

Information for applicants

Procedures and guidelines for placement in opportunity classes in Year 5 in 2025

Note: there may be changes to the dates and procedures in this document. For the latest updates visit: education.nsw.gov.au/oc

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

Resources in other languages

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

The opportunity class placement process for Year 5 entry is administered by the Selective Education Unit, referred to in this document as the Unit.

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Stages of the placement process

What	Who	When
Applications open for parents/carers to submit online	Parents/carers	From 4 April to 20 May 2024
Requests for reasonable adjustments for disability and supporting documentation to be submitted	Parents/carers	From 4 April to 20 May 2024
Verification of student details and information	Principals	From 22 May 2024 to 10 June 2024
Last day to edit current school/student details in application dashboard	Parents/carers	10 June 2024
'Test authority' letter and test information bulletin are made available in the application dashboard and parents/carers advised of reasonable adjustments arranged for the test, if applicable	Parents/carers	18 July 2024
Students sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test for entry to Year 5 in 2025 in allocated test centres	Students	1 August 2024
'Report of academic merit' due for interstate and overseas students unable to sit the test	Parents/carers	1 August 2024
Last day to submit requests for special consideration for illness/misadventure	Parents/carers	8 August 2024
Last day to change opportunity class school choices in application dashboard	Parents/carers	11 August 2024
Selection committee meets	Selection committee	September 2024
Placement outcomes expected to be released	Selective Education Unit/Parents/carers	25 October 2024
Last day to submit an appeal, if applicable	Parents/carers	1 November 2024
Offers are accepted or declined	Parents/carers	From 25 October 2024 to the end of Term 1, 2025
Orientation information sent to parents/carers with accepted offers	Schools	Late October/early November 2024
Appeals outcomes are released to parents/carers who submitted appeals	Selective Education Unit/Parents/carers	12 December 2024
Students with accepted offers are withdrawn from reserve lists	Selective Education Unit	At 5pm on 17 January 2025
'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 2025	Parents/carers	24 January 2025

Types of opportunity classes

Year 5 enrolments are available at 86 primary schools with opportunity classes in NSW each year

There are 1,840 Year 5 places across NSW offered each year. Parents/carers apply when their children are in Year 4.

There are:

- 54 opportunity class schools located in metropolitan Sydney
- 31 schools located in rural or regional centres
- a virtual class, Aurora College, for rural and remote students is available in approximately 600 authorised host schools

The following 10 primary schools will have opportunity classes for the first time in Term 1, 2025.

- Blacktown West Public School
- Brookvale Public School
- Lindfield East Public School
- Maroubra Junction Public School
- Miranda Public School
- Moss Vale Public School
- Penrith Public School
- St Clair Public School
- Toongabbie Public School
- Wairoonga Public School

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. There is no provision to apply for Year 6 entry only.

In most cases, students who have accepted a place in an opportunity class will leave their current school to attend the school with the opportunity class. The main exception is Aurora College (see below).

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 or search the map for one near you.

Aurora College

Aurora College offers rural and remote students an opportunity to participate in mathematics, science and technology lessons through an online 'virtual' opportunity class.

Students connect with their teachers and other students through an online learning environment and through residential school programs.

Students must be enrolled or intending to enrol in their local public school (their host school) to be considered for entry to Aurora College. Parents/carers of non-government school students offered placement will need to enrol their children in their authorised local public school.

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

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

Read the Aurora College fact sheet [Opportunity class information for parents and carers \(PDF 299KB\)](#) to learn more about how the class operates.

Find out more about [Aurora College](#).

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, 2025.

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 2014 and 1 August 2015. 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 reviews these applications and 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 2024 to Year 5 in 2025. 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 requirements

Enrolment conditions apply to opportunity classes if your child is not an Australian citizen. Conditions may apply to temporary residents, visitors and permanent residents of New Zealand who enrol in a NSW government school.

Enrolment conditions for each visa subclass are maintained in the [Visa Subclasses and Enrolment Conditions list \(PDF 125 KB\)](#). Please check the requirements regularly for the latest residency rules governing opportunity class eligibility.

If your child does not currently meet the enrolment conditions but you expect your child's residency status to meet the conditions before initial placement offers are made in October 2024, you may apply and your child can sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test.

If your child's test outcome qualifies for placement all enrolment conditions must be met before you can be offered a place. Your child must be living in NSW at the start of Term 1, 2025.

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

Temporarily living interstate or overseas

You can apply while you are temporarily living interstate or overseas. 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 \(PDF 267KB\)](#) which includes a Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children Fifth Edition (WISC V) report, and standardised tests of English and mathematics. The report is due by Thursday 1 August 2024.

For more information refer to [Are you currently living interstate or overseas?](#)

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 7 days after the test.

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 30 vacancies will have only 2 places available for students who have not sat the test.

How to apply

Applications are open from 4 April 2024 to 20 May 2024. Parents/carers must apply by using the online application.

Steps to apply

1. Please use one of the following supported browsers: Google Chrome (Windows 10), Firefox (Windows 10), MS Edge (Windows 10), Safari (MacBook pro), Safari (iPad air 2 - iOS 13.6.1), Safari (iPhone 8 - iOS 13.6.1), Chrome or Microsoft Edge (Android device).
2. Go to the application site at: shsoc.education.nsw.gov.au and register your own name and email address and create a password. You will receive an email to verify your registration. You have not applied until you have completed the application form and submitted it.
3. Go to the application site and log in using the email address and the password you provided.
4. Create an application by following the prompts and instructions.
5. You will be given an application number in the format C24012345.
6. Complete the application in full, ensuring you have ticked the declaration boxes, and select 'submit'. A 'submitted' status will show once you have submitted the application.
7. Upload any relevant documents.
8. Check that you received an email confirming that you have successfully submitted your application.

After you have applied

- Log in to your application to check all details are accurate and to make changes, including uploading documents, or to send and receive messages.
- Select the 3 dots under the 'Action' column to the right of your listed application to select options to view or edit the application details, or later to access online forms for illness/misadventure or appeals.

- Remember to submit again each time you make a change, especially changes to school choices, or there will be no record of it.
- If you forget your password, you can reset it in the application dashboard.

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. After applying, you will be able to log into your [application dashboard](#) to change details and send and receive messages.

Selecting school choices

You can list one or 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. You can list one or two schools.

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

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 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 using the [list of primary schools with opportunity classes](#). The selection committee does not consider your child's travel times or transport needs.

Find out more about [Choosing your schools](#).

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 11 August 2024 by logging in to your application, selecting new schools and resubmitting. **You must not create a new application but you can change whatever you need in the application you created.**

You cannot change choices after 11 August unless there are serious extenuating circumstances, for which you must have documentary evidence. A request for a change of choice after that date must be approved by the Unit. It is not usually possible to approve a change of choice after the outcome as places will be filled and reserve lists created.

Requests to change school choices after the outcome will not be approved if made on the basis that your child might have qualified for a different school or because you have changed your mind about the order of choices or have discovered that the school is too far away.

Who can make enquiries or decisions?

Parent/carer details

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

If another parent or carer is likely to make decisions or correspond with us about the application, please make sure their name and details are included in 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

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

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 7 June 2024**.

Late applications

Most requests to make a late application are denied. Late applications may be approved only in serious and well-documented extenuating circumstances relevant to the entire application period 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/carer's 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:
- If you believe your child requires reasonable adjustments for the test due to a disability, you may need to provide evidence – learn more at **4. Reasonable adjustments** on [Using the application website](#).
- A copy of court orders if they relate to decisions about your 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 2024.
- Supporting information from the school if intending to repeat your child 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 \(PDF 267KB\)](#) is 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, standardised English 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](#).
- 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 is expected to be held on Thursday 1 August 2024 in designated test centres in NSW

The test in 2024 is paper-based.

The test has multiple-choice questions in reading, mathematical reasoning and thinking skills.

The test is designed to measure ability rather than curriculum knowledge. It has been developed specifically for placement in an opportunity class and has no diagnostic function.

Table 2 – test structure

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

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.

Authority to sit the test

By Thursday 18 July 2024, you will be sent an email 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 and students. This provides details about the test, what your child should bring to the test and how to show answers on the test answer sheet.

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

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

Sample timetable

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

Table 3 – sample test timetable

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

Malpractice

The department has robust measures in place to identify student malpractice in the Opportunity Class Placement Test. These measures ensure that no student receives an unfair advantage or causes disadvantage to other students. If malpractice is found, parents 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

Students are encouraged to do a small amount of preparation to familiarise themselves with the test structure and what to expect on test day. The [Applying for an opportunity class: Student resource hub](#) includes free activities to help students prepare for the test.

Practice test papers are available at [Opportunity class practice tests](#). Encourage your child to practise answering the questions on the sample answer sheet. Practice with any kind of multiple-choice questions could also help students build familiarity.

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 the score your child will get in the actual test.

The selection committee will not make any decisions based on your child's score 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](#).

On the application form, parents must disclose information about their child's disability and/or medical condition/s that could affect 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 for your child when you apply and upload relevant documentation when prompted in the application form – see step **4. Reasonable adjustments** on

[Using the application website](#). You can also add supporting documentation after submitting your application up until **Monday 20 May 2024**.

Information that parents and schools provide about disability 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](#).

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

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

If you believe your child requires reasonable adjustments for the test you should explain your child's needs in detail in the application form (such as font size if requesting large print). and upload evidence and other relevant documents to your application. You can also add supporting documentation after submitting your application- time restrictions apply, please refer to page 2 of this document for specific dates.

The Unit may contact you and/or the school to confirm adjustments your child has at school. In many cases, if the requested adjustments are already provided at school, they can be arranged for the test. Some examples of adjustments are: 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 must provide an anaphylaxis kit and/or asthma action plan as relevant. It is vital that parents 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 an emergency situation arises prior to the test (e.g. a broken arm the day before the test) the Unit will try to assist. In such cases, parents should send a message to the Unit. However, some adjustments requested after the application closing date cannot be guaranteed.

Preparing your child for the Opportunity Class Placement Test

Visit [Placement test](#) and [Opportunity class practice tests](#) for information to prepare for the test. Encourage your child to use the practice tests to answer the questions quickly on the sample answer sheet.

The results of practice items do not mean that your child will score the same in the test. Selection committees and appeals panels will not make any decision based on your child's score on practice test items.

The NSW Department of Education does not recommend any specific 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 should be aware that many students who take part in coaching for the test do not gain entry to an opportunity class.

Illness/misadventure: 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 to submit the request by **Thursday 8 August 2024**. Go to the 3 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 [Unexpected events on test day](#).

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.

Selection committees consider the circumstances and evidence provided by parents when deciding whether to accept illness/misadventure requests. Discretionary activities such as participation in entertainment, sporting events, excursions, camps, or a holiday trip may not be considered sufficient reason to miss the test.

What if my child is unable to sit the test?

If your child was allocated a test centre but was unable to sit the test for a good reason you can submit an illness or misadventure request.

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

To make a request for special consideration for missing the test based on illness/misadventure, log in to your application dashboard to submit the request by 8 August 2024. The selection committee may later request alternative evidence of academic merit.

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 30 vacancies will have only 2 places available for students who have missed the test.

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

How are placement decisions made?

Most students will be placed in order of academic merit based on test performance in the Opportunity Class Placement Test

For some applicants, other evidence of academic merit may be used in the placement process. For example, applicants living interstate or overseas 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.

There is no fixed level of academic merit that a student must achieve to be placed in a particular opportunity class. Students are placed in rank order of academic merit to fill the available vacancies until the reserve lists close. The greater the demand for the school, the higher the required academic merit is likely to be.

Selection Committee

The selection committee makes placement decisions independently, using consistent selection criteria. The selection committee considers all applicants based on the order of academic merit.

The committee considers:

- illness/misadventure requests about absence from the test.
- whether students outside the usual age range or school year are eligible for placement
- students in the 4 equity groups: low socio-educational advantage students, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students, rural and remote students, and students with disability.
- other evidence of academic merit, if necessary
- other relevant factors brought to their attention.

Based on placement scores 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.

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.

As opportunity classes are not zoned, the selection committee does not consider travelling times and transport arrangements when offering places.

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.

Your child's outcome

The Unit expects to release placement outcomes on Friday 25 October 2024

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 [Outcomes](#). On that page, you'll also find a link to the 'Placement outcome information' document that explains all the terms used and the next steps in the process.

No test scores or alternative equivalent scores are available.

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

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

If you have not received an email about the availability of the placement outcome, please log in to your application portal, read the outcome message and go to the 'View outcomes' option at the 3 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.

Some applications are put on hold if further information is required to finalise the outcome. The Unit will contact you if this applies.

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

The Unit makes reports available to public schools listing the outcome for students who applied. Non-government schools are provided with outcome reports on request.

Responding to offers

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

- log in to your application dashboard
- go to the 3 dots under the 'Action' column at the right of your listed application
- choose 'View outcomes'
- click on the Accept or 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 by the due date specified on the reminder your offer will lapse (be withdrawn).

If you do not wish to accept an offer, please decline it as soon as possible so the place can be offered to the next student on the reserve list.

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

Reserve lists

Reserve lists are lists of students whose placement scores are not high enough to gain an initial offer but are high enough to be on a waiting list if vacancies arise.

If the Outcome is showing as Reserve it means your child is on the reserve list (waiting list) for that school.

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

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

Students cannot be placed on reserve lists for schools which were not listed as choices in their application.

You can follow the progress of the reserve bands at [Opportunity class reserve list bands](#) from early November 2024.

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 may depend on whether:

- parents/carers accept or decline offers to that school
- other students receive further offers to a school of higher 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 [What do the different outcomes mean](#) and [Opportunity class reserve list bands](#).

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 for the first choice school 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 offer a place for your first choice school even if you declined an earlier 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 Friday 17 January 2025**. 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.

Unsuccessful students

As there is approximately one place for every 8 applicants, not all students can be placed. Be supportive and explain to your child that he or she can be very successful at a local public school. Not all high potential and gifted students apply for opportunity class placement. All public schools implement the [NSW Department of Education's High Potential and Gifted policy](#).

Students who are unsuccessful are not eligible to be placed on a reserve list.

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

Not necessarily as students can develop at different rates over time and the cohort of students they are compared with is different. 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.

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.

There is no fixed level of academic merit that a student must achieve to be placed in a particular opportunity class. Students are placed in rank order of academic merit to fill the available vacancies until the end of Term 1, 2026. The greater the demand for the school, the higher the required academic merit is likely to be.

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 against the outcome?

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

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](#).

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

Please read the information about appeals on our website and submit your appeal only if based on valid grounds.

Parents will be advised whether or not their appeal is being passed on to 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 lapse (be withdrawn) and will pass to the next eligible student on the reserve list.

If your child does not satisfy all requirements, such as the residency requirements, 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.

The Unit will provide an 'Authority to attend' letter via your application dashboard from **Friday 24 January 2025**. 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 Department 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 21 February 2025**.

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 – see the list of schools with places available at [Find an 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 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 email account is not full.

Other contact details

The opportunity class placement process is administered by the Selective Education Unit.

If you have not yet created an application, you can contact the Unit through:

Email: ssu@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone: 1300 880 367 (the phone system has updates at key stages of placement)

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

Information in other languages

Visit [Resources in other languages](#) to find translated documents and videos about opportunity classes and selective education.

This includes a link to the [Opportunity classes and selective high schools fact sheet](#) that has been translated into 25 different languages.

Public schools with Year 5 opportunity classes in 2025

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

Table 4 – List of schools with opportunity classes and number of places

School	No of vacancies
ALEXANDRIA PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL Park Rd, Alexandria	30
ALSTONVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL Main St, Alstonville	15
ARMIDALE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL Faulkner St, Armidale	15
ARTARMON PUBLIC SCHOOL McMillan Rd, Artarmon	30
ASHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL Liverpool Rd, Ashfield	30
AURORA COLLEGE (online opportunity classes) Students must be in a rural and remote area to apply for Aurora College and must attend an authorised host school to enrol.	100
BALGOWLAH HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL Lewis St, Balgowlah Heights	15
BALMAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL Eaton St, Balmain	30
BATHURST WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL Suttor St, Bathurst	15
BEECROFT PUBLIC SCHOOL Beecroft Rd, Beecroft	30
BIRABAN PUBLIC SCHOOL Beckley St, Toronto	15
BLACKTOWN SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown	15

School	No of vacancies
BLACKTOWN WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL Lancaster St, Blacktown	15
BLAXCELL STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL Blaxcell St, Granville	30
BLAXLAND EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL Old Bathurst Rd, East Blaxland	30
BRADBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL Jacaranda Ave, Bradbury	15
BROOKVALE PUBLIC SCHOOL Old Pittwater Rd, Brookvale	15
CAMDEN SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL Old Hume Hwy, Camden South	15
CARINGBAH NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL Cawarra Rd, Caringbah	15
CASULA PUBLIC SCHOOL De Meyrick Ave, Casula	15
CESSNOCK WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL Cnr Campbell St and Wollombi Rd, Cessnock	15
CHATSWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL Centennial Ave, Chatswood	30
COLYTON PUBLIC SCHOOL Nelson St, Mount Druitt	15
COONABARABRAN PUBLIC SCHOOL Newell Hwy, Coonabarabran	15
CUDGEGONG VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL Madeira Rd, Mudgee	15
DUBBO WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL East St, Dubbo	15
DURAL PUBLIC SCHOOL Old Northern Rd, Dural	30
EARLWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL Homer St, Earlwood	30

School	No of vacancies
ERMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL Winbourne St, West Ryde	30
GEORGES HALL PUBLIC SCHOOL Pennington Ave, Georges Hall	15
GOONELLABAH PUBLIC SCHOOL Ballina Rd, Goonellabah	15
GOSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL Faunce St West, West Gosford	30
GOULBURN WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL Combermere St, Goulburn	15
GREENACRE PUBLIC SCHOOL Waterloo Rd, Greenacre	15
GREYSTANES PUBLIC SCHOOL Merrylands Rd, Greystanes	30
HARRINGTON STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL Harrington St, Cabramatta	15
HOLSWORTHY PUBLIC SCHOOL Infantry Pde, Holsworthy	15
HURSTVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL Forest Rd, Hurstville	60
ILLAROO ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL Illaroo Rd, Nowra	15
IRONBARK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL Ironbark Ridge Rd, Rouse Hill	30
JEWELLS PUBLIC SCHOOL Lepton Pde, Jewells	15
KINGSWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL Second Ave, Kingswood	15
LEUMEAH PUBLIC SCHOOL Burrendong Rd, Leumeah	15
LINDFIELD EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL 90 Tyron Road, East Lindfield	15
LITHGOW PUBLIC SCHOOL Mort St, Lithgow	15

School	No of vacancies
MAROUBRA JUNCTION PUBLIC SCHOOL Storey St, Maroubra	15
MARYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL John T Bell Dr, Maryland, Newcastle	15
MATTHEW PEARCE PUBLIC SCHOOL Astoria Park Rd, Baulkham Hills	30
MIRANDA PUBLIC SCHOOL 3 Sylva Avenue, MIRANDA	15
MONA VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL Waratah St, Mona Vale	30
MOREE PUBLIC SCHOOL Albert St, Moree	15
MOSS VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL Browley Street, Moss Vale	15
NEUTRAL BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL Ben Boyd Rd, Neutral Bay	30
NEWBRIDGE HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL Cnr Lewin & Magree Cres, Chipping Norton	15
NEW LAMBTON SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL St James Rd, New Lambton	15
NORTH ROCKS PUBLIC SCHOOL North Rocks Rd, North Rocks	30
PENRITH PUBLIC SCHOOL 51 High St, Penrith	15
PICNIC POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL Prince & Thomas St, Picnic Point	15
PORT MACQUARIE PUBLIC SCHOOL Grant St, Port Macquarie	15
QUAKERS HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL Medlow Dr, Quakers Hill	30
QUEANBEYAN SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL Cameron Rd, Queanbeyan	15

School	No of vacancies
RICHMOND PUBLIC SCHOOL Windsor St, Richmond	30
RUTHERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL Weblands St, Rutherford	15
RYDE PUBLIC SCHOOL Pope St, Ryde	30
SMITHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL O'Connell St, Smithfield	15
SOLDIERS POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL Cromarty Rd, Soldiers Point	15
SOUTH GRAFTON PUBLIC SCHOOL Vere St, South Grafton	15
ST ANDREWS PUBLIC SCHOOL Ballantrae Dr, St Andrews	15
ST CLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOL 4 Timesweep Drive, ST CLAIR	15
ST JOHNS PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL Sandringham St, St Johns Park	15
STURT PUBLIC SCHOOL White Ave, Wagga Wagga	15
SUMMER HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL Moonbie St, Summer Hill	30
SUTHERLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL Eton St, Sutherland	30
TAHMOOR PUBLIC SCHOOL Bronzewing St, Tahmoor	15
TAMWORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL Napier St, Tamworth	15
TAMWORTH SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL Petra Ave, Tamworth	15
TIGHES HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL Elizabeth St, Tighes Hill	15
TOONGABBIE PUBLIC SCHOOL Fitzwilliam Rd, Toongabbie	15

School	No of vacancies
TOORMINA PUBLIC SCHOOL Cavanba Rd, Toormina	15
WAHROONGA PUBLIC SCHOOL 71 Burns Rd, Wahroonga	15
WAITARA PUBLIC SCHOOL Edgeworth David Ave, Wahroonga	30
WENTWORTH FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOL Falls Rd, Wentworth Falls	15
WILKINS PUBLIC SCHOOL Park Rd, Marrickville	30
WOLLONGONG PUBLIC SCHOOL Church St, Wollongong	30
WOOLLAHRA PUBLIC SCHOOL Forth St, Woollahra	30
WYONG PUBLIC SCHOOL Cutler Dr, Wyong	30

Hyperlinks in this document

Table 5 – Hyperlinks used in this document

	URL
Appeals	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/outcomes#appeals
Application dashboard/ Application site	shsoc.education.nsw.gov.au
Are you currently living overseas or interstate?	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/choosing-a-school/opportunity-classes#residency
Aurora College	aurora.nsw.edu.au aurora.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning/primary-school
Authorised host schools	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/choosing-a-school/opportunity-classes#ochost
Choosing your schools	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/choosing-a-school/opportunity-classes
Disability standards for education 2005	education.gov.au/disability-standards-education-2005
Enrolment	education.nsw.gov.au/going-to-a-public-school/enrolment
Equity Placement Model	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/fair-access#epm

URL	
Opportunity class placement Facebook group	facebook.com/groups/159342048077050
Family law guidelines	education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/legal-issues-bulletins/family-law-guidelines
High Potential and Gifted Education Policy	education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/high-potential-and-gifted-education/about-the-policy/high-potential-and-gifted-education-policy
Illness or misadventure request / Unexpected events on test day / Interstate and overseas applicants	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/placement-test#im
List of primary schools with opportunity classes / Map of schools with opportunity classes / Find an opportunity class	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/choosing-a-school/opportunity-classes#findoc
Malpractice	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/placement-test#malpractice
NSW Department of Education High Potential and Gifted Education policy	education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/high-potential-and-gifted-education
Opportunity classes	education.nsw.gov.au/oc
Opportunity classes and selective high schools fact sheet	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/translated-documents/opportunity-class-and-selective-high-school-fact-sheet

URL	
Opportunity class information for parents and carers	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/choosing-a-school/opportunity-classes#ochost
Opportunity class practice tests	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/placement-test/opportunity-class-practice-tests
Opportunity class reserve list bands	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/outcomes/opportunity-class-reserve-list-bands
Outcome	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/outcomes
Performance report	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/outcomes#report
Placement test	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/placement-test/opportunity-class-practice-tests
Proof of Aboriginality	aiatsis.gov.au/proof-aboriginality
Reasonable adjustments (step 4) / Using the application website	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/application-process/using-the-application-website
Report of academic merit form	education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/media/Report_of_academic_merit_OC_applications_2024.pdf
Resources in other	edu.nsw.link/shsoc_languages

URL	
languages	
What do the different outcomes mean?	education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools/outcomes#outcomesmean

Key dates

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

Applications open

12am, Thursday 4 April 2024

Applications close

11:59pm, Monday 20 May 2024

Test centre and test authority advice released

Thursday 18 July 2024

Opportunity Class Placement Test

Thursday 1 August 2024

Illness/misadventure requests submitted

Thursday 8 August 2024

Last day to change opportunity class choices

Sunday 11 August 2024

Placement outcome expected to be released

Friday 25 October 2024

Ready to apply?

Apply online at: shsoc.education.nsw.gov.au

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