

Moving to secondary school

As your child's primary school education is coming to a close, it is time to think about which school your child will attend next year.

In NSW, students are required to continue education and training, gain full-time paid employment, or a combination of education/training and employment until at least age 17.

What are the benefits of public education?

Our government schools are successful in preparing young people to lead full and satisfying lives, and to handle challenges of the contemporary world.



High academic outcomes

NSW government school students consistently dominate lists of the highest achievers in the HSC.¹ The majority of government school students continue in further education after completing school. Since 2010, there is an increasing proportion of students completing Year 12 and entering Bachelor degrees.² Australian research has found that students who attend a government school also perform better at university.³

Extensive curriculum opportunities

NSW government schools offer a wide range of subjects and opportunities. Many schools use technology to share courses and provide additional learning opportunities for students.

The learning opportunities extend to courses provided at TAFE and other registered training organisations. Senior students can also receive advanced credit by studying university-level subjects along with the Higher School Certificate.

1. NSW Education Standards Authority http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/ebos/static/FSTIC_2016_12.html

2. NSW Secondary Students' Post-School Destinations and Expectations: <https://www.cese.nsw.gov.au/publications-filter/annual-report-nsw-secondary-students-post-school-destinations-and-expectations-2015>

3. Birch, E.R and Miller, P. W. (2007). *The Influence of Type of High School Attended On University Performance* <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-8454.2007.00302.x/abstract>

High academic outcomes
Extensive curriculum opportunities
Quality teaching and learning
Strong values
Excellent student support

Quality teaching and learning

NSW government school teachers are fully trained and qualified. Government schools have regular access to specialist advice and ongoing professional training to ensure that teaching and learning is engaging, relevant and challenging.

NSW government schools have access to a wide range of technology. Learning is enhanced as students use and learn about technology to explore real world experiences and connect with other learners.

Strong values

Government school teachers will help your child develop independence, responsibility and a love of learning. Students have the opportunity to participate in community service and develop a strong sense of social justice.

Excellent student support

NSW government schools promote positive relationships and support students to be successful learners. Primary and secondary schools have strong connections to make the move to secondary school as easy as possible.

One of the strengths of the NSW government school system is the large network of people who work to support every child's learning. The support services include student advisers, qualified school counsellors, support teachers, Aboriginal education officers, community liaison officers and educational services teams.

This guide gives you information about the different types of government secondary schools to help you decide which school you would like your child to attend.

Included is an *Expression of Interest* form that you will need to complete with your preference(s) for placement of your child in Year 7 at a government school.

Please return this *Expression of Interest* by **Friday, 17 March 2017.**



Government secondary schooling options

NSW government schools offer a variety of excellent programs and subject choices to meet the needs, interests and talents of all students. The different government school options are outlined below.

Your local school

Most NSW government schools have local enrolment areas. Your child's permanent residential address determines which school is your local school. The School Finder tool at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/going-to-a-public-school/finding-a-public-school> can help you locate your child's local school.

Many parents and carers in NSW choose their local school to provide an education of excellence for their child.

Local schools cater for students of all ability levels, including programs to challenge the gifted and talented and programs for students with additional learning and support needs. There is also a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

Most single-sex (boys or girls only) schools accept students in a designated local enrolment area. Some single-sex schools, however, are academically selective schools or specialist schools and have special enrolment procedures.

Multi-campus colleges include a number of schools or campuses, with each school or campus specialising in different areas. For example, there are junior campuses (Years 7-9 or 7-10), senior campuses (Years 10-12 or 11-12), academically selective campuses, co-educational campuses and single-sex campuses.

Central schools offer many rural and isolated communities the opportunity to educate their children from Kindergarten through to Year 12 in one school setting. Many central schools use technology to link teachers and students in different schools so that a range of subjects is offered. Central schools also offer a broad range of extra-curricular activities.

If you want your child to go to your local school, you will need to sign Section B of the *Expression of Interest* form on page 9 of this document.

Specialist schools

Specialist schools provide a secondary education which focuses on a specific talent or interest. Specialist schools have been established for creative arts and performing arts, languages, technology (including marine technology and rural technology), agriculture and sport.

In some of these specialist schools the criteria for enrolment may include performance or audition.

Specific programs in schools

Some schools have specific programs in areas such as music, drama, technology or academic extension. Enrolment in these classes may depend upon students meeting special criteria for enrolment. These criteria could include performance, audition or entrance tests depending on the specific focus.

Talk to the principal of the particular school in which you are interested, or check the school website.

If you are interested in a specialist school or a specific program at a school, please write the school(s) as one of your choices in Section C on page 10 of this document. You will also need to complete additional forms to apply for a place in the specialist school or specific program in a school.



Depending on your location,
we offer a broad range
of secondary schooling
options to suit the varying
needs, interests and talents
of all students.

Support classes

Some secondary schools have support classes to cater for the additional learning and support needs of students with disability. Your child's primary school principal will assist you to find the right schooling option for your child, taking into account your choice, your child's specific additional learning needs and proximity to local specialist services.

Consideration for placement in a support class is managed through a placement process.

If your child is being considered for a support class in a secondary school, please indicate this in Section C of the *Expression of Interest* form on page 10 of this document.

Non-local schools

Every local school has to reserve enough places within their school for local area students. However, depending on the availability of resources, some schools may accept extra students from outside the designated enrolment area. You may have reasons why you would like your child to attend a school that is not your local school.

Expressions of interest for non-local places are considered by a placement panel within the school. This panel uses a range of criteria to determine who will be offered a non-local place at the school. Information about these criteria is available from each individual school. Ask at the non-local school about any special placement criteria they may have.

If you are interested in a non-local school, please write the school as one of your choices in Section C of the *Expression of Interest* form on pages 10 and 11 of this document. You need to provide reasons why you would like your child to attend the school, addressing the school's enrolment criteria.

Academically selective schools

The application process for entry into a fully or partially academically selective school begins when the student is in Year 5 and is longer than the normal enrolment process.

The application form is only available online. Please note that no late applications will be accepted.

A list of academically selective schools and details of their enrolment procedures are available at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes>

If you have applied for a place at an academically selective school, please indicate this in Section D of the *Expression of Interest* form on page 11 of this document.

You will also need to complete Section B, C or E, just in case your child is unsuccessful in gaining a place in one of these schools.

Intensive English Centres

Use the School Finder tool at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/going-to-a-public-school/finding-a-public-school> to locate high schools that provide Intensive English support.

Provide your home address or postcode to search for your local school map and select the Intensive English Centre button on "Nearby schools".

If you require an interpreter to assist you with your enquiry please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on **131 450** and ask for an interpreter in your language. This service will be free of charge to you.

For further information, please contact your local primary school principal or the secondary school of your choice.

Completing the Expression of Interest

You can indicate which school you would like your child to attend by completing the *Expression of Interest* form.

If you need help completing this form, please ask your primary school principal.

This form should be completed in English by parents and carers of all students requesting placement in Year 7 at a NSW government school next year. It is not an application to enrol at the school.

After this *Expression of Interest* has been processed, your child will be offered a place at a government school. The school will send you an *Application to Enrol*, which you should complete and return.

If you require an interpreter to assist you, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. This service will be free of charge to you.

There are four steps to enrolling your child in Year 7:

- deciding which school you would like your child to attend
- completing an *Expression of Interest* for placement at the school of your choice
- completing the *Application to Enrol* sent to you by the school offering your child a place
- following consideration of your application by the school principal, you will be advised if your child's application to enrol has been accepted.

Step 1: Decide which school you would like your child to attend

Your choices include:

- your **local** school – coeducational or single sex
- **specialist** schools
- a **specific program** in a school
- a **support class** for students with disability
- **non-local** schools.

Step 2: Complete the *Expression of Interest* to request placement at the school(s) of your choice

Please complete your child's personal details and sign the declaration in **Section A**.

Section B shows the name of your designated local school, based on your home address.

If you are seeking placement at your local school please sign **Section B**, and return the form by the due date.

If you are seeking other placements please list up to three schools in order of preference in **Section C**.

You can request placement in a:

- specialist school
- specific program within a school
- support class (in consultation with your primary school principal, who will submit an application for placement)
- non-local school.

Please note that specialist schools, schools with specific programs and placement panels will have additional application requirements.

If you are unsure if you need to complete any additional forms, please make direct contact with the school in which you are interested.

There is an additional step if you are requesting placement in a non-local school.

Most schools have specific placement criteria for non-local enrolments.

If you are seeking a place at a non-local school, please provide reasons for seeking non-local placement, for example:

- proximity or access to the school
- brothers or sisters already enrolled at the school
- access to a single-sex or co-educational school
- disability or medical-related reasons

- safety and supervision of your child before and after school
- availability of subjects or combinations of subjects at the school
- your child's special interests and abilities
- compassionate circumstances
- the structure and organisation of the school.

The school enrolment panel will only consider the information on this form and other relevant documentation you provide.

If your child is not offered a place at your Choice 1 school, your child will be considered for placement at your Choice 2 school, then at your Choice 3 school, if applicable.

If you are not successful in gaining a place at one of your choices, the school will notify you. The school may indicate that you have been placed on a waiting list and you will be offered a place if one becomes available.

If your child is offered a place at one of your listed school preferences, you will not receive an offer from any other school that is lower in preference.

If no place is available at any of the schools you have requested, your child will be placed in the local school listed in **Section B**, subject to acceptance of your application to enrol by that school.

If you feel you have not been treated fairly or that the result is unreasonable, you may lodge an appeal. The appeal should be made in writing to the secondary school principal.

If you have applied for an academically selective school please tick the box in **Section D** of this form and complete **Section B, C** or **Section E** in case your child is not successful in gaining a place at a selective school.

If you do not require a place in a government school please complete Section E.

The completion of **Section E** closes all action by NSW government schools relating to the placement of your child in Year 7.

Step 3: Complete the application to enrol

Once you have been offered a place in a school, you will be asked to complete an *Application to enrol in a NSW government school*. This will be sent to you during Term 2 or Term 3.

Please complete all details on this form and return it as soon as possible.

The final decision on enrolment will be made following consideration and acceptance of your application to enrol by the school principal. The principal may contact you for more information.

You will receive a letter confirming whether or not your child has been accepted for enrolment.

Step 4: Get to know your new school

Once you receive confirmation of your child's enrolment, it is important to learn about the new school to support your child's move to Year 7.

The school will organise transition activities and an orientation day for students who will be starting Year 7 the following year. Parents and carers are usually invited to this orientation day, which is typically held in early December. It helps your child find out about lessons and subjects in secondary school, the teachers, classrooms and school procedures, and provides an opportunity to meet fellow students.

You will be advised of the orientation day date by your new school, along with information about uniforms, travel options and other important details.

If you need further information please call the principal. If you need an interpreter to assist you, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on **131 450** and ask for an interpreter. The operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

Information that will help your new school provide your child with learning and support

It is **important** that you provide your new school with information about your child's learning and support needs. It is **essential** that you tell the school about any known allergies or other medical conditions relating to your child. This includes but is not restricted to information that your child has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes or epilepsy.

If your child has been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis please provide your child's new school with a current ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis that is completed and signed by your child's doctor.

Together with the ASCIA action plan the school will require an adrenaline autoinjector to support the emergency health response detailed in the plan. Please take note of the expiry date on the adrenaline autoinjector provided to the school and provide a replacement device ahead of time.

More information about ASCIA Action Plans for Anaphylaxis can be found on the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) website.

If your child does not attend a NSW Government school

If your child is in Year 6 and is not currently attending a government primary school, you can obtain an *Expression of Interest* form from any government school, Department of Education local office or online at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/going-to-a-public-school/enrolment/high-school-enrolment>

Department of Education local office staff or school staff can determine your designated school. Once you have completed this form, please submit it to the school of your choice by the due date.

Please return this Expression of Interest on or before Friday 17 March 2017

For students currently enrolled in government primary schools, please return this form to your child's primary school.

For students not enrolled in government primary schools, please return this form to the government secondary school that is your first preference for enrolment.



Privacy Statement

The personal information provided on this form entitled *Expression of Interest – Placement in Year 7, 2018* in a NSW government school is being collected for the purpose of coordinating potential Year 7 enrolment applications in NSW government schools. It will be used by staff of the Department of Education for student administration and communication, analysis of parental choices and planning, student welfare and other matters relating to enrolment coordination. The information provided on this form may be disclosed to other schools and as required by law. While the provision of this information is voluntary, if you do not provide all or any of this information it may limit the Department's ability to promptly assist you in coordinating your child's future application for enrolment in a NSW government school. This information will be stored securely. You may access or correct any personal information provided by contacting your child's school.