

# Applying for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2021

## Thinking of applying for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2021?

You must apply online at:  
[education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/  
selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-  
classes/year-5](https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5)



### Key dates

Application website opens:  
**Tuesday 9 June 2020**

Application website closes:  
**5 pm, Friday 26 June 2020**  
You must apply before this deadline

'Test authority' letters sent to all applicants:  
**Wednesday 2 September 2020**

Opportunity Class Placement Test:  
**Wednesday 16 September 2020**

Placement outcome information sent overnight on:  
**Tuesday 1 December 2020**

**Please read this booklet carefully before applying.**

Note: The information in this document is available in an accessible format on the Department's website.

Parents\* should check the website at [education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5](https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5) regularly throughout the application and placement process.

Please check the website for information before you contact the Team.

The opportunity class placement process for Year 5 entry is administered by the High Performing Students Team<sup>^</sup>.

#### Contact Details:

High Performing Students Team, NSW Department of Education  
Email: [ssu@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ssu@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Telephone: 1300 880 367 Telephone Interpreter Service: 131450  
Postal Address: GPO Box 33, SYDNEY, NSW 2001  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/159342048077050/>

#### Please Note:

<sup>^</sup>In this document, the High Performing Students Team is referred to as the Team.

\*'Parent' is defined under the Education Act, 1990, as a 'guardian or other person having custody or care of a child'

## Significant changes to the OC process this year due to the delay caused by COVID-19

Shown on this page is a modified timeline being implemented to ensure minimal disruption to schools and families. The timeline includes changes to the process to ensure students can commence on Day 1, Term 1 in 2021. The main changes include:

1. A new date for online applications. Parents must apply between **Tuesday 9 June 2020 and Friday 26 June 2020**. Late applications cannot be accepted.
2. A new test date - **Wednesday 16 September 2020**.
3. Placement in an opportunity class will be based on the results of the Opportunity Class Placement Test. Principals will not be required to provide school assessment scores.
4. There will not be an opportunity to lodge illness/misadventure requests or appeals.
5. Placement outcome information will be despatched to parents overnight on **1 December 2020**.

### Important dates

You must apply online by **Friday 26 June 2020**. The application site will close at 5pm on 26 June 2020. Late applications cannot be accepted.

You can change your school choices up until **Friday 25 September 2020** by sending the Change of choice form to the Team. You cannot change choices after 25 September 2020 unless something unexpected and outside your control changes and you have documentary evidence. A request for change of choice after 25 September 2020 must be approved by the Team Leader. The Change of choice form is on the Department's website.

Parents of non-government school candidates are responsible for asking the non-government school principal to complete the 'Principal's page' and ensuring it is received by the Team by **Friday 3 July 2020**.

If you have not received your 'Test authority' letter by **Monday 7 September 2020** you must email the Team at [ssu@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ssu@det.nsw.edu.au) . If you do not have email access you can phone the Team on 1300 880 367.

If you have not received the placement outcome information by **Monday 7 December 2020**, email the Team at [ssu@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ssu@det.nsw.edu.au) . If you do not have email access you can phone the Team on 1300 880 367.

If you accept an offer and are also on a reserve list, you can remain on that reserve list until **5pm, Wednesday 27 January 2021**. By 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.

## Stages of the placement process

1	Parents read the application information online	From 9 June 2020
2	Parents register, receive a password, log in and then complete and submit the application online	From 9 June 2020 to 26 June 2020
3	Parents request any disability provisions	From 9 June 2020 to 21 August 2020
4	Principals verify information provided by parents on student applications	From 30 June 2020 to 3 July 2020
5	Parents are sent 'Test authority' letters Parents are advised of disability provisions granted	On 2 September 2020
6	Students sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test for entry to Year 5 in 2021	On 16 September 2020
7	Last day to change opportunity class choices	25 September 2020
8	Selection process occurs	In November 2020
9	Placement outcome information sent to parents	Overnight on 1 December 2020
10	Parents accept or decline offers	From December 2020 to at least the end of Term 1 2022
11	Reserve lists activated	Mid-December 2020
12	Parents of successful students sent 'Authority to attend' letters to take to the school on the first day of term in 2021	Late-January 2021
13	Students with accepted offers are withdrawn from reserve lists	At 5pm on 27 January 2021

✂ You may wish to cut this out and place on your fridge as a reminder.

## What are opportunity classes?

Opportunity classes can provide intellectual stimulation by grouping together high potential and gifted students who may otherwise be isolated from a suitable peer group. These classes help students learn by using specialised teaching methods and materials.

Year 5 enrolments are available at 76 primary schools including a virtual opportunity class, at Aurora College, for students in rural and remote areas.

Parents apply when their children are in Year 4. Successful students then attend the opportunity class full time in Years 5 and 6 at the opportunity class primary school at which they are placed. This is a two-year placement program and parents are not able to apply for Year 6 entry only. In the majority of cases, students who accept a place in an opportunity class will leave their current school to attend the school with the opportunity class except where they are placed in Aurora College (see below).

See a full list of primary schools with opportunity classes and their websites at the end of this document. A map is also available at: <http://www.maptive.com/ver3/Opportunity>

Find more information about catering for academically gifted students with high potential in NSW at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/high-potential-and-gifted-education>

For translated information about opportunity class placement go to <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/translated-documents/opportunity-class-and-selective-high-school-fact-sheet>

## Who can apply?

Parents of Year 4 students enrolled in NSW government and non-government primary schools can apply. Students from home schools, interstate and overseas schools can also apply. A student must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or a permanent resident of Australia to be eligible for placement in an opportunity class.

## New virtual class for rural and remote applicants

If you intend to enrol your child at one of the government primary schools in a rural or remote area, you can apply for a place in the virtual opportunity class at Aurora College.

Students who are successful for placement attend their local government primary school and join the Aurora opportunity class for science, technology and mathematics lessons using an online conferencing system. Students connect with their teachers and other students through a virtual learning environment and residential school programs.

Non-government school applicants who are successfully placed will need to enrol their child in the local government primary school to be eligible to participate in the virtual provision. View the list of authorised host schools at [https://www.aurora.nsw.edu.au/files/2020/02/Authorised\\_hosts.pdf](https://www.aurora.nsw.edu.au/files/2020/02/Authorised_hosts.pdf).

During the selection process, opportunity class school principals and executive officers 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 <http://www.aurora.nsw.edu.au/>

**Note:** Students at schools with opportunity classes, or at schools within the drawing areas of existing opportunity class provisions, will not be eligible to apply for entry into the virtual opportunity class. It is also not available to metropolitan and regional students.

## Age and school Year

Students are usually in Year 4 at the time of applying and when sitting the test in 2020. They are usually born between 1 January 2010 and 31 July 2011. 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 this age range or in another school Year when you apply, opportunity class principals and executive officers will carefully check the reasons you give. They may ask for more information, or for an interview with you and your child if he or she is very young, to determine whether there are special requirements the school can provide.

During the selection process, they may:

- decide not to accept students who are much older than the usual age range set out above
- consider that students doing the test for a second time have gained an unfair advantage from their previous experience with the test
- decide not to accept students who are already in Year 5 in 2020 and who are seeking to repeat Year 5 in an opportunity class in 2021.

Opportunity class school principals and executive officers considering applications for students seeking acceleration from Year 3 in 2020 to Year 5 in 2021 will take into account evidence of consultation with the school principal and will require the student to gain a calculated placement score which places them in the top half of the students offered placement in their school with an opportunity class of choice.

## Residency status

Opportunity class students must be living in NSW at the beginning of the school year of entry.

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

If your child is not yet a permanent resident, but you expect permanent residency will be granted before initial offers are made in early December 2020, you can apply and your child can sit the test. Even if your child qualifies on academic grounds, you will not be offered a place in an opportunity class unless permanent residency has been confirmed.

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

## Interstate or overseas

You can apply while you are temporarily 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 follow the interstate or overseas applicant procedure by completing the Report of Academic Merit. Find out more at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/information-for-applicants/interstate-and-overseas-applicants>

## How do I apply?

Parents must apply online at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>

Please read the instructions carefully. Applications are open from **Tuesday 9 June 2020 until 5 pm on Friday 26 June 2020**.

You must apply online by **Friday 26 June 2020**. The application site will close at 5pm on 26 June 2020. Late applications cannot be accepted.

To apply, you can:

1. Go to the application site and register your details to receive a password. You must register using your own email address, not one belonging to your child.
2. Log in to complete the application using the password emailed to you.
3. Complete and submit your application.
4. Receive an email confirming that you have successfully submitted your application.
5. Check the attachment to the confirmation email to ensure all details are accurate.

The attachment will contain an application number in the format **C20 123 456**. Please quote your application number whenever you enquire about your application.

If you find you have made a mistake or need to change details after you submit your application, please email the Team at [ssu@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ssu@det.nsw.edu.au)

Apply once only for each child. Only one application can be considered for each student.

### **Some important things to note:**

- Some email accounts will reject system-generated emails with attachments sent (like those you will receive from the Team). If this happens, we will need to send all information by mail.
- Add [ssu@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ssu@det.nsw.edu.au) to your email contacts list and check your spam or junk folders regularly.
- It would be very helpful if you could provide a second email address in case these problems arise.
- Please ensure you use an email address that does not belong to a child. The Team cannot correspond with students. If the email address appears to belong to a child, contact using that email will be suspended and all subsequent correspondence will be sent by mail.

## Where both parents live at the same address as the student

Record the names of both parents on the application form if the second parent is likely to contact the Team or make independent placement decisions on behalf of the child.

## Where parents live at different addresses

If parents do not live together, but have equal shared responsibility for the care and welfare of the student, the parent 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 for equal time, the parent with whom the child is staying at the time should apply. Please do not submit two different applications for the same child. Duplicate applications will not be processed.

If the second parent is entitled to information about the child's application, that parent may write to the Team and request copies of system-generated correspondence.

The Team will not participate in parental disputes. In such cases, the Team will accept decisions about school choices and placement made by the parent with whom the child is living most of the time, unless there are court orders stating otherwise.

Where parents cannot reach agreement on any aspect of an application, the matter will be dealt with according to the Department's guidelines for dealing with family law related issues. For more information, refer to <https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/legal-issues-bulletins/family-law-guidelines>

## Changes to the application

After submitting the application, you will receive an email confirming it has been received, with the details you provided listed (in an attached document). Please check that the details listed in this document are correct. It is your

responsibility to notify the Team in writing if changes to the application are required.

You must quote your child's application number whenever you correspond with the Team.

Please ensure you advise the Team, in writing, of any changes to your contact details throughout the placement process.

## Applying without internet access

If you have no internet access at home you may need to seek assistance from your child's school or you can contact the Team. You will then need to complete the following steps:

- Set up a web-based email to use for the application, such as Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail or similar.
- Add [ssu@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ssu@det.nsw.edu.au) to your new email account's contact list.
- Copy and paste the following link into the computer's internet browser: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>
- When this site opens, follow the instructions to register (quoting your new email account when prompted).
- When you've completed the registration, wait a few minutes to receive an email, which will provide you with a password and a link. (Note: Try again later if it is delayed).
- Make a note of the password provided.
- Go to the link and log in using this password (you can copy and paste the password from the email).
- Complete the application and, in the 'Contact details' section, click on 'Mail only' for all future correspondence.
- Submit the application.
- Check your new email account for the confirmation email and check the file showing all of your application details. Always remember to check the email's spam/junk folder as well as the Inbox.

After you receive the confirmation email, the Team will then send all subsequent communication to your postal address.

If you have a disability that prevents you from using a computer, please contact the Team for assistance.

**Note:** The Team mails letters at the same time as emails are sent, but delivery of posted mail will take longer.

## Attachments

You must send copies of the following supporting documents to the Team if any of these apply to your child:

- Information about a disability, including a medical condition or behavioural disorder, severe vision impairment, diabetes, autism, anaphylaxis, or serious illness. If you believe your child requires disability provisions, you will need to provide diagnostic evidence

that focuses on the functional impact of the disability on test performance. Find further information at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/application-process/disability-provisions>

- Copy of court orders if they relate to the child's education or communication about the child.
- Explanation of why the child is older or younger than the usual age range for Year 4, or if not in Year 4 in 2020.
- For interstate or overseas students not able to sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test, parents must arrange to complete a [Report of Academic Merit](#).
- Evidence of previous schooling for students who have been doing most school work in the English language for fewer than 48 months, (if requested).

Always quote your '**C20**' application number when sending documents, or use the cover sheet you receive with your application confirmation when sending attachments to the Team.

Do not send school reports or certificates or other test results unless asked to do so.

## How should I choose a school with an opportunity class?

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

Make sure that the schools you choose are suitable for your child and that travel times are reasonable. You can see where each school with an opportunity class is located by referring to the map at <http://www.maptive.com/ver3/Opportunity>

You can also learn more about individual schools with opportunity classes via the websites listed at the end of this document. Travel times and transport needs are not considered as part of the selection process.

Find out more about school choices at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/information-for-applicants/choosing-an-opportunity-class2>

### **Important things to note:**

- Be aware that Maryland PS is in the Newcastle area, not in Merrylands.

Parents of students attending rural and remote primary schools can apply for the new virtual opportunity class at Aurora College as long as:

- the student is not enrolled in a primary school with an opportunity class and
- the student is not enrolled in a primary school which is located near a school with an opportunity class.

Further information is available at <http://www.aurora.nsw.edu.au/>

## Changing your school choice/s

You can change your school choices up until **Friday 25 September 2020** by sending a [Change of choice form](#) to the Team. You cannot change choices after 25 September 2020 unless something unexpected and outside your control changes, for which you must have documentary evidence. A request for a change of choice after 25 September 2020 must be approved by the Team Leader.

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

## How are students ranked for opportunity class entry?

All students are ranked and placed in order of academic merit. For opportunity class placement in 2021, academic merit is based on the results of the Opportunity Class Placement Test. The score is expressed as a calculated placement score out of 300.

Strand	Test scores
English (including reading and writing)	100
Mathematics	100
General Ability	100
<b>Total placement score</b>	<b>300</b>

For some applicants, other evidence of academic merit may be used in the placement process. For example, interstate and overseas applicants who are not able to return to NSW for the placement test submit a [Report of Academic Merit](#) that includes an IQ report.

## What do I need to know about the test?

The Opportunity Class Placement Test for entry to Year 5 in 2021 is held from **9:00 am to 11:15 am** on **Wednesday 16 September 2020** in test centres, usually at government schools. The test is held only on this day and only at official test centres in NSW.

All test materials are kept secure before, during and after the test and are not released to any unauthorised person.

The test is designed to measure candidates' ability, rather than their performance on the curriculum.

For translated information about the opportunity class placement test go to <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/translated-documents/opportunity-class-placement-test>

## Test authority

On **Wednesday 2 September 2020** you will be sent a 'Test Authority' letter that tells you where to take your child to sit the test.

Every effort will be made to ensure this information reaches you via email (or mail if you have requested information be posted to you). It is your responsibility to ensure that you have received it.

This information will consist of:

- A 'Test Authority' letter, which must be printed and presented at the test centre on the day of the test
- A 'Test Information Bulletin', which explains the test and lists what your child should bring. The bulletin explains how students must set out their answers to the questions in the test
- A disability provisions letter, if applicable.

If you have not received your 'Test Authority' letter by **Monday 7 September 2020**, email the Team at [ssu@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ssu@det.nsw.edu.au). If you do not have email access you can phone the Team on 1300 880 367.

Students from the same primary school will usually attend the same test centre. In the week before the test you will be able to see the list of test centres on the Department's website at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/the-test#Test6>

It is generally not possible to change test centres after they are allocated, unless there are well documented extenuating circumstances.

You are responsible for arranging for your child's travel to and from the test. Parents are not permitted to stay on the school grounds during the test unless the Team has specifically asked them to stay. This usually only occurs as part of a child's disability provision that requires a parent to be available. If you are asked to remain at the test centre you must obtain a volunteer 'Working With Children Check' (WWCC) prior to the test day. You can apply at <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-working-children-check>. On the day of the test, you must report to the school office and provide identification and proof of your WWCC.

## Opportunity Class Placement Test

### Test components

There are two parts to the test, each comprising 35 multiple-choice questions in English, mathematics and general ability (thinking skills). Students have 30 minutes to answer each part of the test.

There are 10 English and 10 mathematics questions plus 15 general ability questions in each part of the test.

Students record their answers on an answer booklet that is later scanned by a computer. Students use black pen supplied at the test centre to show their answers.

To ensure anonymity during marking, students' answer booklets are identified by barcoded booklet numbers only.

**Important:** If your child does not follow instructions and, for example, marks the answers on the question booklet instead of the answer sheet, or marks a series of questions on the wrong lines, the answers may not be counted.

## Sample tests

Sample tests are published on the Department's website to help your child practise answering the questions on the sample answer sheet. Find sample tests at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/the-test#Test6>.

These samples are provided only to allow students to become familiar with the test format. Any results obtained may not reflect the score your child will get in the actual test. Opportunity class school principals and executive officers conducting the selection process will not make any decisions based on your child's score on practice items or any other unauthorised tests.

## Disability provisions

Disability provisions are practical arrangements designed to support students who could not otherwise make a fair attempt to show what they know under test conditions. Arranging disability provisions is consistent with obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, the [Disability Standards for Education 2005](#).

The Team reviews applications for disability provisions. Some examples of disability provisions include alternative format papers e.g. braille /large print, extra time, separate room with supervision, rest breaks, computers/laptops, assistive technology, reader, scribe, oral/sign interpreter.

## Applying for disability provisions

When applying for disability provisions, supporting evidence outlining the impact of the student's disability on learning, must be sent to the Team after submitting the application. Some examples of supporting evidence include medical reports, allied health reports functional assessments, documentation of current adjustments, teacher reports, results from standardised testing. The Team may contact the school or the parent to gather further information to support the application.

Disability provisions also apply to temporary and emergency-related disabilities such as where students break their writing arms a week before the test. Parents need to let the Team know the situation as soon as possible and provide supporting evidence.

Parents of a student with a disability must list the disability when they make their application to the Team. To request disability provisions for opportunity class testing, parents

must also list the provisions they are requesting in the application. Once parents have submitted their application and received a confirmation email, they must provide the Team with supporting evidence of their child's disability, such as medical reports or any recommendations from a health professional.

Parents do not need to submit students' asthma and anaphylaxis plans to the Team. For students with anaphylaxis, parents will be notified that they must give an anaphylaxis kit to the presiding officer before the test starts.

Parents do not need to seek permission for students to use glasses or asthma medication during opportunity class testing. These items are allowed.

Apart from anaphylaxis response, test supervisors may not be trained in first aid. It is therefore important that parents disclose any relevant medical information about their child.

Disability provisions for existing disabilities cannot be modified or added to after **Friday 21 August 2020** and disability provisions requested for the first time after Friday 21 August 2020 cannot be guaranteed.

When disability provisions have been arranged the Team will send parents an email or letter listing the approved provisions (approximately two weeks before the test). The Team will also advise the student's current public school, the principal of the test centre and the presiding officer – the person in charge of the test.

Students with a disability will be given individual consideration during the selection process.

## How are decisions made?

Candidates are listed in order of merit based on their calculated placement scores. The Team will prepare placement decisions for the principal to consider and ratify or change, including:

- students to be listed for offers and reserve places according to the number of vacancies at the school
- the likely impact of any disability
- reasons for students outside the usual age range or school year
- students who are Aboriginal
- students who have been educated in English for less than 48 months
- students from interstate or overseas with alternative evidence of academic merit
- any other relevant factors brought to their attention
- other evidence of academic merit, if necessary.

## How do I find out the outcome?

The Team will send your child's placement outcome information overnight on **Tuesday 1 December 2020**. Your child may be:

- offered a place for one school choice, and/or
- placed on a reserve list for one or both school choices and/or
- unsuccessful for one or both school choices.

If your child is made an offer to the school you selected as your first choice and also had a score high enough to be offered a place at your second choice school, the second choice school will be shown as 'not applicable'.

If you receive an offer or a reserve place you will be sent an 'Outcome information bulletin' explaining what each type of outcome means and what you need to do.

In most cases the placement outcome information letter will show your child's calculated placement score out of 300.

If you have not received the placement outcome information by **Monday 7 December 2020**, email the Team at [ssu@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ssu@det.nsw.edu.au). If you do not have email access you can phone the Team on 1300 880 367.

Please note: There is no minimum fixed score required for entry to individual schools.

Students are placed in rank order of their placement scores to fill the available vacancies. The score held by the last student accepting a place at the school in the previous year is posted as the 'minimum entry score' on the Department's website in April each year. The currently published minimum entry score refers to the scores of students considered in 2019 for placement in 2020. Minimum entry scores for students considered this year may be quite different.

The Team sends reports to NSW government primary schools listing the outcome for all candidates from that school.

## Responding to offers

If you receive an offer, please ensure you complete the response form that will be sent with your placement outcome information and return it by the date shown on the form.

If you do not respond by the due date, the Team may assume that you do not want to take up the offer. The Team will send a reminder before the offer lapses.

If you accept an offer and then change your mind and want to decline it, please email the Team immediately so that the place can be offered to the next eligible student.

If you will not have access to your email at the time offers are made, you can advise the Team in writing that you wish

to accept any offer in advance or that you need to change contact details.

Towards the end of January 2021 offers may be made by phone, responses to offers will be required within 24 hours and reminders will be delivered as phone calls.

The Team will send you a confirmation of your response to an offer within 21 days. If you have not received an acknowledgement within 21 days, please email the Team. Please do not call the Team to check if your email has arrived as it delays processing. You will receive confirmation when it is processed.

## Being on a reserve list only

If your child is on a reserve list only, you will not be sent a response form. If you do not want your child to stay on a reserve list, please email the Team to ask that your child be removed 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. The Team will continue to make offers, if vacancies arise, throughout Year 5 and to at least the end of Term 1 in Year 6, provided students have not accepted an offer to another opportunity class.

You can follow the progress of the reserve lists from mid-December 2020 at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/outcome/opportunity-class-reserves>

## Further 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 further offer will be sent if his or her reserve position is reached. You must accept or decline the new offer. If you accept the further offer, the Team will consider the original offer declined. Note: The Team 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 are also on a reserve list, you can remain on that reserve list until **5pm on Wednesday 27 January 2021**. 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 automatically removed from all reserve lists.

## Can I find out more about my child's scores?

Scores information will be provided for most applicants. A separate letter or attachment will show you the raw test scores your child gained on the Opportunity Class Placement Test. You cannot use these scores to try to recalculate the placement score as you cannot reproduce the scaling process. Details of scores will not be provided over the phone.



If opportunity class school principals and executive officers during the selection process adjusted scores for special considerations, the scores will not be provided with the placement outcome. No other score information is available to parents, including adjusted scores or school rankings.

Find out more about scores at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/selection-process>

## **Can my offer be cancelled?**

If the Team is unable to contact you to make an offer or find out your response after trying at least twice, the offer will no longer apply and will pass to the next eligible student on the reserve list.

The offer will also be cancelled if your child does not satisfy all requirements, such as permanent residency, or does not attend the school on the first day without a satisfactory explanation.

Offers will be cancelled if the application is found to have been based on false or misleading information.

## **What do I need to do to enrol?**

If you accept an offer you will receive an 'Authority to attend' letter in late January 2021. Your child will need to present this letter to the school on the first day of the school year to finalise the enrolment process. You will also need to provide original documentation to the school, such as proof of residency, and meet all other NSW Department of Education enrolment conditions.

There are no extra fees for attending a primary school with an opportunity class. Schools may ask for materials and voluntary contributions as do other government schools.

You can find information about enrolment policy in NSW Department of Education schools at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/enrolment>

If you need to delay your child's starting date beyond the first day of the school year, you must discuss it with the principal of the school with the opportunity class (or with the Team if it is in the school holidays) before enrolling your child. You cannot delay enrolment past **Friday 26 February 2021**.

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

## **Brothers and sisters**

Placement in opportunity classes is based on academic merit. The placement of one twin or triplet does not guarantee the placement of another. Brothers and sisters will be offered a place in the same opportunity class only if they have scores that are high enough to qualify.

Where brothers or sisters of students placed in a school with an opportunity class are not in the catchment area for that school, parents may apply for out-of-area enrolment

at that school. There is no guarantee, however, that such an application will be successful.

## **Who can make enquiries or decisions about my child?**

The Team will correspond only with the parents listed on the application. You will need to advise the Team in writing that you authorise another person to make enquiries or decisions on your behalf.

The Team will provide information about an application to any parent or authorised person who is legally entitled to it, regardless of requests for confidentiality. However, the Team will not reveal a parent's contact details to any other person. The Team does not correspond with students or speak to them on the telephone.

## **Where can I get further information?**

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

Find out about programs offered by specific schools by visiting the school's website, listed at the end of this document.

The Team regularly updates information about opportunity class placement procedures on the Department's website at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>

Please check the website for information before contacting the Team with enquiries. Contact the team by email at [ssu@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ssu@det.nsw.edu.au) or by phone on 1300 880 367.

The Team's phone system also has recorded messages about current aspects of the placement process.

Please note: You will need to quote your child's 'C20' application number and other identifying information when enquiring about a particular student. For email enquiries, you should use the original email address used in the application.

For regular Facebook updates on the placement process go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/159342048077050/>

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **1. Must I list two schools in the application?**

You can list one or two choices of schools with an opportunity class. You should list only schools you would definitely accept an offer to. Please consider your choices carefully.

### **2. Does the order in which I list my choices matter?**

Yes. If your child qualifies for both of your choices, you will only be offered a place at your first choice school i.e. your highest ranked school choice.

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

The selection procedures are the same as for government school students. One difference is that the Team advises government school principals about the students from their school who have applied.

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

Encourage your child to use the sample tests on the Department's website to practise answering the questions quickly on the sample answer sheet. Students will also be given practice questions before the test begins.

See sample tests at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/the-test#Preparing4>

The results of practice items do not mean that your child will score the same in the test. A decision cannot be made during the selection process based on your child's score on practice test items.

The Department does not endorse coaching for the Opportunity Class Placement Test.

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

It is important that you think about your choices very carefully when you apply. You can ask for a change of choice without explanation by submitting the [Change of choice](#) form by **25 September 2020**. After this date there must be extenuating circumstances which are serious and well documented for a change to be considered. Any change after 25 September 2020 must be approved. Changes of choice based on the fact that the student did not qualify for the original choices will not be approved.

### 6. What are reserve lists?

Reserve lists are lists of students whose placement scores are not quite high enough to gain an initial offer but are high enough to be on a waiting list if any vacancies arise. Opportunity class school principals and executive officers decide the students who will receive offers and those who will be placed on reserve lists. Students who have been offered places for a particular school will have higher placement scores than those who are on the reserve list or are unsuccessful for that school.

### 7. How does the reserve list work?

If your child is on a reserve list for an opportunity class, the number on the placement outcome advice shows his or her position on the list. How quickly the Team offers places to those on a reserve list depends on whether parents 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 Team will contact you with an offer.

If you accept an offer and are also on the reserve list, you can remain on that reserve list until **5pm on Wednesday 27 January 2021**. 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.

From **mid-December 2020** you can track where the reserve list is up to at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/outcome/opportunity-class-reserves>

### 8. If my placement outcome information indicates that my child is unsuccessful, can his or her name be placed on reserve list?

No. Students who are unsuccessful cannot be placed on a reserve list because their scores were 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 scores.

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

The Opportunity Class Placement Test is designed to measure ability and helps to identify students for entry into opportunity classes on the basis of academic merit. The test is designed to discriminate between high performing 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.

### 10. If my child is unsuccessful for opportunity class placement, does it mean he or she will 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 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.

### 11. If my child receives an offer to my second choice school as well as being on the reserve list for my 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 Wednesday 27 January 2021**. After that time no further offers will be made to students who have already accepted placement in an opportunity class and have not later declined the offer.

### 12. 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 NSW Department of Education to meet the needs of 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 the local primary school. Students

from government primary schools 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 apply for opportunity class placement.

All government primary schools must implement their own provisions for high potential and gifted students under the NSW Department of Education's high potential and gifted strategy, which can be found at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/high-potential-and-gifted-education>

### 13. What score does a student have to gain to be successful for opportunity class placement?

There is no predetermined score that a student has to achieve to receive an offer to an opportunity class. Students are placed in rank order to fill the available vacancies. The score held by the last student placed at the school in the previous year is referred to as the 'minimum entry score' and is published on the Department's website in the following April each year. These 'minimum entry scores' are provided as an indicator for parents' reference, but do represent a 'cut off' mark for subsequent years. For example, in a school with 30 places, the score of the 30th student who accepts a place at that school represents the minimum entry score for that year. This score can vary from school to school and from year to year. The greater the demand for the school, the higher the minimum entry score is likely to be.

The entry score for 2021 will not be known until after the placement process is finalised. Please note: Even though your child's score may be higher than that shown for entry in 2020 this does not necessarily mean that he or she will qualify for a place for entry in 2021.

### 14. How can I find out my child's score?

Most parents will receive their child's placement score with their placement outcome information letter or email in December.

A breakdown of the test marks is included if your child sat the Opportunity Class Placement Test. In a few cases the score cannot be published. If parents do not receive their child's score they can write to the Team for an explanation.

Opportunity class school principals and executive officers during the selection process may adjust a child's score based on criteria such as a student's Aboriginality, length of time doing all school work in English, and a number of other special considerations. This is why a student may appear higher on a reserve list than another student with a higher calculated placement score. Adjusted placement scores are not released.

No other score information is available to parents, including adjusted scores or school rankings.

### 15. Why are placement scores and further details sometimes unavailable?

Where students have been considered on other evidence of academic merit, such as an individual IQ test, or where opportunity class school principals and executive officers during the selection process have used different

components of the scores based on supplementary information, the original calculated placement score does not apply. The adjusted scores are not released to avoid the perception that the student did not deserve the placement.

### 16. Does my child get an advantage if we live very close to a school with an opportunity class?

No. Schools with opportunity classes are not zoned. Travelling times and transport arrangements are not considered as part of the selection process when offering places.

### 17. 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?

Offers of placement or reserve list positions are given only to those students 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. While some students who receive late offers might have problems, the majority should have no difficulties.

### 18. How can separated parents ensure they both receive the information about their child's application?

When you apply, you will be asked to provide the names of both parents (if applicable). You should give the contact details of the parent with whom the child lives the majority of the time. You will have to provide copies of court orders if they exist. If the parent who does not live with the child is entitled to educational information about him or her, that parent may contact the Team and request duplicate system-generated correspondence.

Under no circumstances should separated parents make separate applications for the same student.

Please note: 'Offer response forms' are sent only to the primary applicant. It is the responsibility of separated parents to reach consensus about matters such as school choices and accepting offers.

### 19. Where can I find out more about the Aurora virtual opportunity class?

Answers to frequently asked questions about the Aurora virtual opportunity class can be found at <https://www.aurora.nsw.edu.au/learn/opportunity-class/frequently-asked-questions/#.XstZWqgza70>

## Public schools with Year 5 opportunity classes in 2021

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

OC code	School	OC code	School	OC code	School
<b>ACP</b>	<b>ARMIDALE CITY</b> Faulkner St, Armidale	<b>ERM</b>	<b>ERMINGTON</b> Winbourne St, West Ryde	<b>POR</b>	<b>PORT MACQUARIE</b> Grant St, Port Macquarie
<b>ALX</b>	<b>ALEXANDRIA PARK</b> + Park Rd, Alexandria	<b>GEO</b>	<b>GEORGES HALL</b> Pennington Ave, Georges Hall	<b>QUA</b>	<b>QUAKERS HILL</b> Medlow Dr, Quakers Hill
<b>ALS</b>	<b>ALSTONVILLE</b> Main St, Alstonville	<b>GLE</b>	<b>GLENBROOK</b> Woodville St, Glenbrook	<b>QUE</b>	<b>QUEANBEYAN SOUTH</b> Cameron Rd, Queanbeyan
<b>ART</b>	<b>ARTARMON</b> McMillan Rd, Artarmon	<b>GOO</b>	<b>GOONELLABAH</b> Ballina Rd, Goonellabah	<b>RIC</b>	<b>RICHMOND</b> Windsor St, Richmond
<b>ASH</b>	<b>ASHFIELD</b> Liverpool Rd, Ashfield	<b>GSF</b>	<b>GOSFORD</b> Faunce St West, West Gosford	<b>RUT</b>	<b>RUTHERFORD</b> Weblands St, Rutherford
<b>AUR</b>	<b>AURORA COLLEGE</b> ◊ (virtual provision)	<b>GOU</b>	<b>GOULBURN WEST</b> Combermere St, Goulburn	<b>RDE</b>	<b>RYDE</b> Pope St, Ryde
<b>BGH</b>	<b>BALGOWLAH HEIGHTS</b> Lewis St, Balgowlah Heights	<b>GRE</b>	<b>GREENACRE</b> Waterloo Rd, Greenacre	<b>SMI</b>	<b>SMITHFIELD</b> O'Connell St, Smithfield
<b>BLM</b>	<b>BALMAIN</b> Eaton St, Balmain	<b>GRY</b>	<b>GREYSTANES</b> Merrylands Rd, Greystanes	<b>SOL</b>	<b>SOLDIERS POINT</b> Cromarty Rd, Soldiers Point
<b>BHW</b>	<b>BATHURST WEST</b> Suttor St, Bathurst	<b>HAR</b>	<b>HARRINGTON STREET</b> Harrington St, Cabramatta	<b>GTS</b>	<b>SOUTH GRAFTON</b> Vere St, South Grafton
<b>BEE</b>	<b>BEECROFT</b> Beecroft Rd, Beecroft	<b>HOL</b>	<b>HOLSWORTHY</b> Infantry Pde, Holsworthy	<b>STA</b>	<b>ST ANDREWS</b> Ballantrae Dr, St Andrews
<b>BIR</b>	<b>BIRABAN</b> Beckley St, Toronto	<b>HUR</b>	<b>HURSTVILLE</b> Forest Rd, Hurstville	<b>STJ</b>	<b>ST JOHNS PARK</b> Sandringham St, St Johns Park
<b>BTS</b>	<b>BLACKTOWN SOUTH</b> Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown	<b>ILL</b>	<b>ILLAROO ROAD</b> Illaroo Rd, Nowra	<b>STU</b>	<b>STURT</b> White Ave, Wagga Wagga
<b>BCS</b>	<b>BLAXCELL STREET</b> Blaxcell St, Granville	<b>IBR</b>	<b>IRONBARK RIDGE</b> Ironbark Ridge Rd, Rouse Hill	<b>SUM</b>	<b>SUMMER HILL</b> Moonbie St, Summer Hill
<b>BRA</b>	<b>BRADBURY</b> Jacaranda Ave, Bradbury	<b>JEW</b>	<b>JEWELLS</b> Lepton Pde, Jewells	<b>SUT</b>	<b>SUTHERLAND</b> Eton St, Sutherland
<b>CAM</b>	<b>CAMDEN SOUTH</b> Old Hume Hwy, Camden South	<b>KIN</b>	<b>KINGSWOOD</b> Second Ave, Kingswood	<b>TAH</b>	<b>TAHMOOR</b> Bronzewing St, Tahmoor
<b>CBN</b>	<b>CARINGBAH NORTH</b> Cawarra Rd, Caringbah	<b>LEU</b>	<b>LEUMEAH</b> Burrendong Rd, Leumeah	<b>TAM</b>	<b>TAMWORTH</b> Napier St, Tamworth
<b>CAS</b>	<b>CASULA</b> De Meyrick Ave, Casula	<b>LIT</b>	<b>LITHGOW</b> Mort St, Lithgow	<b>TAS</b>	<b>TAMWORTH SOUTH</b> Petra Ave, Tamworth
<b>CES</b>	<b>CESSNOCK WEST</b> Cnr Campbell St and Wollombi Rd, Cessnock	<b>MAR</b>	<b>MARYLAND</b> John T Bell Dr, Maryland, Newcastle	<b>TIG</b>	<b>TIGHES HILL</b> Elizabeth St, Tighes Hill
<b>CHW</b>	<b>CHATSWOOD</b> Centennial Ave, Chatswood	<b>MAT</b>	<b>MATTHEW PEARCE</b> Astoria Park Rd, Baulkham Hills	<b>TOO</b>	<b>TOORMINA</b> Cavanba Rd, Toormina
<b>COL</b>	<b>COLYTON</b> Nelson St, Mount Druitt	<b>MON</b>	<b>MONA VALE</b> Waratah St, Mona Vale	<b>WAI</b>	<b>WAITARA</b> Edgeworth David Ave, Wahroonga
<b>COO</b>	<b>COONABARABRAN</b> Newell Hwy, Coonabarabran	<b>MOR</b>	<b>MOREE</b> Albert St, Moree	<b>WEN</b>	<b>WENTWORTH FALLS</b> Falls Rd, Wentworth Falls
<b>CUD</b>	<b>CUDGEGONG VALLEY</b> Madeira Rd, Mudgee	<b>NEU</b>	<b>NEUTRAL BAY</b> Ben Boyd Rd, Neutral Bay	<b>WIL</b>	<b>WILKINS</b> Park Rd, Marrickville
<b>DUB</b>	<b>DUBBO WEST</b> East St, Dubbo	<b>NEW</b>	<b>NEWBRIDGE HEIGHTS</b> Cnr Lewin & Magree Cres, Chipping Norton	<b>WOL</b>	<b>WOLLONGONG</b> Church St, Wollongong
<b>DUR</b>	<b>DURAL</b> Old Northern Rd, Dural	<b>NLS</b>	<b>NEW LAMBTON SOUTH</b> St James Rd, New Lambton	<b>WOO</b>	<b>WOOLLAHRA</b> Forth St, Woollahra
<b>EAR</b>	<b>EARLWOOD</b> Homer St, Earlwood	<b>NOR</b>	<b>NORTH ROCKS</b> North Rocks Rd, North Rocks	<b>WYO</b>	<b>WYONG</b> Cutler Dr, Wyong
<b>PIC</b>	<b>PICNIC POINT</b> Prince & Thomas St, Picnic Point				

+ Places are reserved for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.