

# Information for applicants

For entry to opportunity classes in Year 5 in 2024

[education.nsw.gov.au/oc](https://education.nsw.gov.au/oc)



# Ready to apply?

## Apply online at:

[shsoc.education.nsw.gov.au](https://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<sup>^</sup>.

<sup>^</sup>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](https://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](https://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](https://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
<b>ALEXANDRIA PARK</b> Park Rd, Alexandria	30	<b>ERMINGTON</b> Winbourne St, West Ryde	30	<b>PORT MACQUARIE</b> Grant St, Port Macquarie	15
<b>ALSTONVILLE</b> Main St, Alstonville	15	<b>GEORGES HALL</b> Pennington Ave, Georges Hall	15	<b>QUAKERS HILL</b> Medlow Dr, Quakers Hill	30
<b>ARMIDALE CITY</b> Faulkner St, Armidale	15	<b>GLENBROOK</b> Woodville St, Glenbrook	30	<b>QUEANBEYAN SOUTH</b> Cameron Rd, Queanbeyan	15
<b>ARTARMON</b> McMillan Rd, Artarmon	60	<b>GOONELLABAH</b> Ballina Rd, Goonellabah	15	<b>RICHMOND</b> Windsor St, Richmond	30
<b>ASHFIELD</b> Liverpool Rd, Ashfield	30	<b>GOSFORD</b> Faunce St West, West Gosford	30	<b>RUTHERFORD</b> Weblands St, Rutherford	15
<b>AURORA COLLEGE</b> ◊ (Virtual provision)	100	<b>GOULBURN WEST</b> Combermere St, Goulburn	15	<b>RYDE</b> Pope St, Ryde	30
<b>BALGOWLAH HEIGHTS</b> Lewis St, Balgowlah Heights	30	<b>GREENACRE</b> Waterloo Rd, Greenacre	15	<b>SMITHFIELD</b> O'Connell St, Smithfield	15
<b>BALMAIN</b> Eaton St, Balmain	30	<b>GREYSTANES</b> Merrylands Rd, Greystanes	30	<b>SOLDIERS POINT</b> Cromarty Rd, Soldiers Point	15
<b>BATHURST WEST</b> Suttor St, Bathurst	15	<b>HARRINGTON STREET</b> Harrington St, Cabramatta	15	<b>SOUTH GRAFTON</b> Vere St, South Grafton	15
<b>BEECROFT</b> Beecroft Rd, Beecroft	30	<b>HOLSWORTHY</b> Infantry Pde, Holsworthy	15	<b>ST ANDREWS</b> Ballantrae Dr, St Andrews	15
<b>BIRABAN</b> Beckley St, Toronto	15	<b>HURSTVILLE</b> Forest Rd, Hurstville	60	<b>ST JOHNS PARK</b> Sandringham St, St Johns Park	15
<b>BLACKTOWN SOUTH</b> Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown	30	<b>ILLAROO ROAD</b> Illaroo Rd, Nowra	30	<b>STURT</b> White Ave, Wagga Wagga	15
<b>BLAXCELL STREET</b> Blaxcell St, Granville	30	<b>IRONBARK RIDGE</b> Ironbark Ridge Rd, Rouse Hill	30	<b>SUMMER HILL</b> Moonbie St, Summer Hill	30
<b>BRADBURY</b>	15	<b>JEWELLS</b>	15	<b>SUTHERLAND</b>	30

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

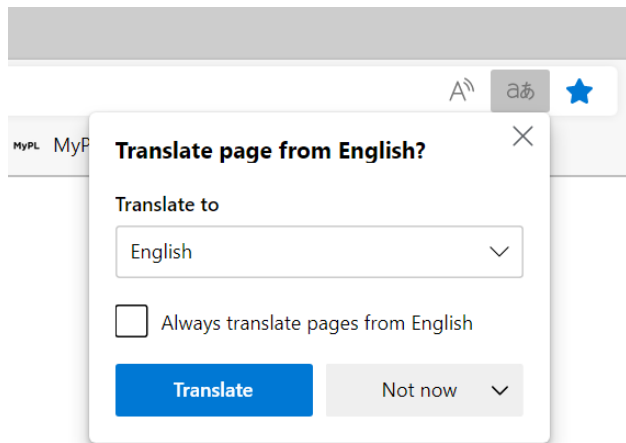
**Facebook:** Request approval to join our [Facebook group](#).

## 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.