
STARTING SECONDARY

SCHOOL IN 2018 >



**Government
of South Australia**

Department for Education
and Child Development



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

The move from primary to secondary school is a major milestone for your child and it is a time of big changes in their development, education and life. Our South Australian government schools offer a wide range of subjects, programs, activities and opportunities to meet the interests and talents of young people.

This brochure aims to provide you with key information about the transition process, and outline the different government school options to assist you in this choice.

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CHOOSING A SCHOOL

Your first step is deciding which school your child would like to attend:

- your local school
- a special interest school or a specific program in a school
- a special class, unit or school for a child with a disability
- a non-local school.

Local school (zoned)

In South Australia, all government secondary schools in metropolitan areas, and some country schools, are zoned. Your child's residential address determines which school is your designated local school.

If your child is currently a year 7 student attending a government primary school you will receive an application pack from your school. In this pack, you will find a 'registration of interest for placement in year 8' form which will list your designated local (zoned) school.

Families residing in the greater metropolitan area may be located in an 'unzoned' area. Students who live in unzoned areas will be allocated to their closest school. Where the student lives more than 5 kilometres from the nearest school and lives in an 'unzoned' area, the allocated school is the school serviced by a DECD-provided school bus service.

We encourage you to personally visit your local secondary school, perhaps on an open day, principal's tour or information evening, to help you decide on a secondary school. You can find out more by visiting the relevant school's website or calling the school directly.

Please note: if there is a record error with your residential address please contact your primary school, which can produce a corrected application form. Please be aware that changing your address will require the necessary proof of your residential address to your primary school. Please refer to 'Proof of residence' section (page 7) for further information.

Currently in a non-government school

If your child is in year 7 and is not currently attending a government school, you can obtain an application pack, including the 'registration of interest for placement in year 8' form online at www.sa.gov.au. This website also provides links to high school zones to determine your local zoned school. All 'registration of interest for placement in year 8' forms must provide proof of residence with the application. Please refer to 'Proof of residence' section (page 7) for further information.

If you need assistance in determining your local school, please email DECD.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au

If you would like your child to go to your local (zoned) school, please select 'Yes' in Section 3 of the 'registration of interest for placement in year 8' form.

Special interest schools or programs

While all government secondary schools provide the same core curriculum, some of our schools provide a secondary education that focuses on a specific interest or talent.

There are many secondary schools that offer specialised programs in music, language, sport, drama, dance and the arts (gifted and talented and the International Baccalaureate). Additionally in country areas there are many specialised programs, including agriculture, aquaculture or viticulture. For parents looking for different learning options there are also schools that offer same-sex campuses and vocational education.

The criteria for enrolment into these specialised programs are usually coordinated by the school itself. This may include an examination, performance or audition for special entry to the school in year 7. These usually occur over terms 1 and 2, and parents are informed directly by the school if their child has been successful in gaining entry.

Please contact the secondary school directly or access their website for further information about programs available.

Students applying for enrolment at schools offering specialised programs:

- should include the schools under Section 4 on their 'registration of interest for placement in year 8' form, in order of choice – this will ensure that a place continues to be allocated for your child at their local (zoned) school if your child is unsuccessful in obtaining a special interest placement
- may be accepted at a non-local (out-of-zone) school but not accepted in the specialised courses or programs offered at the school
- may be successful in more than 1 enrolment application – these students will be contacted by DECD and will be asked to select which school they would like to attend.

If you are interested in a specialist school or program, please contact the school directly, or access the school's promotional material or website for their enrolment criteria.

Australian Science and Mathematics School (ASMS)

As enrolment to ASMS is for years 10 to 12, registrations of interest for ASMS cannot be made through the year 7 to 8 transition process and are managed directly by the school. For further information or a copy of ASMS' registration of interest form please visit their website at www.asms.sa.edu.au.



Vocational education

The vocational education and training (VET) pathways offered at schools encourage students to work towards completing VET qualifications while undertaking the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).

VET pathways in schools allow students in years 10-12 to:

- develop skills for the workforce
- develop an understanding of the workforce
- get training in industry-specific skills
- gain credit towards a nationally recognised qualification such as a certificate, diploma or advanced diploma while undertaking their SACE.

If your child is interested in a particular VET pathway, please talk to the career advisor or equivalent within the school of your choice or visit the school's website for further information.

Country special interest schools and programs

Country schools offer a wide range of high-quality curricula and programs. Some schools specialise in particular areas for example agriculture, aquaculture or viticulture. You should contact schools in your local area for further information about specialist programs available in country South Australia.

Students who are currently enrolled in primary school classes in country areas are also eligible to apply for entry to any special interest school or program. However, for country students who attend metropolitan schools, the responsibility for accommodation and travel arrangements lies with parents.

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.



A special option for a child with a disability

Some secondary schools offer special options to cater for the additional learning and support needs of students with a disability. Students entering secondary school via a placement in a special class need to meet the criteria for special options consideration and the parents need to sign and consent to the special options placement process.

The special options process is managed through a statewide panel and is chaired by key personnel from local offices.

There are also educational options for students with a disability who require highly specialised settings to address developmental, communication, mobility and/or sensory needs eg Centres for Hearing Impaired and SA School for Vision Impaired. Separate processes exist for placement in these settings.

If your child is being considered for a special option, then a 'request to investigate enrolment in a special education option - SE01' form and supporting documentation needs to be completed by the parent and the primary school.

Your primary school will forward this information on to the relevant special options placement panel. The placement panels meet in the same week across the state to ensure all requests are treated consistently and equitably. Offers of placement are made to parents and students directly by the panel.

Year 7 students with a disability will also need to complete a 'registration of interest for placement in year 8' form including those who already have applied for or have a confirmed place in a special class, disability unit or special school.



Registration of interest for non-local schools (out-of-zone)

Every secondary school aims to have enough spaces available to cater for demand from students living in their local (zoned) area.

However, depending on the availability of spaces, some schools may accept some students from outside of their local (zoned) area. You may have many reasons why you would like your child to attend a school that is not your local school.

You are able to register your interest in attending up to 3 different non-local schools on your 'registration of interest for placement in year 8' form, in order of choice.

To ensure a fair and reasonable process, your application is then assessed according to the DECD's criteria for allocation of points for out-of-zone applications. These include:

- distance from your child's residential address to the school (20 points max)
- specific non-core curriculum offerings (ie languages, music) that cannot be met at your child's local (zoned) school (4 points max)
- social/family links to the school (1 point max)
- transport/location convenience (1 point max)
- compelling or unusual reasons (supporting evidence should be attached to your 'registration of interest for placement in year 8' form).

To be allocated points it is important you provide reasons as well as select the category on your 'registration of interest for placement in year 8' form.

In some cases DECD gives special entry to some students living outside of the local (zoned) area. This includes students with a sibling already attending the school, students under the Guardianship of the Minister and students who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Please refer to Special Entry section on page 8 for further information.

If your child is not offered a place at their first choice school, your child will be considered for placement at their second-choice school, then at their third-choice school, if applicable.

If your child is not successful in gaining a place at one of their choices, you will be notified that they have been placed on a waiting list for your chosen schools and they will be offered a place if one becomes available.

If no places are available at any of the schools for which you have registered your interest, your child will be offered a place at your designated local (zoned) school.

Please note: This process does not apply to Adelaide High School, Glenunga International High School, Mark Oliphant College, Urrbrae Agricultural High School, Mitcham Girls High School, or Roma Mitchell Secondary College Girls Campus which have separate enrolment policies or a capacity management plan.

A capacity management plan outlines the requirements for enrolment at the school and may include some enrolment restrictions. Although you can place these schools as a choice on the 'registration of interest for placement in year 8' form, there is no allocation of points applied.

If you are applying for placement at a non-local school, please complete page 2 (Section 4) on your 'registration of interest for placement in year 8' form. You will need to indicate the reason/s why you would like your child to attend each choice school (see left).

RETURNING YOUR APPLICATION

Once you have selected your schools you need to complete and return the 'registration of interest for placement in year 8' form to your government primary school by **Friday 26 May 2017**.

If your child is currently attending a non-government primary school, you need to complete and return the 'registration of interest for placement in year 8' form by no later than **Friday 26 May 2017**, with all supporting documentation* to:

Year 7/8 Transition Team

Operations directorate
Level 6, 31 Flinders Street
Adelaide, South Australia 5000

Proof of residence or change of address

It is important that if you are updating your address on your application form provided to you by your government primary school or applying to a government secondary school from a non-government primary school, you include supporting documentation of proof of your child's residential address.

This documentation must include:

1. If the parent owns their home, a copy of the contract of sale for the property or a recent council rates notice, and a recent gas or electricity bill for that property

2. If the parent rents their home, a rental agreement and a bond receipt lodged with Consumer and Business Services showing the current place of residence. The rental agreement should cover at least the first 12 months the child will be attending the school, and a recent gas or electricity bill for that property.

Proof of residence is also required if you are applying for non-local school(s), as we need to confirm your child's residential address to maximise their distance points.

The renting of a room for your child, or rooms at a property, does not constitute a primary residence. Families must rent an entire property in order for it to be considered their primary residence.

If your child is living with a relative or friend, you will need to provide supporting documentation stating that the relative/friend is the legal guardian of the child. This documentation must include a Parenting Order from the Family Court, which states that the relative/friend is the formal full-time carer of the child. Generally statutory declarations are not considered to be sufficient documentation, although if you are unsure please talk to your primary school, or email DECD.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au

* Please refer to 'proof of residence' section for instructions about supporting documents that need to be submitted with your form.

SPECIAL ENTRY

Sibling

In many secondary schools, when a child has a sibling currently attending an out-of-zone school they are able to apply to attend that school. Half-brothers and sisters are blood relatives and are considered siblings. Step-brothers and sisters who are not blood relatives will be considered siblings if they reside at the same primary residence.

It is important to note that some secondary schools have specific enrolment criteria, where this rule is not applied. Please check with your preferred schools for more details.

If there is a break of more than 12 months in attendance at the school by the sibling, they are not considered currently attending. For example if a sibling completed year 12 in 2016 and the other sibling is starting year 8 in 2018, they would be considered for entry to the school, as the break is not more than 12 months.

If you are claiming a sibling at the school on your 'registration of interest for placement in year 8' form, you must photocopy and attach a copy of the student ID card of the sibling who currently attends the non-local (out-of-zone) school.

Students under the Guardianship of the Minister

Year 7 students who are confirmed by the Department for Child Protection as being under the Guardianship of the Minister may enrol and be accepted into any government secondary school of their choice in South Australia.

This initiative is to support these young people successfully transition to a secondary school, with the intent to increase their attendance and improve their educational achievements.

If you are a carer for a child under the Guardianship of the Minister, you and the child must meet with your primary school and the child's Department for Child Protection case manager to discuss the best options of attending a secondary school other than their local (zoned) school prior to completing your 'registration of interest for placement in year 8' form.

Enter for Success program – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

Year 7 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students may enrol and be accepted into any government secondary school of their choice in South Australia through the Enter for Success program.

This program aims to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to transition, attend and stay in a secondary school.

If you wish to apply for this program, you and your child should meet with your primary school to discuss the options of attending a secondary school other than your local (zoned) school through this program. Please return the completed 'Enter for Success program' form with your 'registration of interest for placement in year 8' form.

The Enter for Success program is only available to year 7 students who identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The program can only be accessed by students while they are in year 7.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

A: From individual school websites

Q: When will I find out where my child has been accepted for secondary school?

A: On or by Friday 18 August 2017, is when students will receive their acceptance packs

Q: What if my child misses out on their school of choice?

A: Your child will be allocated to their local (zoned) school.

Students who have missed out on their first, second and third choice schools will automatically be placed on each of the schools' waiting lists, if applicable. Each secondary school manages its own waiting list if they have one. Please note, to ensure that the process is fair and equitable, parents and students will not be notified about their ranked position on a waiting list.

Q: What documentation will I receive from my child's selected school?

A:

- ↳ a letter of welcome
- ↳ notification of year 8 enrolment
- ↳ a review form, if applicable.

Q: If I am unhappy about my child not receiving their first choice school, what can I do?

A: You can request a review of the process by completing a review form. You will receive this from the final school your child is allocated to.

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

A: Normal enrolment processes apply and you may contact secondary schools directly to discuss a placement for your child.

REVIEWS AND ENQUIRIES

Allocation reviews

Any review request must be made in writing and sent to DECD. We will convene a review panel to take into consideration additional evidence supplied that was not provided in your original application. This process does not allow for your original choice schools to be changed. This process does not cover a request for review of the outcome of a special interest school or programs. Special interest schools that have an appeal process will inform applicants directly of the review requirements when the outcome of their selection process is communicated.

If your review request is successful, the review panel may amend your points allocated to the non-local school and subsequently your position on the school's waiting list, although this does not mean entry to the school.

Further details about the review process and timelines will be included in your child's acceptance pack. Requests for review must be lodged by **Friday 1 September 2017**.

Enquiries

This brochure aims to answer your questions about your child's transition to secondary school. If you still have further queries, please contact the school your child is likely to attend to ask for advice, or email DECD.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au

PRIVACY STATEMENT

DECD is committed to respecting the confidentiality of information provided through the Starting Secondary School in 2018 transition process.

All personal information is collected for the purpose of coordinating potential year 8 enrolment applications in South Australia government schools. It will be used by DECD staff for student administration and communication, analysis of parental choices and planning, student welfare and other matters relating to the coordination of the transition process.

This information may be disclosed to other DECD staff or schools and as required by law. While the provision of this information is voluntary, if you do not provide all or any of this information it may limit our ability to promptly assist you in coordinating your child's future enrolment in a government secondary school.

The information provided through the transition process is stored securely in government schools and in DECD systems. The management of this information is governed by Australian, state and DECD policies to ensure that the information is used only for the purposes stated above and is secure, private and confidential.

The disclosure of personal information held by the government is regulated by the information privacy principles (<http://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/documents/rendition/B17711>). Unless required to do so by a law of the state or Commonwealth, or as permitted by the information privacy principles or in accordance with the SA government's information sharing: 'guidelines for promoting safety and wellbeing' (ISG) www.ombudsman.sa.gov.au, DECD will not otherwise disclose the information to others, outside the purpose described above, without your consent.





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