as large print test papers, extra time, specific seating and approval to take medications into the test room.

You do not need to arrange permission for your child to bring glasses or asthma medication. Students should bring these to the test if required. Parents/carers must provide an anaphylaxis kit if the student has anaphylaxis.

It is vital that parents/carers let the Unit know about any medical condition that may affect their child's safety in the test so appropriate adjustments can be arranged.

Please advise the Unit if your child has a disability that could possibly result in a disturbance to other students during the test. Separate supervision for testing may be arranged if necessary.

The Unit tries to assist in emergency situations (e.g. a broken arm just prior to the test). However, some adjustments requested after the application closing date cannot be guaranteed.

What happens if something goes wrong in the test?

If your child sits the test but is sick or injured or an event affects **performance on the test**, you must get a medical certificate or other evidence for the test day.

To make a request for special consideration of illness or misadventure affecting test performance, log in to your [application dashboard](#) and submit your request by **Thursday 3 August 2023**. Go to the three dots under the Action column next to the listed application and select the illness/misadventure option to access the form and submit the request. You should upload a file containing relevant evidence.

Learn more at [illness or misadventure](#).

Depending on the circumstances, it is generally better for the student to sit the test and make an illness/misadventure request afterwards. However, students must not attend the test if there is a risk to their health or the health of others, such as in cases of contact with contagious disease. Students with signs of respiratory illness may not be admitted.

What if my child is unable to sit the test?

If your child was prevented from sitting the test for a good reason you can make a request for consideration of illness or misadventure based on **missing the test**.

You will need to have a medical certificate or other evidence to support the request that covers the test day.

To make a request for special consideration of illness/misadventure based on missing the test, log in to your [application dashboard](#) to submit the request by **Thursday 3 August 2023**. The selection committee may later request alternative evidence of academic merit if required.

You **cannot** make an appeal later about illness or misadventure that should have been raised at the time of the test.

However, it is important to note that students who sit the test have a much greater chance of placement than students who do not sit the test. This is because only 5% of places at any opportunity class are available for students who have been unable to sit the test.

For example an opportunity class with 15 vacancies will have only 1 place which is available for students who have missed the test.

How are placement decisions made?

The majority of students will be placed in order of academic merit based on the results of the Opportunity Class Placement Test.

Students unable to sit the test will be considered on other evidence of academic merit. For example, interstate and overseas applicants who are not able to be in NSW for the placement test submit a 'Report of academic merit' that includes an IQ report.

The Equity Placement Model helps to make placement fairer for under-represented student groups.

Selection Committee

The selection committee makes placement decisions independently, using consistent selection criteria.

The selection committee considers all applicants for schools based on the order of academic merit.

The committee considers:

- how many students to place on reserve lists
- students in the four equity groups: low socio-educational advantage students, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students, rural and remote students, and students with disability
- students unable to sit the test
- whether students outside the usual age range or school year are eligible for placement
- any other relevant factors brought to their attention.

Based on student performance and the above considerations, the selection committee determines students to be listed for offers and reserve places according to the number of vacancies at the chosen opportunity class.



Students with too many unjustified absences from school will be brought to the attention of the selection committee. The selection committee is reluctant to offer placement to those whose attendance might not allow them to benefit fully from opportunity class placement.

How do I find out the outcome?

The Unit expects to release your child's placement outcome in the application dashboard on the evening of Friday 20 October 2023.

An email alert is sent to parents/carers when outcomes are available.

Your child may be:

- offered a place for one school choice, or
- placed on a reserve list for one or both school choices, or
- unsuccessful for one or more school choices, or
- shown with a combination of two of the above.

If your child is offered a place at one school and also had a ranking high enough to be offered a place at the second choice school, the second choice school is shown as 'not applicable'.

A Performance report shows your child's achievement band in comparison to other students who sat the test. For more information about outcomes and the Performance report, go to Placement outcome information. No test scores or alternative equivalent scores are available.

An 'Outcome information' document, linked from your outcomes message and on the Outcome page of the website, will explain the terms used and the next steps in the process.

Parents/carers of students found to have engaged in malpractice will be informed prior to the release of placement outcomes.

Parents/carers of students absent from the test and who did not submit an illness/misadventure request will be informed that their child is not eligible for placement.

If you have not received email advice about the availability of the placement outcome, please log in to your application dashboard, read the outcome message and go to the 'View outcomes' option by selecting the three dots in the Action column to the right of the listed application. Contact the Unit urgently if you are unable to view your placement outcome.

There is no minimum fixed level of academic merit required for entry to individual schools. Students are offered placements according to the available vacancies based on their ranking in order of academic merit.

The Unit makes reports available to public schools listing the outcome for students who applied. Some non-government schools are also provided with outcome reports if they request them.

Responding to offers

If you receive an offer, please ensure you respond to the offer, accepting or declining, by the due date. To do so:

- log in to your application dashboard
- select the three dots under the Action column at the right of your listed application
- choose 'View outcomes'
- click on the Accept or the Decline button.

You will see your response recorded in the History section of the Outcomes screen. No confirmation email is sent.

If you do not respond by the due date you will receive a message reminding you to respond. If you fail to respond after this reminder your offer will lapse.

If you do not wish to accept an offer, or if you accept an offer and then change your mind and want to decline it, please log in and decline the offer as soon as possible so that the place can be offered to the next eligible student on the reserve list.

Note: If you have declined an offer and wish to change your mind please message the Unit and request reinstatement on the reserve list. There is no guarantee that a place will become available in these circumstances.

Being on a reserve list only

If your child is on a reserve list, you have the option to withdraw your child from the list.

A student remaining on a reserve list will be offered a place if his or her position on the list is reached.

Reserve bands are used to indicate to parents/carers the timing of offers made in previous years from the student's position on the reserve list. Reserve positions are reported as Band A to E.

You can follow the progress of the reserve bands at [Opportunity classes reserves](#) from early November 2023.

Subsequent offers

If your child has been offered a place at your second choice school and is also on a reserve list for your first choice school, a subsequent offer will be made if his or her reserve position is reached. You must accept or decline the new offer. If you accept the subsequent offer, the original offer is automatically declined.

Note: The Unit will make an offer to your first choice school even if you declined an offer to your second choice school.

If you accept an offer and your child is also on a reserve list, the student can remain on that reserve list until 5pm on **Thursday 18 January 2024**. Before that time, you must give up the offer if you want to keep your child on the reserve list. After this time, students whose parents/carers have not declined their offer will be automatically removed from all reserve lists.

Can I find out about my child's test scores?

No. Test scores or alternative scores or rankings are not released at any stage of the placement process.

The sole purpose of the test is to place students in opportunity classes. Test results are not intended for any other purpose. A [Performance report](#) will be provided that shows how your child performed in comparison to the other students who took the test in that year.

Can I have my child's test answers re-marked?

It is not possible to have your child's test papers checked or re-marked. The scanning of the test answer sheets for the Reading, Mathematical Reasoning and Thinking Skills tests is a rigorous and accurate process. The answer sheets are electronically scanned and any instance of a detected anomaly in an answer sheet is automatically sent for a manual review. This process ensures that test scoring has an extremely high degree of accuracy.

How do I appeal the outcome?

You may appeal against the placement outcome or the malpractice determination. The principal of your child's school may be asked to comment on the grounds for your appeal.

You may also appeal if your child is not yet a permanent resident of Australia but you have proof that permanent residency will be granted by the beginning of Term 1, 2024 or have extenuating circumstances that would justify setting aside the rule that applies to all applicants.

Appeals about residency or other grounds must be submitted within 5 working days of the initial placement outcome being released via the link to the Appeals section in your [application dashboard](#).

All relevant documentary evidence must be uploaded with your appeal by the due date. Late appeals cannot be accepted.

Parents/carers will be advised whether or not their appeal is being considered by the appeals panel. More details about grounds for appeal can be found at [Appeals](#).

Can my offer be cancelled?

If you do not respond to an offer by the due date the Unit will send a message reminding you to respond. If there is no response, the offer will be lapsed (cancelled) and will pass to the next eligible student on the reserve list.

If your child does not satisfy all requirements, such as permanent residency, or does not attend to finalise enrolment on the first day of school without a satisfactory explanation, the offer will be cancelled.

Offers will also be cancelled if they are found to be based on false or misleading information.

What do I need to do to enrol?

If you accept an offer, the school will send you orientation and enrolment information.

An 'Authority to attend' letter will be made available in your application dashboard from **Friday 19 January 2024**. Your child will need to present this letter to the school on the first day of the school year.

You will also need to show original documents, such as proof of residency, to the opportunity class school to complete enrolment.

You will need to meet all other NSW Department of Education enrolment conditions – learn more at [Enrolment](#).

If you need to delay your child's attendance beyond the first day of the school year you must discuss it with the principal of the opportunity class (or message the Unit if you need to negotiate a delay during school holidays) before submitting enrolment forms. The principal may or may not approve the delayed start. You cannot delay enrolment past **Friday 23 February 2024**.

Any extended leave after enrolment must be negotiated with the school principal and is subject to the department's enrolment policy.

Where can I get further support?

Ask your child's teacher if you want advice about whether your child might benefit from attending an opportunity class.

Support for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students can also be obtained from Aboriginal Education staff from the Principal network office and the principal of your child's school.

Find out about programs offered by specific schools by visiting their websites at [Opportunity classes available in NSW](#).

Frequently asked questions

Must I list two schools in the application?

You can list one or two schools with an opportunity class. You should list only schools you would definitely accept an offer to. Please consider your choices carefully, including the distance from your home.

Does the order in which I list my choices matter?

Yes. If your child qualifies for both choices, you will be offered a place only at your first choice. If, however, your child qualifies for only one of your choices, you will be offered a place regardless of whether you listed it as first or second choice.

The selection committee does not select students based on whether parents/carers chose a school first or second. Selection is made on the basis of academic merit and equity considerations.

What provision is made for students from non-government schools?

The selection procedures are the same as for public school students. The only difference is that the Unit advises public school principals about the students from their school who have applied.

Parents/carers of students from non-government schools must ask the principal to complete the 'Principal's page for provision of information about the application' (emailed with their application confirmation) and they must ensure it is returned to the Unit by **Friday 2 June 2023**.

What can I do to prepare my child for the Opportunity Class Placement Test?

Visit [The Test](#) where there are several practice tests. Encourage your child to use the practice tests to practise answering the questions quickly on the sample answer sheet.

The results of practice items do not mean that your child will perform at the same level in the test. The selection committee and appeals panel will not make any decision based on your child's performance on practice test items.

Does getting private coaching for the test help?

The NSW Department of Education **does not endorse** coaching for the Opportunity Class Placement Test.

There is no credible research that supports the ability of coaching colleges to assist a child who is not already gifted to enter the selective education system.

Parents/carers should also be aware that many students who take part in coaching for the test do not gain entry to opportunity classes.

Most students prepare using the practice tests on the department's website.

Can I change my choice of schools after submitting the application?

You can make a change of choice without explanation up to **Sunday 6 August 2023** through your application dashboard. After this date there must be extenuating circumstances which are serious and well documented for a change to be considered. Any late change of choice must be approved by the Unit and/or the principal of the school with an opportunity class.

What are reserve lists?

Reserve lists are lists of students whose ranking is not high enough to gain an initial offer but are high enough to be on a waiting list if any vacancies arise. The selection committee decides the students who will receive offers and those who will be placed on reserve lists.

How does the reserve list work?

If your child is on a reserve list for an opportunity class, the reserve band A to E indicated on the placement outcome advice shows the approximate time within which students at that level received offers in the previous year.

Students in Band A were offered places within the first month while students in Band E did not receive an offer before the beginning of the school year.

How quickly the Unit offers places to those on a reserve list depends on whether parents/carers accept or decline offers to that school, and whether other students receive further offers to a school of higher choice and, therefore, decline the offer to the lower choice. If your child's position is reached on the reserve list, the Unit will send you an offer through your application dashboard.

Find out more about the reserve list at [Year 5 reserves](#).

If you accept an offer and are also on a reserve list, you can remain on that reserve list until 5pm on **Thursday 18 January 2024**. At that time, you must give up either the reserve place or the offer. After this time, students who have accepted an offer will be removed automatically from any reserve lists.

If my outcome advice says that my child is unsuccessful, can their name be placed on the reserve list?

Students who are unsuccessful cannot be placed on a reserve list because their level of performance was not high enough. Students cannot be placed on reserve lists for schools which were not listed as choices in their application, even if those schools may require lower entry performance levels.

What does the Opportunity Class Placement Test tell me about my child's performance?

The Opportunity Class Placement Test is designed to measure ability.

The test's only purpose is to identify students for entry into opportunity classes on the basis of academic merit. The test is more difficult than other school assessments because it is designed to identify high potential and gifted students. It is not meant to be a diagnostic test to identify the student's strengths and weaknesses in English or mathematics performance. The student's primary school can advise you on your child's performance in these areas.

If my child was unsuccessful for opportunity class placement, will they be unsuccessful for selective high school entry?

Not necessarily, as the cohort of students they are compared with is different. Students can improve over the time since they applied for opportunity class placement. Many high potential and gifted students applying for selective high schools did not apply for opportunity class placement. Not all students from opportunity classes are successful for selective high school entry. There are more than twice as many Year 7 places in selective high schools as there are Year 5 places in opportunity classes and they may be located in different areas.

If my child receives an offer to my second choice school as well as being on the reserve list for the first choice school, do I have to give up the offer in order to stay on the reserve list?

You can accept an offer to your second choice school and stay on the reserve list for your first choice school until 5pm on **Thursday 18 January 2024**.

After that time no further offers will be made to students who accepted placement in an opportunity class and have not declined the offer.

If you wish to remain on the reserve list after this date, you will need to decline the previously accepted offer.

What should I do if my child does not get into an opportunity class?

Opportunity classes are only one of the initiatives provided by the department to meet the needs of high potential and gifted students. As there is approximately one place for every seven applicants, not all students can be placed. Be supportive and explain to your child that he or she can be very successful at their local primary school. Students from mainstream classes can achieve results which are as good as, or even better than, results gained by opportunity class students, as not all high potential and gifted students seek opportunity class placement.

All public schools implement their own provisions for high potential and gifted students under the [NSW Department of Education's high potential and gifted policy](#).

What level of performance in the test does a student need to be placed in an opportunity class?

There is no fixed level of academic merit that a student has to achieve to be placed in a particular opportunity class, as students are placed in rank order of academic merit to fill the available vacancies until the end of Term 1, 2025.

The greater the demand for the school, the higher the required academic merit is likely to be.

If my child is one of the last to be made an offer, does that mean he or she will struggle in an opportunity class?

The selection committee offers places or reserve list positions only to those students they think are capable of doing well in an opportunity class.

There are many things which can affect student performance, including your child's willingness to learn, his or her response to teachers and interaction with other students. The majority of students should have no difficulties.

Does my child get an advantage if we live very close to an opportunity class?

No. Opportunity classes are not zoned. The selection committee does not consider travelling times and transport arrangements when offering places.



Table 1 Public schools with Year 5 opportunity classes in 2024

You can select up to two public schools with an opportunity class, in order of preference.

School	No of vacancies	School	No of vacancies	School	No of vacancies
ALEXANDRIA PARK Park Rd, Alexandria	30	ERMINGTON Winbourne St, West Ryde	30	PORT MACQUARIE Grant St, Port Macquarie	15
ALSTONVILLE Main St, Alstonville	15	GEORGES HALL Pennington Ave, Georges Hall	15	QUAKERS HILL Medlow Dr, Quakers Hill	30
ARMIDALE CITY Faulkner St, Armidale	15	GLENBROOK Woodville St, Glenbrook	30	QUEANBEYAN SOUTH Cameron Rd, Queanbeyan	15
ARTARMON McMillan Rd, Artarmon	60	GOONELLABAH Ballina Rd, Goonellabah	15	RICHMOND Windsor St, Richmond	30
ASHFIELD Liverpool Rd, Ashfield	30	GOSFORD Faunce St West, West Gosford	30	RUTHERFORD Weblands St, Rutherford	15
AURORA COLLEGE ◊ (Virtual provision)	100	GOULBURN WEST Combermere St, Goulburn	15	RYDE Pope St, Ryde	30
BALGOWLAH HEIGHTS Lewis St, Balgowlah Heights	30	GREENACRE Waterloo Rd, Greenacre	15	SMITHFIELD O'Connell St, Smithfield	15
BALMAIN Eaton St, Balmain	30	GREYSTANES Merrylands Rd, Greystanes	30	SOLDIERS POINT Cromarty Rd, Soldiers Point	15
BATHURST WEST Suttor St, Bathurst	15	HARRINGTON STREET Harrington St, Cabramatta	15	SOUTH GRAFTON Vere St, South Grafton	15
BEECROFT Beecroft Rd, Beecroft	30	HOLSWORTHY Infantry Pde, Holsworthy	15	ST ANDREWS Ballantrae Dr, St Andrews	15
BIRABAN Beckley St, Toronto	15	HURSTVILLE Forest Rd, Hurstville	60	ST JOHNS PARK Sandringham St, St Johns Park	15
BLACKTOWN SOUTH Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown	30	ILLAROO ROAD Illaroo Rd, Nowra	30	STURT White Ave, Wagga Wagga	15
BLAXCELL STREET Blaxcell St, Granville	30	IRONBARK RIDGE Ironbark Ridge Rd, Rouse Hill	30	SUMMER HILL Moonbie St, Summer Hill	30
BRADBURY	15	JEWELLS	15	SUTHERLAND	30

School	No of vacancies	School	No of vacancies	School	No of vacancies
Jacaranda Ave, Bradbury		Lepton Pde, Jewells		Eton St, Sutherland	
CAMDEN SOUTH Old Hume Hwy, Camden South	15	KINGSWOOD Second Ave, Kingswood	30	TAHMOOR Bronzewing St, Tahmoor	15
CARINGBAH NORTH Cawarra Rd, Caringbah	30	LEUMEAH Burrendong Rd, Leumeah	15	TAMWORTH Napier St, Tamworth	15
CASULA De Meyrick Ave, Casula	15	LITHGOW Mort St, Lithgow	15	TAMWORTH SOUTH Petra Ave, Tamworth	15
CESSNOCK WEST Cnr Campbell St and Wollombi Rd, Cessnock	15	MARYLAND John T Bell Dr, Maryland, Newcastle	15	TIGHES HILL Elizabeth St, Tighes Hill	15
CHATSWOOD Centennial Ave, Chatswood	30	MATTHEW PEARCE Astoria Park Rd, Baulkham Hills	30	TOORMINA Cavanba Rd, Toormina	15
COLYTON Nelson St, Mount Druitt	30	MONA VALE Waratah St, Mona Vale	30	WAITARA Edgeworth David Ave, Wahroonga	30
COONABARABRAN Newell Hwy, Coonabarabran	15	MOREE Albert St, Moree	15	WENTWORTH FALLS Falls Rd, Wentworth Falls	15
CUDGEGONG VALLEY Madeira Rd, Mudgee	15	NEUTRAL BAY Ben Boyd Rd, Neutral Bay	30	WILKINS Park Rd, Marrickville	30
DUBBO WEST East St, Dubbo	15	NEWBRIDGE HEIGHTS Cnr Lewin & Magree Cres, Chipping Norton	15	WOLLONGONG Church St, Wollongong	30
DURAL Old Northern Rd, Dural	30	NEW LAMBTON SOUTH St James Rd, New Lambton	15	WOOLLAHRA Forth St, Woollahra	60
EARLWOOD Homer St, Earlwood	30	NORTH ROCKS North Rocks Rd, North Rocks	30	WYONG Cutler Dr, Wyong	30
		PICNIC POINT Prince & Thomas St, Picnic Point	15		

◇ Only students who will be enrolled in Year 5 in an authorised host school in a rural and remote area (excluding areas where there is a current OC provision) in 2024 may apply for Aurora College, the virtual opportunity class.

Contact Us

Many questions are covered in the information on our website; please check there first for support.

Application dashboard messaging

As soon as you have registered and then begun your application you can contact the Unit by logging into your application dashboard to send and receive messages and upload documents.

You will receive email notifications when we send you a message through your application dashboard. Check that the emails are not sent to your junk folder and make sure your account is not full. If you have not yet created an application, you can contact the Unit by:

Other Contact details

Email: ssu@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone: 1300 880 367

(the phone system has updates at key stages of placement)

If you need help with English to make your enquiry, please call the telephone interpreter service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. Tell the operator that you want to call 1300 880 367 and they will get an interpreter on the line to help you. You will not be charged for this service.

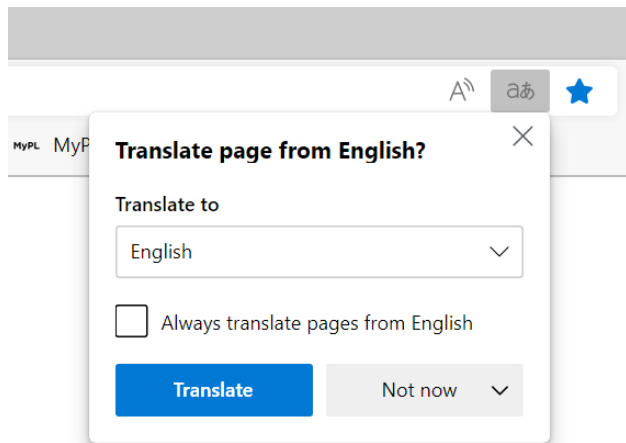
Facebook: Request approval to join our [Facebook group](#).

Information in other languages

When visiting our website you can use your browser's built-in language tool to translate our pages.

For example, when using Microsoft Edge you can select your translation language in the search bar (see below).

Refer to your browser's help section for more information.



Translated Fact Sheets

On our website you can view and download our [Opportunity classes and selective high schools fact sheet](#) in 26 different languages.