

STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL

IN 2022



Government of South Australia
Department for Education



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The transition to secondary school is a major milestone. It brings changes and new experiences in education, personal development and planning for future pathways.

South Australian government secondary schools offer a wide range of subjects, programs, activities and opportunities to meet the interests and talents of young people.

This brochure explains the department's statewide transition process and the different government school options available.

In general, year 7 public school students will be taught in secondary school from term 1, 2022.

This means most families of year 6 and year 7 students will be applying for and enrolling in secondary schools through the department's statewide transition process.

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WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

Choose a school

Decide which secondary school to register your interest for:

- your child's local/zoned school
- a special interest school or a specific program in a school
- a specialised education option for a child with disability
- a non-local/out-of-zone school.

It's a good idea to visit your local/zoned secondary school/s, at an open day, principal's tour or information evening. Schools have more detailed information on their websites or you can view upcoming events at www.education.sa.gov.au/opendays

Local/zoned secondary school

In South Australia, most metropolitan secondary schools are zoned. A school zone is a defined area from which the school accepts its core intake of students.

Your child's permanent primary residential address determines their local/zoned school.

Families living in metropolitan Adelaide can check their school zone for 2022 at:

www.education.sa.gov.au/findaschool

Note

For families in outer metropolitan Adelaide living in an unzoned school area, students will be allocated to their closest government secondary school or the school that is serviced by a Department for Education (the department) provided school bus service.

When a student resides 5 kilometres or more from their nearest government secondary school or a provided school bus service, they may be eligible for a student travel allowance payment.

Shared zones

Some schools have a shared zone or shared areas, allowing students living in this zone to nominate a preferred local school.

If demand from families living in the shared zone or area is more than the places available, children may be allocated to either school.

Capacity management plans

Some schools have capacity management plans in place, which is one of the strategies the department uses to support government schools that have more demand for enrolment than available places. Further information can be found on the department's website at www.education.sa.gov.au/cmp

For secondary schools with a capacity management plan or separate enrolment criteria, only those students who meet the enrolment criteria are considered.

Non-local/out-of-zone secondary school

All government secondary schools aim to have enough places to accept students in their local/zoned area.

Depending on the availability of places, some schools may have the ability to offer enrolment to students from outside the local/zoned area.

You can register interest to attend up to 3 non-local/out-of-zone schools on your registration of interest form, in order of preference.

When demand from families is more than the available places, applications are assessed and allocated points based on:

- distance from the child's home to the school
- curriculum opportunities not available at the local/zoned school (not including selective entry special interest programs)
- social or family links to the school
- transport and location needs.

It's important to also include the reason/s why you are applying for a non-local/out-of-zone school, or if you live in a shared zone nominating your preferred local/zoned school on your registration of interest form.

If your child currently goes to a combined school (eg reception to year 12), you can stay at that school or apply for another secondary school.

In some cases, the department gives automatic entry to a child living outside the local/zoned area during this process. This includes children with an older sibling at the school at the same time*, Aboriginal children and children in care with a custody or guardianship order.

Read further how placements are determined at www.education.sa.gov.au/enrolment

* excludes siblings who entered through a selective entry special interest program

Special interest schools or programs

While all schools provide the Australian Curriculum, some schools also offer students a particular focus program on a specific interest or talent, such as languages, music, arts and sports.

Entry into a special interest program is managed directly by the school, and can include a selective entry process with an audition, test or interview the year before starting at the school. Please contact the secondary school or visit their website for more information about their programs and application process.

There is no longer automatic entry for future siblings of students selected to enrol and participate in a special interest program.

Students from country schools can apply to a special interest school or program. However, if selected, the family is responsible for accommodation and travel arrangements.

Even if you have accepted a place in a special interest school or program, you are still required to complete the registration of interest form and provide a copy of the acceptance letter from the school, so your details can be registered by the department.

If you are looking for an all girls' education, please contact Mitcham Girls High School or Roma Mitchell Secondary Campus – Girl's Education Campus for further details.

Australian Science and Mathematics School (ASMS)

ASMS is for year 10 to 12 students interested in science and mathematics. Further information and registration of interest forms are available from www.asms.sa.edu.au

Country special interest schools and programs

Some country secondary schools specialise in particular areas such as agriculture, aquaculture or viticulture. If you are interested in a specialist program, please contact the school or visit the relevant school's website for their enrolment criteria.

The South Australian Rural Student Accommodation program provides affordable full board, hostel-style accommodation for secondary students to live away from home. For information about boarding options please contact Cleve Area School, Lucindale Area School or Burra Community School.

Specialised education options for students with disability

All families are required to complete this registration of interest form, even if you are applying for a specialised education option. Some students with disability may meet eligibility for a special class, disability unit or special school.

If you wish to explore a specialised education option, please contact your primary school for support in this process.

There are other specialised education options for students with specific disabilities. These include the Centres for Deaf Education, Kilparrin Specialist School (vision and/or hearing impaired, with additional needs) and SA School for Vision Impaired. There is a separate enrolment process for these centres.



COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION

Currently attending a government primary school

Step 1

Make sure your child's primary school has your current email address and your child's correct residential address.

If there is a change to your child's residential address or your email address, please contact your primary school as soon as possible, so they can update your details.

You will need to supply proof of residence documents if you want to make any changes to the address details on the registration of interest form.

Further information on proof of residence is available at www.education.sa.gov.au/enrolment

Step 2

Complete and submit the online registration of interest form:

- your primary school will send you an email or letter with the unique URL for your child
- complete all mandatory fields
- once you have completed a page click on the 'NEXT' button
- once you have filled out all pages click the 'SUBMIT' button by **21 May 2021**.

Paper forms will be available from your public primary school if you cannot access the internet.

Tip: Click on the  button on the online form for additional information and clarification.

Remember

- The link to this unique form has been sent to each person who has legal responsibility for your child.
- It is important that parents reach agreement about which secondary school/s you want to nominate for your child before you complete the registration of interest form, as only one form can be submitted for each child.
- If you need to make changes after you have submitted the online registration of interest form, you will need to contact your primary school.

Currently attending a non-government school

Step 1

Children who are currently enrolled at a non-government school (eg Catholic or Independent) can contact their local government secondary school, local education office, or email education.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au for a PDF copy of the registration of interest form.

Step 2

The www.education.sa.gov.au/findaschool tool will help you to find your child's local/zoned school and other nearby government secondary schools. If your local/zoned school is your choice, select yes in section 3 on your registration of interest form.

Step 3

You will need to supply proof of residence documents when you submit the form to the department. Refer to www.education.sa.gov.au/enrolment for further information.

Step 4

Return the completed form and proof of residence documents by **Friday 21 May 2021** to: education.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au

or send to:

**Statewide Transition Team
Department for Education
Level 10, 31 Flinders Street
Adelaide South Australia 5000**

HOW OFFERS ARE ALLOCATED

Offers for enrolment

Offers are made in the order of schools you nominate on your child's registration of interest form.

Families will receive an offer from their final allocated secondary school on or by **13 August 2021**.

You should accept the offer by the date indicated by the school, to make sure your offer does not lapse.

To secure your place, you must follow the enrolment instructions provided by the school. This may include completing the school's enrolment form, attending the school in person and providing requested documentation, such as evidence of proof of residence.

Note: accepting an offer will not prevent your child from being considered in later offers, if applicable, or selective entry special interest program offers from other schools (eg round 2 offers).

If you choose not to accept an offer, please inform the secondary school and government primary school, if applicable, as soon as possible.

Allocation to secondary school

Every effort is made by the department to place students in a nominated secondary school from your registration of interest. However, when the number of applications exceeds the places available at the school, this is not always possible. When this is the case, students may be allocated to one of the other schools nominated or their zoned/local school.

If your allocated secondary school is not your first choice, the offer for enrolment will also include review information.

Allocation review process

If you believe there are grounds, you can request a review of the allocation by submitting the allocation review form with any additional information. The review request needs to contain evidence not provided in your original registration of interest form. The review process will not allow for changes to your original nominated schools, unless there is evidence explaining why the allocated school is no longer a suitable option.

To request a review of the outcome of a selective special interest school or program, you must contact the school directly.

The review process is not applicable for secondary schools with their own enrolment criteria or capacity management plan, unless there is evidence that a special consideration was missed in the original registration of interest. Special consideration is only provided in exceptional circumstances.

Requests for a review must be lodged with the Statewide Transition Team at education.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au by **5pm Friday 27 August 2021**.

Requests received after this date will not be accepted.

ENQUIRIES AND COMMON QUESTIONS

If you have questions not answered here in this brochure, please contact your primary school for advice or email education.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au

Common questions

Q: Where can I find opening dates and principal tours and times for secondary schools?

A: You can view upcoming open days and principals tours at www.education.sa.gov.au/opendays

Q: When will I find out where I have been accepted for secondary school?

A: Students will receive their enrolment offers on or by **Friday 13 August 2021**.

Q: What if I miss out on my nominated schools?

A: You will be allocated to a local/zoned school.

Students who miss out on their first, second and/or third nominations will be placed on each of the secondary school's waiting lists, if they have one. Waiting lists are managed directly by schools and to ensure the process is fair and equitable, parents will not be advised of their position on the waiting list.

Note: there is no non-local/out-of-zone waiting list for schools with a capacity management plan.

Q: What can I do if I am dissatisfied with my allocation?

A: You can request a review of the process by completing the review form provided by your allocated secondary school.

Q: When will I be notified of my review outcome?

A: Families will be notified of the review outcome on or by **Friday 17 September 2021**. If the review is successful, your position on the waiting list, if they have one, may be amended. This review does not guarantee entry to the school.

Q: What happens after the statewide transition process has closed?

A: After this process closes each year, schools will take late applications directly. Late applicants may have limited opportunity to attend a non-local/out of zone secondary school or a secondary school with a capacity management plan.

Q: Can an offer for enrolment be withdrawn by a secondary school?

A: If the offer for enrolment was based on false or misleading information, or the child no longer meets the school's enrolment criteria for a place, the principal may reconsider the offer for enrolment prior to the start of the school year.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

We respect the confidentiality of information provided through the statewide transition process for students starting secondary school.

While the provision of this information is voluntary, if you do not provide all or any of this information, it may limit our ability to help you enrol in a government secondary school.

The South Australian Government Information Privacy Principles (see www.dpc.sa.gov.au/documents/rendition/DPC-Circular-Information-Privacy-Principles-IPPS-Instruction.pdf) apply to personal information collected by the department through this transition process. All personal information is collected for the primary purpose of coordinating potential secondary school enrolment applications in South Australian government schools. It is used for the purpose of student administration, communication, consideration of secondary school nominations, planning, student welfare and other matters relating to the coordination of the transition process. The information will be used for the primary purpose stated above and will be stored securely by the department. We may also use your personal information for secondary purposes closely related to the primary purpose, in circumstances where you would reasonably expect such use or disclosure.

Unless required to do so by a federal or state law, or as permitted by the Information Privacy Principles or the South Australian Government's 'Information Sharing Guidelines for promoting safety and wellbeing' (available at www.ombudsman.sa.gov.au), the department will not otherwise disclose personal information to a third party, outside the purposes described above, without your consent.



