

Applying for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in **2023**

Once you complete and submit your application you can change details, send and receive messages through your application dashboard.

Thinking of applying for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2023?

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



Key dates

Application website opens:
Tuesday 26 April 2022

Application website closes:
5pm, Friday 13 May 2022
You must apply before this deadline

Test centre advice sent:
Thursday 14 July 2022

Opportunity Class Placement Test:
Thursday 28 July 2022

Placement outcome information
released overnight on:
Friday 7 October 2022

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

Parents* monitor the Department's website regularly for updates throughout the application and placement process at:
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>

Please check the Department's 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[^].

Contact Details:

High Performing Students Team, NSW Department of Education
Email: 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:

[^]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'.

Stages of the placement process

Stage	Action	Dates
1	Parents register, receive a verification email, log in using own password, and then complete and submit the application online.	From 26 April to 13 May 2022
2	Parents request reasonable adjustments for disability when applying, and upload documentation.	From 26 April to 18 May 2022
3	Principals provide information about applicants from their schools.	From 17 May to 3 June 2022
4	Parents are sent test centre information and the 'Test authority' and advised of reasonable adjustments granted for the test.	On 14 July 2022
5	Students sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test for entry to Year 5 in 2023. 'Report of academic merit' due for interstate or overseas students not sitting the test.	On 28 July 2022
6	Requests for special consideration for illness/misadventure are submitted.	By 4 August 2022
7	Last day to change opportunity class school choices.	7 August 2022
8	School selection committees meet.	In September 2022
9	Placement outcome expected.	Overnight on 7 October 2022
10	Parents can submit appeals.	14 October 2022
11	Parents accept or decline offers.	From October 2022 to at least the end of Term 1 2024
12	Appeals outcomes are sent to parents.	Late November 2022
13	Parents of students who have accepted placement are sent 'Authority to attend' letters to take to the school on the first day of term in 2023.	Late January 2023
14	Students with accepted offers are withdrawn from reserve lists.	At 5pm on 27 January 2023

Important dates

You must apply online by **Friday 13 May 2022**. The application site will close at 11.59 pm on 13 May 2022. This closing date will be strictly observed, except where there is a shortage of suitable candidates (usually rural or remote) or where extenuating circumstances are serious, well documented and prevented both parents (if applicable) from applying for the entire time applications were available.

You can change your school choices by logging in to the application portal and making any changes until **11.59 pm Sunday 7 August 2022**. You cannot change choices after 7 August 2022 unless something unexpected and outside your control changes and you have documentary evidence. A request for change of choice after 7 August 2022 must be approved by the Team.

Parents of non-government school students are responsible for liaising with the non-government school to ask the principal to complete the 'Principal's page for provision of information' and ensure it is sent to the Team by **Friday 3 June 2022**.

If you have not received 'Test authority' advice by **Monday 18 July 2022**, please log in to your application and send a message to the Team.

If a problem such as sickness or an accident stops your child doing his or her best in the test, or if your child missed the test you can submit an illness/misadventure request. To make a request, go to your application dashboard and submit the request by **Thursday 4 August 2022**.

If you have not received the placement outcome information by **Wednesday 12 October 2022**, please log back in to your application and send a message to the Team.

If you accept an offer and are also on the reserve list, you can remain on that reserve list until **5pm, Friday 27 January 2023**. 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.

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

What are opportunity classes?

Opportunity classes cater for intellectually gifted and high potential students who may otherwise be without sufficient classmates of their own academic standard. These classes help students to learn by grouping them with students of similar ability, using specialised evidence-based teaching methods and materials.

Year 5 enrolments are available at 76 primary schools across NSW 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 are offered placement, and if the parents accept the offer, the students usually attend the opportunity class full time in Years 5 and 6 at the relevant public school. This is a two-year placement program and there is no provision to apply for Year 6 entry only. In the majority of cases, students who accept a place in an opportunity class will leave their current school to attend the school with the opportunity class.

See a full [list of primary schools with opportunity classes](#) with links to their websites. A [map](#) is also available.

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

Who can apply?

Parents of Year 4 students enrolled in NSW public and non-government primary schools can apply. Students who are home schooled or from interstate and overseas schools can also apply. Students must be Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents of Australia to be eligible for placement.

Rural and remote applicants

If your child attends or intends to enrol in one of the public schools in rural or remote areas, you can apply for a place in the virtual opportunity class at Aurora College. The school must be an authorised host school.

View the list of authorised host schools at: <https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/7d0880b5-7f40-413a-bb76-20fd0ebbf80d/1/oc-aurora-host-schools.pdf>

Students attend their local public schools and join the 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. Read to the [fact sheet](#) to learn more about how the class operates.

Non-government school applicants who are successfully placed will need to enrol their children in the local public school to be eligible to participate in the virtual provision.

Aurora College's selection committee may contact the principal of your child's current school to determine whether this type of learning environment is likely to be best for your child.

Find out more about Aurora College at: <https://aurora.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning/primary-school.html>

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

Age and school Year

Students are usually in Year 4 at the time of applying and when sitting the test in 2022. They are usually born between 1 January 2012 and 31 July 2013. 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, the selection committee 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.

The selection committee 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 2022 and who are seeking to repeat Year 5 in an opportunity class in 2023.

The selection committee considers applications for students seeking acceleration from Year 3 in 2022 to Year 5 in 2023 will take into account evidence of consultation with the school principal. Parents should be aware that if their application for accelerated entry is unsuccessful and they apply again in the following year, the selection committee will have the discretion to determine whether or not the student has gained an unfair advantage from the previous experience with the test.

Residency status

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, and you have applied for permanent residency and expect it will be granted before initial offers are made in early October 2022, 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.

Students accepting placement in an opportunity class must be living in NSW at the beginning of Year 5.

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, provided that you are a permanent resident or citizen of Australia or a citizen of New Zealand. If possible, your child should be in NSW to sit the test.

If your child is unable to sit the test in NSW you will need to submit a Report of Academic Merit which includes a WISC V IQ report and standardised tests of English and mathematics. The report is due on the day of the test.

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?

Online applications are open from **Tuesday 26 April to Friday 13 May 2022**.

Parents must apply online at:

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

You must apply online by **Friday 13 May 2022**. The application site will close at 11.59 pm on 13 May 2022. This closing date will be strictly observed, except where there is a shortage of suitable candidates or where extenuating circumstances are serious, well documented and prevented both parents (if applicable) from applying for the entire time applications were available.

Do the following to apply:

1. Go to the application site and register your details using your own name and email address, not one belonging to your child. You will need to create a password. You will receive an email to verify your registration.
2. Go to the application and log in using the email address and password you provided.
3. You will receive an application number in the format C22012345. Quote this number when making enquiries.
4. Complete the application and submit it when it is completed, checked and the declaration boxes have been ticked.
5. Upload any required documents, if relevant, such as medical reports to support a request for reasonable adjustments for the test.
6. You will receive an email confirming that you have successfully submitted your application.
7. Log in to your application to check all details are accurate and to add documents, make changes or send and receive messages to and from the Team.

Apply **once only** for the same student. You can correct any errors you make in your application.

Parent details

If possible, provide a second email address.

Keep your contact details up-to-date by logging in to your application using the email address you registered and the password you used to apply.

It is vital that you enter at least one mobile phone number as SMS is used to alert parents to any delays on test day.

Where parents live at the same address as the student

Record the details of the other parent in the application if they are likely to contact the Team or if they are entitled to make 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 child, the parent who lives at the same address as the child for most of the time should submit the application.

If the child lives with each parent for equal time, the parent with whom the child is staying at the time applications are open should apply. The other parent can be added to the application and can ask to receive information about the child's application. **Please do not attempt to submit two different applications for the same child.**

The Team will not participate in parental disputes. The Team will accept decisions about school choices and placement made by the parent who applied, 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

It is your responsibility to check and correct or make changes to your application if required. Log in to your application dashboard to check all details are accurate and to add documents or make changes. Some changes, such as requests for adjustments for disability, changes of school choice, submission of illness/misadventure requests and appeals, will be restricted to certain dates as listed on Page 2.

Applying without internet access

If you have no internet access at home please seek the assistance of your child's school to facilitate your application. If you have a disability that prevents you from using a computer, please contact the Team for assistance.

The option to receive mailed correspondence is not available. If you cannot access email regularly, please ask a friend, or family member, or your child's school to assist, or contact the Team.

Supporting documents

Please ensure you upload copies of the following supporting documents to your application at the time of applying or as soon as possible afterwards if any of these apply to your child:

- Information about the reasonable adjustments that may be required to sit the test. This may include information about a student's disability, including medical or behavioural condition. Find further information at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/application-process/reasonable-adjustments-for-the-test>
- A copy of court orders if they relate to this child's education or communication about the child.
- An explanation of why the child is older or younger than the usual age range for Year 4, or not in Year 4 in 2022.
- A Report of academic merit, required for interstate or overseas students who cannot sit the test in NSW. This report must include a full WISC V report with a reliable full scale IQ score, and standardised reading and mathematics test results.
- The Team may need to confirm your child's Aboriginal background if school records do not confirm it. Find information about confirming Aboriginality at: <https://aiatsis.gov.au/family-history/you-start/proof-aboriginality>

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

How should I select my first and second choices?

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 and in your preferred order. Offers are made on the basis of your order of choice. Where students qualify for both schools, they will be offered only their first choice of school.

Schools do not select students based on whether their school was chosen first or second. Selections for each school are based on the academic merit of the students for that 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 by visiting their [websites](#). The selection committee does not consider your child's travel times or transport needs.

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>

It is important to note that Maryland Public School is located in the Newcastle area, not in the Sydney suburb of Merrylands.

Changing your school choice

You can change your school choices before **Sunday 7 August 2022** by logging in to your application. You cannot change choices after 7 August 2022 unless something unexpected and outside your control changes, for which you must have documentary evidence. A request for a change of choice after 7 August 2022 must be approved by the Team.

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?

For placement in 2023, students will be ranked in order of merit with special consideration being given to maintaining equity of access on the grounds of educational disadvantage, Aboriginal background, rural and remote status, and disability. Academic merit is based mainly on the results of the Opportunity Class Placement Test.

School information

NSW public schools

Principals will be asked to verify student information and provide information about reasonable adjustments for disability and any other special considerations including Aboriginality.

NSW non-government schools

If your child is at a NSW non-government school, a 'Principal's page for provision of information' is emailed to you as soon as you submit your application. You must give it to the principal within seven days of applying so the principal can supply the information by 3 June 2022.

If your child currently attends a non-government school, it is your responsibility to liaise with the school to ensure that the 'Principal's page for provision of information' is completed and received by the Team by **Friday 3 June 2022**.

What do I need to know about the test?

The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be held from **9:00 am to 11:40 am on Thursday 28 July 2022**. **The test will be conducted** in public primary schools for candidates attending those schools and in external test centres for students attending non-government schools.

Test authority

On **Thursday 14 July 2022** you will be sent a 'Test Authority' letter that provides information about where your child will sit the test.

Your child must take a printed copy of the 'Test authority' letter to the test. Parents should not expect to be able to show the 'Test authority' on their mobile phone to a test supervisor.

You will also receive a document 'Test information for parents and students'. This provides details about the test and what your child should bring. It also tells students how to show answers.

Students enrolled in public schools will usually be tested in their own schools. Students from the same non-government school will usually attend the same external test centre along with home schooled, interstate and overseas students. It is usually not possible to change test centres after they are allocated.

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

If you have not received your 'Test Authority' letter by **Monday 18 July 2022**, please log in to your application and send a message to the Team.

Opportunity Class Placement Test

Test format

The 2022 Opportunity Class Placement Test will be paper-based. There will be three tests conducted on the one day, consisting of Reading, Mathematical reasoning and Thinking skills, in that order. The tests are designed to measure ability rather than academic performance.

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

Students record their answers on an answer sheet for each test that is later scanned by a computer. Students bring their own 2B lead pencil, sharpener and eraser to the test centre. Students use a pencil to show their answers. Some students may require adjustments to show their answers.

Important: If your child does not follow instructions and marks the answers on the question booklet instead of the answer sheet, the answers will not be counted.

If your child marks a series of answers on the wrong lines on the answer sheet, the misalignment cannot be corrected.

Sample timetable

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

Activity	Time
Parents transport candidates to test centre	by 9.00 am
Administration	9.00 am – 9.30 am
Test 1 – Reading (30 minutes)	9.30 am – 10.00 am
Test papers collected Break (candidates remain in test centre)	10.00 am – 10.10 am
Test 2 – Mathematical reasoning (40 minutes)	10.10 am – 10.50 am
Test papers collected Break (candidates remain in test centre)	10.50 am - 11.00 am
Test 3 – Thinking skills (30 minutes)	11.00 am – 11.30 am
Test papers collected	11.30 am – 11.40 am
Candidates dismissed	11.40 am

Malpractice

The Department has robust measures to identify student malpractice for the Opportunity Class Placement Test. These measures are to ensure that no student receives an unfair advantage, or causes disadvantage to other students. Find out more about malpractice at:

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

If malpractice is found, parents are notified and are given an opportunity to appeal the decision. If the decision is upheld, students will not receive their opportunity class test performance report and will not be eligible for placement.

Practice tests

Sample questions for the test are published on the Department's [website](#) to help your child practise answering the questions on the sample answer sheet. The sample test questions are indicative of the test questions provided in the test and may not reflect your child's performance on the actual test.

These samples are provided only to allow students to become familiar with the test format and style of questions. The selection committee will not make any decisions based on your child's practice test score or any other unauthorised tests.

Children with disability

Reasonable adjustments are practical arrangements designed to allow students to access and participate in the test on the same basis as students without a disability, in accordance with the national [Disability Standards for Education \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://www.nsw.gov.au).

On the application, parents must disclose information about a child's disability, including a medical or behavioural condition that could affect his or her safety or performance during the test, or that might require a life-saving response.

If your child requires an adjustment during the placement test, this must be noted on the application.

Information that parents and schools provide about a child's disability is used for approving reasonable adjustments for the test.

The Team sends advice to principals and invigilators in test centres to ensure the approved adjustments are appropriately implemented.

Information parents provide regarding their child's disability cannot be used to restrict access to opportunity class placement in any way.

If you believe your child requires adjustments for the test you will need to explain your child's needs in detail in the application (such as exact font size if requesting large print) and upload evidence and other relevant documents to your application.

You can also add supporting documentation after submitting your application up until **Wednesday 18 May 2022**.

The Team may contact you and/or the school to confirm the existing adjustments the student has at school. In many cases, if the requested adjustments are already provided at school, the Team can arrange for these in the test. This may include adjustments such as large print test papers, extra time, specific seating and approval to take medications into the test room.

You do not need to make arrangements for your child to bring glasses or asthma medication. These are automatically allowed for any student.

It is vital parents let the Team know about any medical condition that may affect their child's safety in the test so appropriate adjustments can be approved.

If your child has a disability requiring adjustments to the testing environment to maintain optimal testing conditions for all, separate supervision arrangements may be considered. This needs to be noted on the application.

Any reasonable adjustments granted to students will be confirmed along with test authority advice sent to parents on 14 July 2022.

The Team tries to assist in emergency situations (e.g. a broken arm just prior to the test). However, some adjustments may not be able to be arranged after **Wednesday 18 May 2022**.

What happens if something goes wrong?

If your child sits the test but is sick or injured or an event affects **performance on the test**, you must get a medical certificate or other evidence for the test day.

To make a request for special consideration of illness/misadventure, log in to your application dashboard and submit the request by **Thursday 4 August 2022** including a file containing relevant evidence.

It is better for the student to sit the test and make an illness/misadventure request afterwards. However, students **must not** attend the test if there is a risk to their health or the health of others, such as in cases of contact with contagious disease.

Students with signs of respiratory illness will not be admitted to the test centre.

If your child is unable to sit the test

If your child was prevented from sitting the test for a good reason you can make a request for special consideration of illness/misadventure based on **missing the test**.

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

To make a request for special consideration of illness/misadventure based on **missing the test**, go to your application dashboard and submit the request by **Thursday 4 August 2022**. A limited number of places are made available to students who miss the test.

You cannot make an appeal later about illness or misadventure that should have been raised in the week immediately after the test.

Further information about the illness/misadventure process can be found at:

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

If a problem such as sickness or an accident stops your child from doing his or her best in the test or if your child missed the test you can submit an illness/misadventure request in your application dashboard by **Thursday 4 August 2022**.

How are decisions made?

The selection committee will make placement decisions. The selection committee considers all students for each school based on the order of academic merit. They consider:

- students from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds
- students of Aboriginal background
- students with disability and any personalised support needs
- students from rural and remote backgrounds
- illness/misadventure requests
- reasons for students being outside the usual age range or school year
- students from interstate or overseas with alternative evidence of academic merit
- any other relevant factors brought to their attention
- students to be listed for offers and reserve places according to the number of vacancies at the school, and
- other evidence of academic merit, if necessary.

How do I find out the placement outcome?

The Team expects to release your child's placement outcome overnight on **Friday 7 October 2022**. Your child may be:

- offered a place for one school choice, or
- placed on a reserve list for one or both school choices, or
- unsuccessful for one or both school choices, or a combination of two of the above.

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

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

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

If you have not received advice about the placement outcome by **Wednesday 12 October 2022**, please log in to your application dashboard and send a message to the Team.

Students are offered placements according to the available vacancies and based on their ranking in the order of merit list of students for that school.

The Team sends reports to NSW public schools listing the outcome for all their students who applied.

Responding to offers

If you receive an offer, please ensure you respond to the offer, by accepting or declining, by the due date. If you do not respond by the due date the Team will send a message or phone you to remind you to respond. If you fail to respond after this reminder, the offer will be lapsed.

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

If you will have no internet access when offers are made, you can advise the Team in writing that you wish to accept any offer in advance.

Being on a reserve list only

If your child is on a reserve list only, you will not need to respond unless you wish to withdraw your child from the list.

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

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 **late October 2022**.

Subsequent offers

If your child has been offered a place at your second choice school and is also on a reserve list for your first choice school, a subsequent offer will be made if his or her reserve position is reached. You must accept or decline the new offer. If you accept the subsequent offer, the original offer is automatically declined.

Note: The 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 Friday 27 January 2023**. 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 my child's scores?

Placement scores are not provided. An opportunity class test performance report will be available for you which will detail your child's performance on each of the tests as compared to the cohort of students who sat the test in 2022.

Results enquiry

The scanning of the test answer sheets for the Reading, Mathematical Reasoning and Thinking Skills tests is a rigorous and accurate process. The answer sheets are electronically scanned and any instance of a detected anomaly in an answer sheet is automatically sent for a manual review. This process ensures that test scoring has an extremely high degree of accuracy and opportunities for error are rare.

If you believe there was an error in the processing of your child's result based on your outcome, you can submit a Results enquiry within 5 days of the outcome release from the Results enquiry section at:

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

The link will only be available only when Results enquiries are open.

Can I appeal the placement outcome?

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

You may also appeal if your child is not yet a permanent resident of Australia but you have documentary evidence that permanent residency will be granted imminently or that there are other compelling grounds for the permanent residency requirement to be waived.

Appeals must be submitted by **Friday 14 October 2022** via the link in your application dashboard.

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

Parents will be advised whether or not their appeal is made on valid grounds. Further details about grounds for appeal can be found at:

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

Can my offer be cancelled?

If you do not respond to an offer by the due date the Team will send a message or phone you reminding you to respond. If there is no response, the offer will be lapsed and will pass to the next student on the reserve list.

If your child does not satisfy all requirements, such as permanent residency, or does not attend to finalise enrolment on the first day of school without a satisfactory explanation, the offer will be cancelled.

Offers will also be cancelled if they are found to be based on false or misleading information.

What do I need to do to enrol?

If you accept an offer you will receive an 'Authority to attend' letter in late January 2023. 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 show original documents 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 public school with an opportunity class. Schools may ask for materials and voluntary contributions as do other public 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/primary-school-enrolment>

If you need to delay your child's starting date beyond the first day of the school year, you must negotiate 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 24 February 2023**.

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 are ranked highly 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 communicate only with the parents or carers listed on the application. If you want other people to discuss your child's application with the Team, advise the Team in writing to authorise others 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.

If relevant court orders apply, upload a copy to your application dashboard so the Team can comply with them.

The Team does not correspond with students or speak to them on the telephone. Please ensure your login details are kept secure and shared only with authorised parents or carers.

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.

Support for Aboriginal students can also be obtained from Aboriginal Education staff and the principal of your child's school.

Find out about programs offered by specific schools by visiting their websites.

Find updated information about the opportunity class placement procedures at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>

Contacts

Contact the Team by:

- logging in to your [application dashboard](#) to send and receive messages and to upload documents
- Phone: 1300 880 367. The phone system has updates at key stages of placement. If you need help with English to make your enquiry please call the telephone interpreter service on 131450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. Tell the operator that you want to call 1300 880 367 and they will get an interpreter on the line to help you. You will not be charged for this service.
- Joining the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/159342048077050/> Note: This page is used mainly to provide information and not to respond to requests.
- Use email only as requested by the High Performing Students Team.

Frequently asked questions

1. Must I list two schools in the application?

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

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 highest ranked school choice.

The selection committee does not select students based on whether parents chose a school first or second. Selection is made on the basis of academic merit.

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

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

Parents of students from non-government schools must ask the principal to complete the 'Principal's page for provision of information' (emailed with their application confirmation) and then must ensure it is returned to the Team by **Friday 3 June 2022**.

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

You will be sent 'Test authority' advice and a test information bulletin two weeks before the test day.

Practice questions for the test are published on the Department's website 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 perform the same in the test. Selection committee and appeals panels will not make any decision based on your child's performance on practice test items.

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

5. What happens if my child is sick or injured on the day of the placement test?

It is recommended that the student should attempt the test rather than miss it if possible. To

make an illness/misadventure request, go to your [application dashboard](#) and submit the request by **Thursday 4 August 2022**.

You will need your child to see a doctor and obtain a medical certificate covering the day of the test. If your child is unable to sit the test because of illness, ask the doctor to complete the 'Independent evidence of illness'.

All illness/misadventure requests are to be submitted no later than **Thursday 4 August 2022**. The selection committee will then consider the student's illness/misadventure request as part of the selection process.

You will not be able to appeal on the grounds of illness or misadventure after the placement outcome information is released.

6. 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 make a change of choice without explanation up until **Sunday 7 August 2022** in your application dashboard.

After this date there must be extenuating circumstances which are serious and well documented for a change to be considered. Any change after 7 August 2022 must be approved. Changes of choice based on the fact that the student did not qualify for the original choices will not be approved.

7. What are reserve lists?

Reserve lists are lists of students whose ranking is not quite high enough to gain an initial offer but are high enough to be on a waiting list if any vacancies arise. The selection committee decides the students who will receive offers and those who will be placed on reserve lists. Students who have been offered places for a particular school will have higher rankings than those who are on the reserve list or are unsuccessful for that school.

8. How does the reserve list work?

You will be told if your child is on a reserve list and there will be information available to let you know whether the student in that position last year was offered a place.

If you accept an offer and are also on the reserve list, you can remain on that reserve list until **5pm on Friday 27 January 2023**. 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.

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

Students who are unsuccessful cannot be placed on a reserve list because their rank was not high enough. Students cannot be placed on reserve lists for schools which were not listed as choices in their application.

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

The Opportunity Class Placement Test is designed to measure intellectual ability. The test helps to identify students for entry into opportunity classes on the basis of academic merit. The test is more difficult than other school assessments because it is designed to identify and rank high performing students. It is not 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.

11. 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 parents of 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.

12. 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 higher choice school until **5pm on Friday 27 January 2023**. 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.

13. 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 high potential and gifted students. As there is approximately one place for every seven applicants, not all students can be placed. Be supportive and explain to your child that he or she can be very successful at the local primary school. Students from public 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 seek opportunity class placement.

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

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

Schools with opportunity classes are not zoned. The selection committee does not consider travelling times and transport arrangements when offering places.

Public schools with Year 5 opportunity classes in 2023

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

School

ARMIDALE CITY

Faulkner St, Armidale

ALEXANDRIA PARK +

Park Rd, Alexandria

ALSTONVILLE

Main St, Alstonville

ARTARMON

McMillan Rd, Artarmon

ASHFIELD

Liverpool Rd, Ashfield

AURORA COLLEGE ◊

(virtual provision)

BALGOWLAH HEIGHTS

Lewis St, Balgowlah Heights

BALMAIN

Eaton St, Balmain

BATHURST WEST

Suttor St, Bathurst

BEECROFT

Beecroft Rd, Beecroft

BIRABAN

Beckley St, Toronto

BLACKTOWN SOUTH

Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown

BLAXCELL STREET

Blaxcell St, Granville

BLAXLAND EAST

Old Bathurst Rd, Blaxland

BRADBURY

Jacaranda Ave, Bradbury

CAMDEN SOUTH

Old Hume Hwy, Camden South

CARINGBAH NORTH

Cawarra Rd, Caringbah

CASULA

De Meyrick Ave, Casula

CESSNOCK WEST

Cnr Campbell St and Wollombi Rd, Cessnock

CHATSWOOD

Centennial Ave, Chatswood

COLYTON

Nelson St, Mount Druitt

COONABARABRAN

Newell Hwy, Coonabarabran

CUDGEGONG VALLEY

Madeira Rd, Mudgee

DUBBO WEST

East St, Dubbo

DURAL

Old Northern Rd, Dural

School

EARLWOOD

Homer St, Earlwood

ERMINGTON

Winbourne St, West Ryde

GEORGES HALL

Pennington Ave, Georges Hall

GOONELLABAH

Ballina Rd, Goonellabah

GOSFORD

Faunce St West, West Gosford

GOULBURN WEST

Combermere St, Goulburn

GREENACRE

Waterloo Rd, Greenacre

GREYSTANES

Merrylands Rd, Greystanes

HARRINGTON STREET

Harrington St, Cabramatta

HOLSWORTHY

Infantry Pde, Holsworthy

HURSTVILLE

Forest Rd, Hurstville

ILLAROO ROAD

Illaroo Rd, Nowra

IRONBARK RIDGE

Ironbark Ridge Rd, Rouse Hill

JEWELLS

Lepton Pde, Jewells

KINGSWOOD

Second Ave, Kingswood

LEUMEAH

Burrendong Rd, Leumeah

LITHGOW

Mort St, Lithgow

MARYLAND

John T Bell Dr, Maryland, Newcastle

MATTHEW PEARCE

Astoria Park Rd, Baulkham Hills

MONA VALE

Waratah St, Mona Vale

MOREE

Albert St, Moree

NEUTRAL BAY

Ben Boyd Rd, Neutral Bay

NEWBRIDGE HEIGHTS

Cnr Lewin & Magree Cres, Chipping Norton

NEW LAMBTON SOUTH

St James Rd, New Lambton

NORTH ROCKS

North Rocks Rd, North Rocks

PICNIC POINT

Prince & Thomas St, Picnic Point

School

PORT MACQUARIE

Grant St, Port Macquarie

QUAKERS HILL

Medlow Dr, Quakers Hill

QUEANBEYAN SOUTH

Cameron Rd, Queanbeyan

RICHMOND

Windsor St, Richmond

RUTHERFORD

Weblands St, Rutherford

RYDE

Pope St, Ryde

SMITHFIELD

O'Connell St, Smithfield

SOLDIERS POINT

Cromarty Rd, Soldiers Point

SOUTH GRAFTON

Vere St, South Grafton

ST ANDREWS

Ballantrae Dr, St Andrews

ST JOHNS PARK

Sandringham St, St Johns Park

STURT

White Ave, Wagga Wagga

SUMMER HILL

Moonbie St, Summer Hill

SUTHERLAND

Eton St, Sutherland

TAHMOOR

Bronzewing St, Tahmoor

TAMWORTH

Napier St, Tamworth

TAMWORTH SOUTH

Petra Ave, Tamworth

TIGHES HILL

Elizabeth St, Tighes Hill

TOORMINA

Cavanba Rd, Toormina

WAITARA

Edgeworth David Ave, Wahroonga

WENTWORTH FALLS

Falls Rd, Wentworth Falls

WILKINS

Park Rd, Marrickville

WOLLONGONG

Church St, Wollongong

WOOLLAHRA

Forth St, Woollahra

WYONG

Cutler Dr, Wyong

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

◊ Only students who would be enrolled in Year 5 in a public school in a rural and remote area (excluding areas where there is a current OC provision) in 2023 may apply for Aurora College, the virtual opportunity class.