

Rules and procedures

Year 5 placement in an opportunity class in

2021

HIGH PERFORMING STUDENTS TEAM[^], SCHOOL OPERATIONS & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



A GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

[^] 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 of care of a child. Parents are the applicants.

Contents

Opportunity classes in primary schools.....	5
Characteristics of high potential and gifted students.....	5
Types of opportunity classes.....	6
Placement of Year 5 students into opportunity classes.....	6
Location of opportunity classes.....	6
Aurora College – New for 2021 entry.....	6
Number of Year 5 OC places available.....	7
▪ Frequently asked questions.....	8
Choosing a school with an opportunity class.....	8
▪ Travelling times.....	8
▪ Order of choices.....	9
▪ Examples of possible outcome scenarios.....	9
▪ Changing school choice/s.....	10
Key dates for each stage of the opportunity class placement process for Year 5.....	10
Application process.....	10
▪ Intention to apply.....	10
▪ Application information.....	10
▪ Applying online.....	10
▪ Completing an online application.....	11
▪ Applying without internet access.....	11
▪ Confirmation of application.....	12
▪ Criteria for entry.....	12
◦ Age and Year.....	12
◦ Students seeking acceleration or who have been accelerated.....	12
◦ Students seeking Year 5 repetition.....	12
◦ Students sitting the test for the second time.....	12
◦ Residency requirements.....	13
◦ NSW residential address.....	13
▪ Parent details.....	13
◦ Where parents live together at the same address as the student.....	13

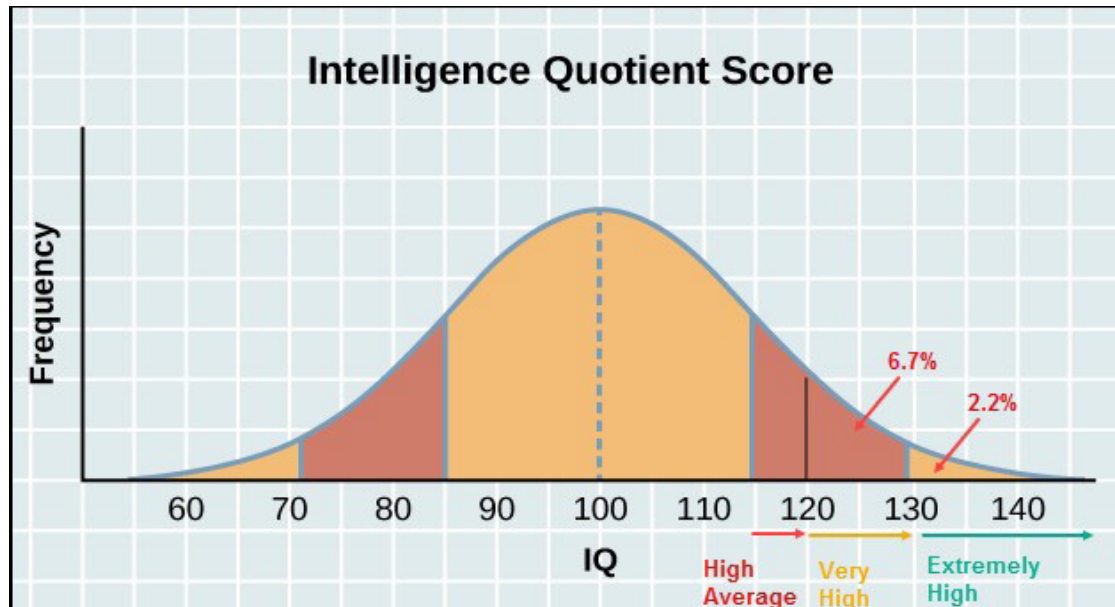
◦	Where parents live apart at different addresses.....	13
◦	Changing or correcting details to the application.....	14
◦	Who can make enquiries or decisions about your application?.....	14
▪	Court Orders.....	14
▪	Additional documents/attachments.....	14
▪	Interstate and overseas applicants.....	15
▪	Withdrawing an application.....	15
	Information for applicants.....	16
▪	Disability provisions	16
▪	Applying for disability provisions.....	16
▪	The Opportunity Class Placement Test.....	16
◦	Who develops the Opportunity Class Placement Test?.....	16
◦	Test date and times.....	17
◦	Test authority letter.....	17
◦	Test attendance rules.....	19
◦	Test components.....	18
◦	How long does the test take?.....	18
◦	Preparing for the test.....	18
◦	Equipment for the test.....	19
◦	What should students know about the test?.....	19
◦	How do students show their answers?.....	20
◦	Where can students do their 'working out'?.....	20
◦	What happens if a student misaligns his or her answers?.....	20
◦	Are there any time warnings?.....	21
◦	Test room procedures.....	21
◦	Conduct during the test.....	21
◦	What happens in the short break during the test?.....	22
	Selection process.....	22
▪	Special considerations.....	22
	Score processing - how are the scores derived?.....	22
▪	Scaling of test marks.....	22

▪ Calculated placement score.....	23
Placement outcome information/results.....	24
▪ Placement outcome information on 'Hold'.....	24
▪ Score details for parents.....	24
▪ Placement outcome details for primary schools.....	24
▪ Responding to an offer.....	25
▪ Withdrawal or lapse of offers.....	25
▪ Minimum entry scores.....	25
▪ Reserve lists.....	25
▪ Frequently asked questions.....	26
▪ My child was unsuccessful for placement but can he or she be added to a reserve list?.....	26
Enrolment.....	27
▪ Enrolment policy.....	27
▪ Authority to attend.....	27
▪ Brothers and sisters.....	27
Selective High School and Opportunity Class Placement Policy.....	27
Contact details.....	27
Further information.....	28
Privacy statement.....	28

Opportunity classes in primary schools

Opportunity classes (OCs) form part of the NSW Department of Education's commitment to provide a range of opportunities for gifted and high potential students in NSW.

OCs cater for high potential and academically gifted students in Years 5 and 6. These classes are designed to help these students reach their full potential by grouping them with students of similar ability, using specialised teaching methods and educational materials at an appropriate level.



The very high to extremely high IQ's typical of students in selective high schools and opportunity classes.

Parents* normally apply when their child is in Year 4. In the majority of cases, students who accept a place in the OC will leave their current school to attend the school with an OC full time in Years 5 and 6 unless they already attend the school with an OC or unless they are successful for OC entry to Aurora College which has a virtual OC.

Parents are not able to apply for Year 6 placement only.

Characteristics of high potential and gifted students

The characteristics listed below may be found in many learners but are strongly evident in high potential and gifted learners. Conversely, not all high potential and gifted learners will display all of these characteristics.

High potential and gifted learners may demonstrate:

- curiosity
- an ease of learning that is fast paced
- intense concentration in new learning or areas of interest
- perseverance
- high levels of self-criticism
- perfectionism
- strong sense of moral reasoning and justice
- intrinsic motivation and be goal driven, particularly in their area of interest
- a sophisticated sense of humour
- creative and critical thinking skills

- high expectations for self and others
- an advanced level of observation
- high levels of excitement about new ideas
- independent thinking

Note: These learning characteristics should be used as only one source of evidence to assess and identify students.

Further information about high potential and gifted education can be found at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/high-potential-and-gifted-education>

Types of opportunity classes

Depending on school structure, OC students may be accommodated in one of the following ways:

- a Year 5 OC
- a Year 6 OC
- a Year 5/6 composite OC
- a composite class consisting of OC and mainstream students.
- a virtual OC at Aurora College (available only for rural and remote students in areas which do not already have a local school with an OC).

Placement of Year 5 students in opportunity classes

The OC placement process is administered by the High Performing Students Team (hereafter known as the Team), which is part of the School Operations and Strategic Partnerships division of the NSW Department of Education.

The Team coordinates selection procedures by developing documentation, liaising with a contractor who is responsible for developing the test, arranging testing, and providing data to OC principals for the selection of students.

The Team also sends applicants the outcome of their application. Successful candidates then enrol for Year 5 and 6 at the school with the OC. This is often at a different school from their previous enrolment.

Location of opportunity classes

For 2021 entry there are 76 primary schools with OCs across NSW. Forty five primary schools are located in the Sydney metropolitan area and 31 in rural or regional centres. There is also a virtual OC at Aurora College, providing a specialist high potential and gifted students program in rural and remote areas which do not already have a local school with an OC.

A full list of NSW OC's is located at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/what-are-opportunity-classes>

Aurora College – New for 2021 entry

Parents who intend to enrol their child at one of the primary schools in a rural or remote area which does not already have a local school with an OC, may apply for a place in the virtual OC at Aurora College.

Students attend their local government primary schools and join the OC for science, technology and mathematics lessons using an online conferencing system. Students connect with their teachers and other students through a virtual learning environment. There are also camps conducted by the school where students are able to interact, in person with their virtual classmates and teachers.

Non-government school candidates who are successfully placed will need to be enrolled in the local government primary school to be eligible to participate in the virtual class. View the list of authorised host schools at https://www.aurora.nsw.edu.au/files/2020/02/Authorised_hosts.pdf

An executive officer from the Team or the principal of Aurora College may contact the principal of your child's current school to determine whether a virtual 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 an OC, or at schools within the drawing areas of an existing OC, will not be eligible to apply for entry into the virtual OC. It is also not available to metropolitan and regional students.

Number of Year 5 OC places available

There are 1740 OC places available in Year 5 across NSW, not including the new Aurora OC. The number of Aurora OC places will be determined after the selection process this year.

School code	School with opportunity class	No. of Yr 5 places	School code	School with opportunity class	No. of Yr 5 places	School code	School with opportunity class	No. of Yr 5 places
ACP	Armidale City Public	15	ERM	Ermington Public School	30	POR	Port Macquarie Public School	15
ALX	Alexandria Park Community School ±	30	GEO	Georges Hall Public School	15	QUA	Quakers Hill Public School	30
ALS	Alstonville Public School	15	GOO	Goonellabah Public School	15	QUE	Queanbeyan South Public School	15
ART	Artarmon Public School	60	GSF	Gosford Public School	30	RIC	Richmond Public School	30
ASH	Ashfield Public School	30	GOU	Goulburn West School	15	RUT	Rutherford Public School	15
AUR	Aurora College ◇	TBC	GRE	Greenacre Public School	15	RDE	Ryde Public School	30
BGH	Balgowlah Heights Public School	30	GRY	Greystanes Public School	30	SMI	Smithfield Public School	15
BLM	Balmain Public School	30	HAR	Harrington Street Public School	15	SOL	Soldiers Point Public School	15
BHW	Bathurst West Public School	15	HOL	Holsworthy Public School	15	GTS	South Grafton Public School	15
BEE	Beecroft Public School	30	HUR	Hurstville Public School	60	STA	St Andrews Public School	15
BIR	Biraban Public School	15	ILL	Illaroo Road Public School	30	STJ	St Johns Park Public School	15
BTS	Blacktown South Public School	30	IBR	Ironbark Public School	30	STU	Sturt Public School	15
BCS	Blaxcell Street Public School	30	JEW	Jewells Primary School	15	SUM	Summer Hill Public School	30
BRA	Bradbury Public School	15	KIN	Kingswood Public School	30	SUT	Sutherland Public School	30
BXE	Blaxland East Public School	30	LEU	Leumeah Public School	15	TAH	Tahmor Public School	15
CAM	Camden South Public School	15	LIT	Lithgow Public School	15	TAM	Tamworth Public School	15
CBN	Caringbah North Public School	30	MAR	Maryland Public School	15	TAS	Tamworth South Public School	15
CAS	Casula Public School	15	MAT	Matthew Pearce Public School	30	TIG	Tighes Hill Public School	15
CES	Cessnock West Public School	15	MON	Mona Vale Public School	30	TOO	Toormina Public School	15
CHW	Chatswood Public School	30	MOR	Moree Public School	15	WAI	Waitara Public School	30
COL	Colyton Public School	30	NEU	Neutral Bay Public School	30	WEN	Wentworth Falls Public School	15
COO	Coonabarabran Public School	15	NEW	Newbridge Heights Public School	15	WIL	Wilkins Public School	30
CUD	Cudgegong Valley Public School	15	NLS	New Lambton South Public School	15	WOL	Wollongong Public School	30
DUB	Dubbo West Public School	15	NOR	North Rocks Public School	30	WOO	Woollahra Public School	60
DUR	Dural Public School	30	PIC	Picnic Point Public School	15	WYO	Wyong Public School	30
EAR	Earlwood Public School	30						

Note:

- ◇ Only students who would be enrolled for Year 5 in 2021 in a government primary school in a rural and remote area which does not already have a local school with an OC may apply for the virtual OC at Aurora College.
- ± Six of the 30 places at Alexandria Park Community School are targeted places for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Frequently asked questions

When do I apply?

Parents of students in Year 4 are eligible to apply.

Applications are made online between 9-26 June 2020 at the following website:

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

If my child qualifies for placement, does he or she have to leave the current school to attend a school with an OC?

Yes, unless the primary school your child currently attends has an OC, and your child has qualified for placement in that class unless your child qualifies for placement at Aurora College.

My child is gifted. Can I apply when my child is not yet in Year 4?

Applying to miss Year 4 and go straight into Year 5 from Year 3 or lower is called 'acceleration'. You can apply to accelerate your child into an OC but you will need to provide evidence or good reason for that request.

Applicants seeking acceleration for their child should present documentary evidence to support their application. In addition, the student's placement score must be in the top 50 percent of students offered placement in the chosen school with an opportunity class. OC principals and executive officers may also consider the student's social and emotional maturity.

It is best to seek advice from your child's current school and get supporting documentation before applying.

My child sat the test last year. Can I apply again?

If your child is in Year 5 and sat the test in Year 4, you will need to provide a good reason for applying again. A detailed explanation and supporting documentation must be submitted for candidates repeating Year 5.

If your child sat the test when he or she was in Year 3 (i.e. seeking acceleration), and then sits the test again when he or she is in Year 4, consideration will be given during the selection process as to whether your child has gained an undue advantage over other candidates.

Choosing a school with an opportunity class

Applicants can choose to have their child considered for placement in up to two primary schools with OCs.

Parents should:

- do their research before applying
- view the school websites
- consider transport (see travel times below)
- consider friendship groupings
- choose only those schools they really want
- place their choices in priority order.

Travel times

Travel times or transport arrangements from the student's home to any school the parent has chosen for OC placement is not considered as part of the selection process. Before listing any school, parents should consider available transport and the time it would take for their child to reach the school.

Order of Choices

- Parents should consider carefully the two schools and the order in which they put them before submitting the application. A full list of schools with OCs is available at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/what-are-opportunity-classes/list-of-opportunity-classes>
- Parents should put the choices in the order they really want.
- The order in which parents list their choices matters if the child qualifies for more than one choice.
- If a student qualifies for both schools, he or she will be offered a place at the first choice of school only.
- If a student is offered his or her second choice, he or she may also be placed on a reserve list for his or her first choice if he or she child qualifies.

Examples of possible outcome scenarios

Scenario 1: You will receive an offer if your child qualifies academically for one of your choices whether you put it first or second.

1st choice Greenacre Public School	Offer
2nd choice Georges Hall Public School	Unsuccessful
Or	
1st choice Georges Hall Public School	Unsuccessful
2nd choice Greenacre Public School	Offer

Scenario 2: If the student qualifies for both choices, only your first choice will be considered.

1st choice Greenacre Public School	Offer
2nd choice Georges Hall Public School	Not applicable (your child qualified but is not considered as he or she received a higher choice offer)

Scenario 3: If the student qualifies for the second choice and is on the reserve list for the first choice, the outcome will be shown as follows.

1st choice Georges Hall Public School	Reserve 12
2nd choice Greenacre Public School	Offer

Please note: the number shown after 'Reserve' in scenario 3 (above) shows that the student is at position 12 on the reserve list for Georges Hall Public School. Likewise, in scenario 4, (below) the student is at position 12 on the reserve list for their first choice, and position 9 on the reserve list for their second choice.

Scenario 4: The student is on two reserve lists.

1st choice Georges Hall Public School	Reserve 12
2nd choice Greenacre Public School	Reserve 9

Scenario 5: The student is unsuccessful for both choices. In this case the letter will say the student is unsuccessful without listing the choices.

Changing school choice/s

Parents can request a change of school choice without approval up until **Friday 25 September 2020** by completing the 'Change of school choice/s' form available on the department's website. Your request will be actioned within 21 days. Parents will receive an acknowledgement email once the changes have been actioned.

After the closing date for changing choices the Team will be in the final stages of preparing data for the selection process. Late requests to change school choices cannot be considered.

Changes of choice cannot normally be made after outcomes are released.

Choices cannot be added or changed on the grounds that the students did not qualify for their original choices.

Parents who are considering moving home to a different area should not assume that a student who qualifies for placement at one school with an OC will also qualify for placement at another school with an OC.

Key dates for each stage of the OC placement process for Year 5 entry

The key dates relevant to the current process are shown at the following link:

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

Application process

Intention to apply

Parents of students who attend NSW government primary schools may be asked to complete an 'Intention to apply for Year 5 OC placement' form provided by the school. This informs the principal of an applicant's intention to apply online.

Registering your interest to apply with the school does **NOT** constitute an application. Parents must apply online and submit their application during the application period.

Application information

Parents who apply must read the 'Applying for Year 5 entry to an OC in 2021' document available at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>

Applying online

Parents of Year 4 students currently enrolled in NSW government or non-government primary schools can apply. Students from home schools, interstate and overseas schools can also apply.

Students and their families should be Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents of Australia temporarily living interstate or overseas to enrol in an OC. Non-resident parents may apply and have their children sit the test only if permanent residency is expected to be granted before initial offers are made in early December and only if they are already in Australia when applying.

Parents apply at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5> between **Tuesday 9 June and Friday 26 June 2020** when their child is in Year 4.

Completing an online application

The application website is at the following link:

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

Parents must read the application information at the above link before commencing their online application.

1. Parents must register before applying by providing a valid email address – do not use a student's email address. An email with a link and access key for the online application will be sent to the email address provided.
2. Use the link sent to access the application website and log in using your email address and access key. If you lose or forget your access key, go to the Login page, enter your email address and click on 'Reset access key'. You will then receive an email with a new access key. Earlier access keys will not work.
3. Complete your contact details. Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory and must be completed before you can proceed to the next page.
4. When your contact details are complete, click the 'Next' button. (Note: You can return to the previous page at any time by clicking the 'Previous' button).
5. Follow the steps on each page to complete the OC placement application.
6. Enter information about any disability, including medical conditions or behavioural disorders. It is important to list any disability provisions you are requesting for the test, if applicable. Once you have submitted your application you will need to provide supporting evidence to support your request.
7. To leave the application before you have finished completing it, select 'Log off' and close your browser. You will need to log in again when you return. Completed pages will be saved.
8. When you have completed your application click 'Submit'. Make a note of the application number shown on the screen (it will be in the format CXX XXX XXX. You must quote this number whenever you contact with the Team.

Note: Some email platforms will not accept emails with attachments sent from the Team. If this happens, the Team will have to send all correspondence by mail. To avoid this problem, you should add ssu@det.nsw.edu.au to your email contacts to ensure you receive correspondence from the Team. Also check your spam or junk folder regularly.

Applying without internet access

Use the internet at a public library if you do not have access at home and complete the following steps:

1. Set up a web-based email to use for the application, such as Yahoo, Hotmail, Gmail or similar.
2. Use that email account to register at the 'OC placement application' website.
3. Wait for up to 15 minutes to receive an email with an access key and link.
4. Select the link then copy and paste the access key to log in.
5. Complete the application and in the Contact details section click on 'Mail only' for all future correspondence.
6. Submit the application.
7. Check your new email account for the confirmation email which you should receive 15 minutes after you press 'Submit'. Print the file showing all your application details. Keep this for your own records. Note: Remember to check the email spam/junk folder as well as the inbox.

The Team will then send all communication to your postal address.

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

Contact the High Performing Students Team on 1300 880 367 for assistance if you have a disability that prevents you from using a computer.

Confirmation of application

Up to 15 minutes after submitting your application you will receive a confirmation email showing your application number. Make a note of this number and make sure you quote it whenever you contact the Team. The confirmation email will also have attached PDF copies of:

- the responses made on your application. Check the details carefully and email the Team if they are incorrect. Do NOT submit another application for the same student.
- an 'Attachments' cover sheet. You should use this whenever you send additional documentation (see 'Additional documents' on P.14)

For non-government school applicants only:

- a 'Principal's page' for non-government school principals to complete.

Criteria for entry

Age and Year

Students are normally in Year 4 at the time of application. These students are aged between 9 years and 5 months and 11 years at the time they start Year 5 in 2021.

Students seeking acceleration or who have been accelerated

- Students who have not reached Year 4 in the year that you are applying require the strong support of their principal to accelerate to Year 5 in an OC. OC principals and executive officers will consider accelerating only those students who have demonstrated advanced academic achievement across the curriculum.
- On a state-wide basis only one in 200 students would generally be capable of acceleration in all academic subjects to be successful in an OC. A student's placement score must be in the top 50 percent of students offered placement in the chosen school with an opportunity class.
- Students in Year 4, who have already been accelerated may be required to attend an interview with the principal of the OC as part of the process. This is to determine how the school can best support the student.

Students seeking Year 5 repetition

- Students who are in Year 5 when parents apply are generally not accepted for Year 5 OC placement except in extenuating circumstances. Detailed explanation and supporting documentation is required to be considered as part of the selection process. The decision to accept applications from Year 5 students wishing to repeat Year 5 in an OC is at the discretion of the principal with an OC.

Students sitting the test for the second time

Students who sat the test in previous years may be considered during the selection process as having an unfair advantage because of their previous experience with the test.

Students whose age or school year is outside the limits described above may be temporarily placed on hold to allow further investigations. During the selection process, each case will be considered individually. Parents or the current school principal will be contacted if further information is required.

Residency requirements

Students must be Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia to enrol in an OC. New Zealand citizens living in NSW are also eligible. Permanent residents of New Zealand are not.

Information on Australian citizenship is available from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection at: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

- Students who do not meet residency requirements at the time of applying – but expect to meet them before December when initial offers are made – can sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test but will not be offered a place unless permanent residency has been granted.
- Students who qualify for placement must show evidence of their residency status prior to being offered a place.
- Students who are ineligible for placement based on residency may seek to be reinstated on the reserve list once permanent residency is granted and documentary evidence is provided to the Team.
- Applicants whose children do not meet the residency requirements – including those who hold diplomatic visas – but whose children qualify for entry on academic grounds, can appeal if extenuating circumstances apply.

Principals are required to check claims of residency status and citizenship against school records. All successful students will be required to show original documentation, such as a birth certificate, Australian Citizenship certificate or visa, before their enrolment can be finalised.

NSW residential address

A student's family is expected to be living in NSW by the beginning of the 2021 school year. Applications from parents who continue to live outside NSW after the school year begins will be considered only if there are vacancies after all eligible students from NSW have been placed.

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

Parent details

Emails and SMS text messages are sent to parents at critical times during the OC placement process.

If possible, parents should provide two email addresses and at least one mobile phone number (if available).

Parents must not use an email address that belongs to a child. The Team will not correspond with students. If an email address used in an application is suspected of belonging to a child, the Team will be forced to send all correspondence to the parent by mail, unless a second, valid email address is provided.

Where parents live together at the same address as the student

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

Where parents live at different addresses

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

Where a child spends equal time with each parent, the parent with whom the child is staying at the time of applying should apply. Parents must not submit two 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 person may write to the Team requesting to be sent system-generated correspondence.

The Team will not participate in parental disputes and 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, 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>

Changing or correcting application details

Once parents have submitted their application they will receive an email confirming their application, including an attachment listing the key personal details provided.

Parents should take time to carefully check that all details shown in the email attachment are correct. Parents are responsible for advising the Team about errors or changes to the application. Parents will not be able to make changes to their application online once it is submitted.

Parents must write to the Team to update their child's record every time there is a change to any details.

If parents find they have made a mistake or need to change any details after submitting their application, they need to email the Team at ssu@det.nsw.edu.au requesting the change. The Team will make the requested changes and send you confirmation by email (or mail if you have requested communication by post).

Who can make enquiries or decisions about your application?

The Team will correspond only with the parent(s) listed on an application. If parents wish to let other people discuss their child's application with the Team, they must authorise them to make enquiries on their behalf by emailing the Team at ssu@det.nsw.edu.au and stating this.

The Team will provide information about an application to any parent or interested person who is legally entitled to it, regardless of requests for confidentiality. The Team will not correspond with students or speak to them on the telephone.

Parents who need to use the services of an interpreter can phone 131 450 and ask the operator to connect them to the Team by phoning 1300 880 367.

Court orders

Parents should tick the box for 'Court orders' on the online application if there are any family law, apprehended violence or other relevant court orders that impact on matters such as the education of the student, the parental responsibility for the student, the student's main residence, restricting access to the student's record or restricting the provision of information about the student.

Parents should scan and send a complete copy of the orders to the Team at ssu@det.nsw.edu.au

Additional documents/attachments

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

- information about a child's disability including medical conditions or behavioural disorders such as vision impairment, diabetes, anaphylaxis, autism or serious illness. If your child is likely to cause a disturbance in the test centre you must disclose this information. If you believe your child needs disability provisions, you will need to provide diagnostic evidence that focuses on the functional impact of the disability on test performance
- copy of court orders if they relate to their 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 not in Year 4 when applying (e.g. letter from the school principal or letter/report from psychologist/school counsellor)
- for interstate/overseas students not able to sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test – A 'Report of academic merit' containing a full WISC V or Stanford Binet V IQ report with a reliable Full Scale IQ Score and standardised reading and mathematics test results.

If requested, parents may also need to provide:

- evidence of previous schooling for students who have been doing most of their school work in the English language for less than 48 months.

Parents should use the 'Attachments cover sheet' (sent to the parent with their application confirmation email) when sending attachments to the Team at ssu@det.nsw.edu.au

Parents should not send school reports or certificates or other test results unless asked to do so by the Team.

Interstate and overseas applicants

Parents of students temporarily living interstate or overseas who are unable to sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test may still apply for Year 5 placement in a NSW OC.

There are two procedures available for interstate and overseas applicants, depending on the applicant's circumstances.

Procedure for applicants temporarily living interstate/overseas but who intend to return to NSW for their child to sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test.

1. Parents apply online during the application period (i.e. 9-26 June 2020).
2. Parents must indicate on the online application where in NSW they will be staying at the time of the test so a suitable local test centre can be allocated.
3. The student returns to NSW to sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test on 16 September 2020.

OR

Procedure for applicants temporarily living interstate/overseas who are unable to return to NSW for their child to sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test.

1. Parents apply online during the application period (i.e. 9-26 June 2020).
2. Parents download the 'Report of academic merit' (from <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/information-for-applicants/interstate-and-overseas-applicants>) and arrange, at their own expense, for their child to undergo individual and standardised testing under the supervision of a registered psychologist or other qualified practitioner. (Note: The Team is unable to make recommendations).
3. Submit the completed 'Report of academic merit' to the Team, with all relevant documentation, by the test date.

Please note: Applicants using this process can have their children considered only if they provide a reliable WISC V or Stanford Binet V Full Scale IQ Score along with the other required information.

Withdrawing an application

You must advise the Team in writing at ssu@det.nsw.edu.au if you wish to withdraw your child's application. Once your request is processed, an acknowledgement letter will be posted to your postal address.

Information for applicants

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 review 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.

The Opportunity Class Placement Test

Who develops the Opportunity Class Placement Test?

The Opportunity Class Placement Test is written by an external provider under contract to the NSW Department of Education. Strict security measures are in place to ensure test papers cannot be viewed before or after the test. The test does not normally contain any questions used in previous tests and is designed to measure ability rather than performance on the school curriculum.

Test date and time

The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be conducted on **Wednesday 16 September 2020**. The test will be conducted on one day only and only at official test centres in NSW. There is no catch up test.

The test is scheduled to commence at 9.00 am and concludes at approximately 11.15 am.

Parents must arrange transport to and from the test centre. Parents should bring their child to the test centre at least 30 minutes before the test begins.

Parents must be ready to collect students from the test centre by 11.15 am, the approximate dismissal time. Parents must not park or wait on school premises unless authorised in writing by the Team as part of a disability provision prior to the test.

To minimise disruption during the test, all students are strongly advised to go to the toilet before entering the test centre.

Test authority letter

Parents will be advised where to take their child to sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test two weeks before the test.

A 'Test authority' letter and 'Test information' bulletin will be sent to both email addresses (where two have been provided). Parents who provided only one email address and mobile number will be advised by email and SMS text message. Parents who have provided a mobile number and elected to receive correspondence by mail will also receive an SMS text message advising that the 'Test authority' letter has been sent.

Students must bring a printed copy of the 'Test authority' letter to the test centre in order to be able to sit the test. If parents do not receive the 'Test authority' letter the week before the test, they should contact the Team urgently by email at ssu@det.nsw.edu.au or by phone on 1300 880 367.

Reminder: Parents are responsible for ensuring that their contact details are kept up to date with the team throughout the placement process.

Test attendance rules

- Students must sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test unless parents have a satisfactory explanation.
- Parents are advised to have their child at the test centre location at least 30 minutes before the start of the test.
- If students arrive after the commencement of the test, they will be admitted to the test centre, but will not be given extra time.
- Students must sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test at the test centre to which they have been allocated.
- For students to be allowed to sit the test, parents must have submitted an application and students must have a copy of their 'Test authority' letter.

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 using an answer booklet that is later marked by a computer.

How long does the test take?

The following is a sample timetable for the test. Note that apart from the 30 minutes allotted to the two test sessions this timetable is approximate and will vary according to the size and location of the test centre.

ACTIVITY	START	FINISH
Candidates arrive by	9.00 am	
Candidates assemble in school groups	9.00 am	9.20 am
Administration and practice	9.20 am	9.50 am
Part 1 (30 minutes)	9.50 am	10.20 am
Short break	10.20 am	10.30 am
Part 2 (30 minutes)	10.30 am	11.00 am
Candidates dismissed		11.15 am

Preparing for the test

The NSW Department of Education does not endorse coaching for the Opportunity Class Placement Test. The test is designed to assess the students' ability rather than testing material that can be studied in advance, such as elements of the school curriculum.

Your child can best prepare for the test by working on the following:

1. Test technique - practising multiple choice questions in a timed environment may assist with time management and overall speed in completing the test.
2. Sample test papers - these are available on the department's website at the following link: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/the-test>

These sample test papers are the only ones available owing to security and copyright issues.

Sample tests are provided to help students become familiar with the test format, rather than as a guide to specific questions.

It is important to note that results from sample tests are not necessarily indicative of the way a student will perform in the actual Opportunity Class Placement Test. OC principals and executive officers will not consider scores on sample tests or any practice tests by coaching colleges.

3. Answer sheets – practice using the sample answer sheet on the department's website at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/the-test>.

Print the sample test paper and students can practise using black pen to colour in boxes on the answer sheet. The page numbers and question numbers will not match the sample questions, but the practice should help familiarise students with recording and changing their answers to minimise confusion and stress on test day.

4. Sleep - having adequate sleep helps lift performance and reduce stress.

Equipment for the test

Students will be given black pens to use for the test.

Students MUST bring:

- a printed copy of their 'Test authority' letter from the Team which shows their student application number

Students SHOULD bring:

- warm clothing such as a jumper or cardigan and wear school uniform
- glasses and/or asthma inhaler/spacer, if required. All other medical devices must be approved well before the test.
- any item that has been approved as a disability test provision, such as food or medication
- clear plastic water bottle - with no writing on it except for the brand name (students are asked to store these under their seat to avoid spills).

Students SHOULD NOT bring to the desk:

- pens, pencils, erasers, note paper or other material such as dictionaries
- equipment such as rulers, calculators, computers, mobile phones, photographic or recording devices or watches that calculate or beep. (Presiding officers have discretion not to allow any device suspected of breaching this rule.)
- any food or medication not already approved as a disability provision.

All equipment brought to the test centre may be subject to inspection on entry. Students will be directed to place any unauthorised equipment or material in a designated area. Test centre staff will not be responsible for these items.

What should students know about the test?

There is nothing students should study for the tests. They should use their ability to think clearly and deal with new problems and situations to choose their answers.

It is important for students to pay careful attention when the presiding officer (the person in charge of the test) talks to them and shows them how to record their answers for each test.

If students have any problems understanding the instructions they should put their hand up and the presiding officer or a supervisor will answer their questions.

Students are NOT to open the question booklet until the presiding officer tells them to do so. When doing Part 2 of the test, students are not permitted to go back to Part 1 for any reason. There are coloured strips down the side of each page so that supervisors can easily see which part students are looking at.

Before Part 1 of the test, there will be practice questions to help students become familiar with the way questions are presented and to make sure that they know how to show their answers in the test.

Students are to work through these practice questions when they are told, and always stop work immediately when told to do so.

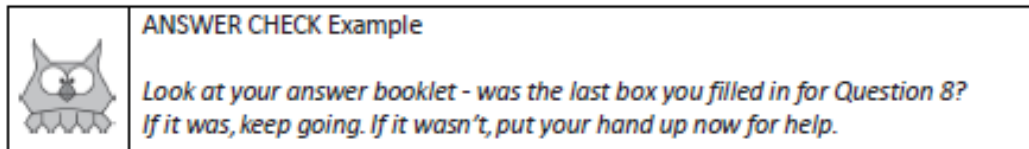
Students are advised to:

- read each test question carefully before they start answering it
- not rush or they risk making careless mistakes
- not spend too much time on one question

- choose the answer that they think is best.
- mark the answer they think is best to any question they are unsure of, and come back to that question later if they have time.

Marks are awarded for each correct answer. Marks are not taken off for wrong or blank answers, so it is better to have a guess than leave an answer blank.

Students should keep checking that the number of the question they are working matches the question number they are shading on the answer sheet. They should monitor this with the eight 'Answer check' reminders throughout the tests (like the one shown in the section below).



How do students show their answers?

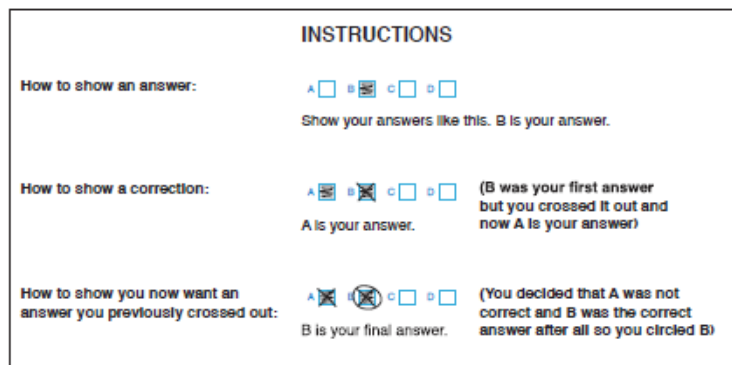
Students colour in one of the squares marked A, B, C, or D

The presiding officer will show students how to record their responses in the answer booklet before starting Part 1. Students will be given a chance to practise shading their answers. Students who need further help should raise their hands.

A sample answer sheet can be viewed on the department's website at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/the-test#Preparing3> .

Students must record their answers in the answer booklet and not the question booklet unless authorised in advance as a disability provision.

To change an answer, students should draw an X through the answer they don't want and colour in the box of their new answer. If they later want to go back to an answer they previously crossed out, they should circle the answer they now want and draw an X over the answer they coloured in but no longer want.



Where can students do their 'working out'?

If students want to work anything out they can write on the question booklet but they must show answers in the answer booklet. The question and answer booklets will be collected at the end of the test, but any notes that were made in the question booklet will not be marked.

What happens if a student misaligns his or her answers?

If students find they are answering a question on the wrong answer line, they should put their hand up and tell the supervisor, who will record the details and report the problem. Students should be directed to start the next question at the correct place on the answer booklet and come back to fix the problem if they have time, changing one question at a time.

Students should not cross out a whole group of answers at once as they could run out of time correcting them. Students should not spend too much time trying to fix the problem unless they have finished the last question.

Are there any time warnings?

There will be no time warnings during the test. Students will need to check the test centre's clock to find out how much time they have left. The presiding officer will tell students which test centre clock is the official one. Students must put their hand up if they cannot see the time on the clock. Students should not use their own watches to keep track of the time in case they are not synchronised with the test clock.

Students should always put their hands up if they have any other problems or any questions.

Test room procedures

Students must sit at the desk with an answer booklet or page showing their name and application number.

Students MUST

- write their question booklet number on their answer booklet and sign their name
- carefully read the instructions on the test paper as well as the questions. Presiding officers and supervisors are not permitted to interpret questions or instructions relating to questions
- mark their answers carefully in the answer booklet. If a student accidentally marks answers in the question booklet instead of the answer booklet, he or she should immediately tell the supervisor
- put their hand up and tell the supervisor/presiding officer if they cannot see the test clock
- stop working immediately when told to do so by the presiding officer or supervisor.

Students MUST NOT

- begin working until instructed to do so by the presiding officer or supervisor
- open the question booklet until the presiding officer tells them to do so. When doing Part 2 students must not go back to Part 1 for any reason. There are coloured strips down the side of each page so that supervisors can see which part students are looking at
- look at the work of others during the test. Students found to be cheating risk losing marks in that part of the test
- use their own watch to keep track of the time. Students must check the test centre clock
- leave the test room during the test, except in an emergency. If a student has to leave and then wants to return to resume the test, he/she must be supervised while he or she is absent
- remove a test paper from the test centre.

Parents MUST NOT

- enter the test room
- stay on school grounds during the test as the school needs to maintain its security (unless authorised to do so in writing by the Team as part of a disability provision)
- take photographs of other students or the test room (even through windows) as it can disturb the candidates
- cause any noise or disturbance outside the test room during the test.

Conduct during the test

Students must follow the day-to-day rules of the school at the test centre where they sit the test. The presiding officer and supervisors are in charge of students from the time students assemble prior to the test, through until the last student is collected by his or her parent or guardian.

Students must follow the supervisors' instructions at all times.

Students are expected to behave in a polite and courteous manner towards the supervisors and other students at all times.

What happens in the short break during the test?

In the break between Part 1 and Part 2 of the test, students will remain seated in the test room while supervisors complete administrative tasks in preparation for Part 2 of the test. During this period students may raise their hands if they need to go to the toilet.

Selection process

Students are selected for placement based on academic merit demonstrated by a calculated placement score. This score is calculated using scaled test scores of the Opportunity Class Placement Test. See Page 23 for more information about how the scores are derived.

The Team will prepare placement decisions for the principal to consider and ratify or change.

They will:

- list candidates for the school in order of their placement scores
- list students for offers and reserve places according to the number of vacancies at the school
- make all placement decisions, including which candidates are successful.

Special considerations

Individual consideration is also given under special circumstances such as:

- students with disability, including medical conditions or behavioural disorders. Consideration is given for any disability provisions arranged to support the student in the Opportunity Class Placement Test.
- students outside the usual age range or school Year
- students who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- students who have been using the English language to do most of their school work for less than 4 years
- other relevant factors.

Score processing – how are the scores derived?

Scaling of test marks

The scaling of the test marks is done on a state-wide basis regardless of which schools the students attended. Each test component is adjusted so they are weighted equally.

The maximum marks for the various test components are:

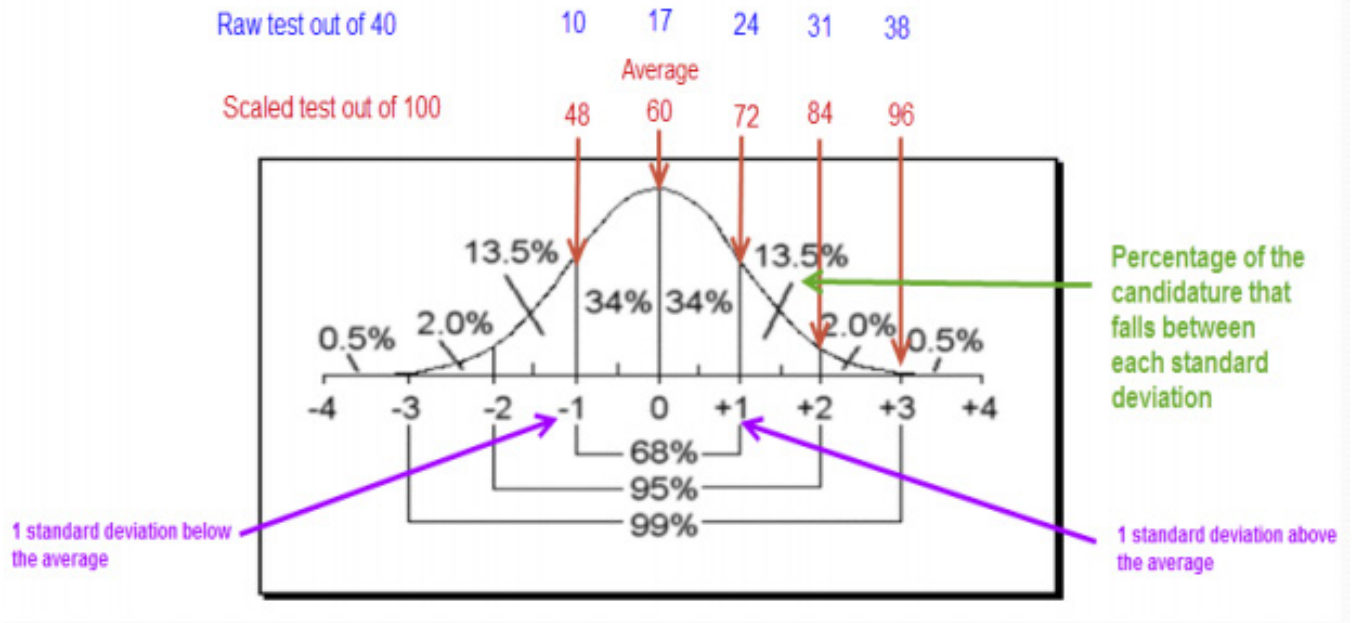
English – 20

mathematics – 20

general ability – 30

Each component of the Opportunity Class Placement Test is usually scaled to a mean of 60 and a standard deviation of 12.

The following graph shows an example of scaling for the mathematics test. In the example, a raw mark of 17 out of 40 was scaled to 60 out of 100 with a standard deviation of 12. As a result, 68% of the candidates received a scaled mark of between 48 and 72.



Calculated placement score

The calculated placement score is a mark out of 300. For most students it is provided at the bottom of the email advising the application outcome.

The calculated placement score is made up of:

- scaled test marks for English
- scaled test marks for mathematics
- scaled test marks for general ability.

Test component	Scaled test marks
English	100
Mathematics	100
General ability	100
Total	300

Note: A small group of students may be granted special consideration and are considered for placement on an alternative score.

It is unlikely a student will achieve a calculated placement score of 300 as the test is very difficult. You cannot compare calculated placement scores from one year to another as the scores relate to a different group of students.

Placement outcome information/results

The outcome of applications are sent overnight on **1 December 2020**. The placement outcome information will advise parents whether their child has been:

- offered a place at one school choice and/or
- placed on the reserve list for one or both choices or
- unsuccessful for placement and unsuccessful for inclusion on the reserve lists for both choices.

If a child qualifies for both schools chosen, only the first choice will be offered. Where students qualify for their second choice, they may be placed on the reserve list for their first choice if the score was high enough. If a child is offered a place at the first choice school but also qualified for the second choice school, the second choice outcome will be shown as 'not applicable'. See examples of different scenarios on Page 9.

A response form is included for applicants who receive offers. Complete and return this to the Team by the due date noted on the form. **Note:** If a student's parents reside at different addresses, the placement outcome information will be sent to both parents but the response form will be sent only to the primary applicant.

If parents receive an offer or reserve place they will be sent a 'Placement outcome information' bulletin explaining what each type of outcome means and the action that parents need to take.

Note: While offers can be accepted, enrolments will not be finalised until after the official 'Application to Enrol' form has been processed by the school and the 'Authority to Attend' letter from the Team has been presented to the school. See Enrolment on Page 27.

Placement outcome information on 'Hold'

In some cases parents might not be sent placement outcome information at the same time as the rest of the applicants. OC principals and executive officers may need to conduct further investigation for a small number of candidates. Those applicants will receive their placement outcome information as soon as possible.

Parents should contact the Team on 1300 880 367 if they have not received placement outcome information a week after it is dispatched.

Score details for parents

Placement outcome information provided to parents usually includes their child's calculated placement score out of 300.

A further letter or attachment is usually provided with a breakdown of the raw test marks. You cannot use these raw test marks to try to recalculate the placement score.

In a few cases the score cannot be published. This is usually due to the selection committee having adjusted a child's score based on criteria such as a student's Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status, length of time doing most school work in English, and a number of other factors. This is why a student may appear higher on a reserve list than another student with the same or lower calculated placement score. Parents who do not receive their child's score can email the Team at ssu@det.nsw.edu.au for an explanation.

The Team does not release the adjusted placement score. Details of scores will not be provided over the phone.

Placement outcome details for primary schools

The Team sends reports to NSW public primary schools listing the outcome for all their students who were considered for placement. Non-government schools may request outcome reports for students for whom they submitted school information.

Responding to an offer

Parents are required to complete, sign and return the response form to the Team before the due date. Parents must respond to first round offers by 15 December 2020 but if they get an offer by email or phone late in the process parents will have 24 hours to respond.

Parents need to scan the form using PDF format and send it by email. An acknowledgement of the parent's response to an offer will be sent within 21 days. Parents should contact the Team if they do not receive acknowledgement after 21 days.

If parents do not respond by the due date the Team may assume the offer is not wanted.

If parents change their mind about accepting an offer, they should email the Team as soon as possible. The next student on the reserve list can then be offered the place.

If parents are unable to access their email account for more than a week, they can advise the Team in writing that they will accept any offer in advance if their child qualifies or they can authorise a family member or trusted friend to make placement decisions on their behalf.

Withdrawal or lapse of offers

Offers will be withdrawn if students do not satisfy all enrolment requirements including residency, or if students do not enrol on the first day of school without prior approval or a satisfactory explanation.

Any deferment of enrolment must be negotiated with the Team and the school principal before the first day of school. Enrolment cannot be deferred beyond 26 February 2021.

Offers may lapse if the response is not returned to the Team by the due date and if the Team is unable to contact the applicant after trying twice.

Offers may be cancelled if they are made on the basis of false or misleading information.

Minimum entry scores

There is no fixed minimum score required for entry to individual schools as students are placed in rank order of their placement scores to fill the available vacancies. The entry score required for each school varies from year to year depending on the demand for the places at the school and the scores achieved by students who have listed the school as a choice.

The minimum entry scores for each of the OCs are published annually at the end of Term 1 at the following link:

<https://data.cese.nsw.gov.au/data/dataset/opportunity-classes-in-year-5-by-minimum-entry-score>

The minimum entry score is the score achieved by the last student to accept a place there.

You cannot use the scores from a previous year's placement process to prove that your child should have received an offer to a particular school in the current year.

The minimum entry score reflects the academic merit of the students applying for entry and the demand for places (which can be affected by the geographical location of the school).

The minimum entry score is not an indicator of the relative performance of primary schools with OCs.

Reserve lists

OCs have a limited number of places available each year. Students are offered a place based on their placement score and in the order of school choices. Schools with OCs usually have a reserve list in case students with initial offers decline the offer or withdraw from further consideration. Students who qualify for a position on a reserve list for one or both school choices are given their reserve list positions with their placement outcome information.

The Team continues to make offers to students on reserve lists as vacancies occur throughout Year 5 and to at least the end of Term 1 in Year 6. You can follow the progress of the reserve lists at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/outcome/opportunity-class-reserves> from mid-December until the start of the Year 5 school year.

When an applicant declines an offer of placement, the next student on a reserve list is offered their place. Applicants must accept an offer by the advised due date or the offer will lapse.

- The reserve lists will be activated in mid-December 2020.
- Some students on reserve lists may not be offered a place as all vacancies for an OC may be filled before the reserve list is exhausted.
- Progress on a reserve list varies from school to school as it depends on how many applicants decline offers in that year.
- Students may be added to the reserve list as a result of approved changes to school choices.
- Parents who have accepted an offer for the school they listed second may have their children placed on the reserve list for the school they listed first. If their child's reserve list position for that school is reached, they will receive a second offer. If they accept the new offer to the school they listed first, the Team will consider the original offer declined.

Your child's reserve list number does not change. You can track how much closer they are to receiving an offer by checking on the department's website to see how far down the reserve list the offers have progressed.

This list indicates the reserve list number of the latest student who received an offer of a place in that OC.

For example:

Artarmon Public School	15
------------------------	----

This would mean that the latest offer of a place at Artarmon Public School was made to the student on position 15 on the reserve list.

Where parents have accepted an offer for OC placement in the second choice school and the child is on a reserve list for the first choice school, the child will be removed from the reserve list at **5:00 pm on Wednesday 27 January 2021**. The child can remain on the reserve list for the first choice school only if the parent declines the offer to the second choice school by that date. Parents should consider such a decision very carefully as there is no guarantee that the student will receive a further offer.

Frequently asked questions

Can I change my school choices after the results are known?

You cannot change school choices when you find that your child was unsuccessful for placement in an OC but could have qualified for a different school. Similarly, you cannot make a late change if you find that transport arrangements are not practical. School choices cannot be changed after the release of placement outcomes except in extenuating circumstances. Any such request must be accompanied by documentary evidence and must be approved by the Team Leader and the school. In these circumstances the student may be placed on a reserve list for another school but there would be no guarantee of a place becoming available.

Where a late change of choice is requested on the basis of a recent move to a residence which is far from the previous home, both previous choices will be considered no longer applicable.

My child was unsuccessful for placement but can he or she be added to a reserve list?

Unsuccessful means the score is not high enough for the student to be placed on a reserve list. Please do not contact the Team to request your child be added to a reserve list as this is not possible. Entry scores from other years cannot predict whether your child should have received an offer for next year.

Enrolment

Enrolment policy

The NSW Department of Education has a responsibility to assess and manage any risk of harm to its staff or students. This includes assessing and managing risks posed to students or staff at a school by any student. Where relevant, such situations will be dealt with in accordance with the NSW Department of Education's enrolment policies and procedures.

Information for parents regarding enrolment is available at: https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/practical-help-for-parents-and-carers/quick-guide-for-parents#Enrolment_9

Authority to attend

If you accept an offer of OC placement, you will also be sent an 'Authority to Attend' letter in late January 2021. The student must present this letter to the school on the first day of Term 1, 2021.

To finalise enrolment at an OC you must have:

- received the 'Authority to attend' letter from the Team;
- satisfied all NSW Department of Education enrolment requirements.

All successful applicants will be required to show original documentation to the school such as birth certificates and relevant visas as proof of residency status before enrolment can be finalised by the school.

There are no extra fees for attending a school with an OC although schools may ask for materials and voluntary contributions as do other government schools.

Brothers and sisters

As placement in an OC is based on academic merit, you should not expect that if one of your children has been successful, the other children in your family will be placed. The placement of one twin/triplet does not guarantee the placement of another.

Brothers and sisters and twins/triplets will be offered a place in the same OC only if they have scores that are high enough to qualify.

Parents of students who are offered a place in an OC cannot assume that younger or older siblings can also enrol as out-of-area enrolments at that school.

Selective High School and Opportunity Class Placement Policy

The Selective High School and Opportunity Class Placement Policy can be found here:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/selective-high-school-and-opportunity-class-placement-policy?refid=285776>

Contact details

High Performing Students Team, NSW Department of Education

Email: ssu@det.nsw.edu.au

Telephone: 1300 880 367

Further information

Postal address: GPO Box 33, SYDNEY NSW 2001

Website: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/159342048077050/>

Translated information in 35 languages regarding the Opportunity Class Placement Test and OCs in general can be found at:

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

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

For an Aboriginal perspective of selective high schools and opportunity classes refer to:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/general-information/student-experience>

Principals can provide parents with details for their local Aboriginal Education and Wellbeing Advisor.

Privacy statement

The NSW Department of Education of 105 Phillip Street Parramatta NSW 2150 is subject to the 'Education Act 1990, Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1988' and 'Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002'.

The information contained on opportunity class and selective high school applications is required to assess and process the student's application for enrolment. In addition the department will collect and obtain other personal information (including future information) to assist in assessing and processing the application, including but not limited to results and information about the student's performance in the Selective High School Placement Test or the Opportunity Class Placement Test. This information will be stored in a secure database for at least 3 years. Applicants may contact the Team to access or correct information held if necessary. This information, or part thereof, may be used and disclosed by the NSW Department of Education for the following purposes:

- assessing and processing the application for enrolment in a selective high school or opportunity class
- determining placement and reviewing of such placement
- communication to departmental staff, including NSW public school principals, volunteers and persons who may be involved in the placement process
- general student administration, including notifying the student's current school, and other concerned public schools for which the applicant has sought entry, of the outcome of the application as well as notifying any other person authorised by the parent
- any other matters relating to the education and welfare of the student
- data collection and any other purpose required by law.