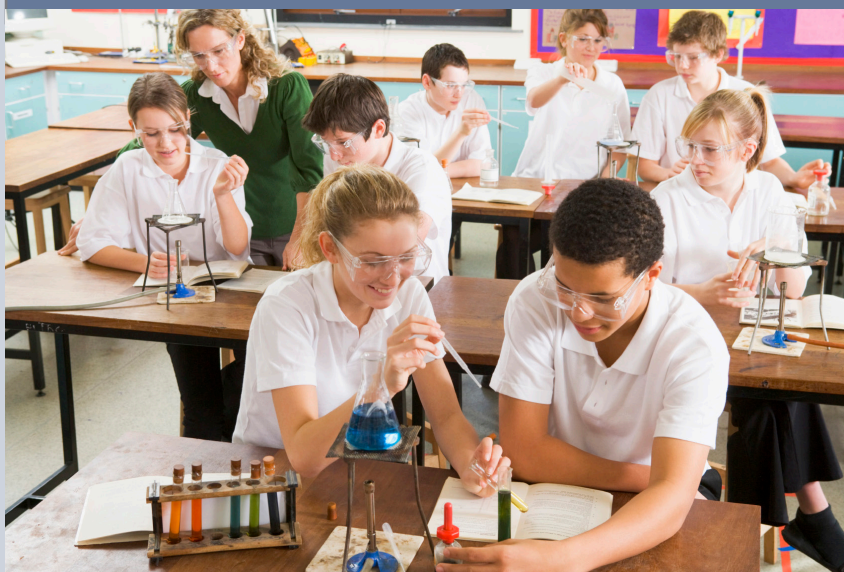


# Information about applying for Year 7 entry to selective high schools in

# 2017

## Thinking of applying for a government selective high school for Year 7 entry in 2017?

You must apply online at  
[www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement)



### Key dates

**Tuesday 13 October 2015**

Application website opens

**Monday 16 November 2015**

Application website closes

Late applications will not be accepted

**Thursday 25 February 2016**

Test authority letter sent by mail and email

**Thursday 10 March 2016**

Selective High School Placement Test

**Early July 2016**

Placement outcome information

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

There is more information at:  
[www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement)

The selective high school placement process for Year 7 entry is administered by the High Performing Students Unit<sup>^</sup>.

### Contact details

High Performing Students Unit

NSW Department of Education

Email: [ssu@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ssu@det.nsw.edu.au) Telephone: 1300 880 367 Fax: 02 9266 8435

Postal address: Locked Bag 53, DARLINGHURST NSW 1300

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Selectivehighschoolplacement>

<sup>^</sup> In this document, Unit refers to the High Performing Students Unit.

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

## What are selective high schools?

Selective high schools cater for highly achieving academically gifted students who may otherwise be without classmates at their own academic and social level. These schools help gifted and talented students to learn by grouping them with other gifted and talented students, teaching them in specialised ways and providing educational materials at the appropriate level. There are:

- seventeen fully selective high schools
- twenty-five partially selective high schools
- four agricultural high schools, three of which have boarding places where students live at the school during the school term. Find out more about boarding at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/ss\\_boarding.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/ss_boarding.php)
- one virtual secondary school, Aurora College, for students in country areas far from a city. Find out more about Aurora College at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/ss\\_virtual.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/ss_virtual.php)

A list of selective high schools and their websites is available at the end of this document and on the internet at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement). A map of the schools is also linked from this website page.

## How do I apply?

Parents must apply **online** at the following link: [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement) and should read the instructions carefully. You will **register** to receive a password and then log in to **complete the application** and **submit** it. Once you have successfully submitted your application you will receive an email with a copy of your application containing your child's student number. You must quote this number whenever you make enquiries about your application.

If you find you have made a mistake after you submitted your application, email the Unit to change any information. Do not apply twice for the same student, as the selection committee can consider only one application for each student.

Some email providers such as Gmail will not accept emails with attachments sent from the Unit. If this happens we have to send all information by mail. To avoid this problem add [ssu@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ssu@det.nsw.edu.au) to your email contacts list and check your spam or junk folders regularly.

## Applying without internet access

If you have no internet access at home you may need to go to a public library where internet access is free and complete the following steps:

- set up a web-based email to use for the application, such as Yahoo, Hotmail or similar
- use that email account to register at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement)
- wait to receive an email with a password and a link
- copy and paste the password to log in
- complete the application and, in the Contact details section, select '**Mail only**' for communication
- submit the application
- check your new email account for the confirmation email and print the file showing all of your application details. Check the email spam/junk folder as well as the In box.

The Unit will then send all communication to your postal address. If you have a disability that prevents you from using a computer, contact the Unit for assistance.

## Attachments

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

- information about a disability, medical condition or behavioural disorder such as anaphylaxis, autism or serious illness. If you believe your child needs special test provisions, you will need to provide diagnostic evidence. Further information about this can be found at: [http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/ss\\_sampletest.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/ss_sampletest.php)

### What are the stages of the placement process?

|    |  |                                     |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1  | Parents read the application information online  | From 13 October 2015                |
| 2  | Parents register, receive a password, complete and submit the application online.  | From 13 October to 16 November 2015 |
| 3  | Any special test provisions are organised  | October 2015 to 25 February 2016    |
| 4  | Principals provide school assessment scores  | From 23 November to 8 December 2015 |
| 5  | Parents sent <i>Test authority</i> letter by mail and email  | By 25 February 2016                 |
| 6  | Students sit the Selective High School Placement Test for entry to Year 7 in 2017  | On 10 March 2016                    |
| 7  | Any illness/misadventure claims are submitted  | By 25 March 2016                    |
| 8  | Last day to change selective high school choices   | 29 April 2016                       |
| 9  | School selection committees meet   | In May and June 2016                |
| 10 | Parents receive placement outcome information  | In early July 2016                  |
| 11 | Any appeals are submitted to principals  | By 18 July 2016                     |
| 12 | Parents accept or decline offers   | From July 2016 to June 2017         |
| 13 | Students who have accepted offers are withdrawn from reserve lists   | By 3pm on 14 December 2016          |
| 14 | Parents of successful students receive <i>Authority to attend</i> letters to take to the school on the first day of term in 2017 | January 2017                        |

Cut this out and place on your fridge as a reminder.

- copy of court orders
- explanation of why the child is older or younger than the usual age range or not in Year 6 in 2016
- for interstate/overseas students – full WISC IV IQ report and standardised reading and mathematics test results required as part of a *Report of academic merit*.

If your child has an individual IQ report you may also provide it as further evidence of academic merit.

Use the cover sheet you will be emailed with your application confirmation when sending attachments to the Unit.

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

## Who can apply?

### Age and school Year

Students are usually in Year 5 at the time of applying (2015) and in Year 6 when sitting the test (2016). They are usually born between 1 January 2004 and 1 August 2005. If you apply when your child is out of the age range or in another school year, selection committees will examine the reasons for this. They may ask for more information or for an interview with your child.

Selection committees can decide not to accept students who will be in Year 7 in 2016 and are seeking to repeat Year 7 in a selective high school.

Selection committees look carefully at younger students in Year 6 to determine whether there are special requirements that the school can provide. The selective high school principal may need to interview much younger students in Year 6.

Students seeking acceleration from Year 5 to Year 7 in 2017 must gain results which place them in the top half of the students offered placement in their selective high school of choice.

Selection committees have the discretion to consider whether a student has been advantaged by having done the Selective High School Placement Test twice.

### Brothers and sisters

Brothers and sisters and twins will be offered a place at the same school only if they both have scores that are high enough. Boarder agricultural high schools may take into account whether another family member currently attends the same school.

### Residency status

You must be living in NSW at the beginning of the school year of entry.

Your child must be a permanent resident of Australia or a citizen of Australia or New Zealand to enrol in a selective high school. If your child is not yet a permanent

resident, you can apply and your child can sit the test if you expect permanent residency will be granted before early June when initial offers are made.

### Overseas or interstate

You can apply while you are temporarily overseas or interstate. If possible, your child should return to NSW to sit the test. If your child cannot sit the test you must send to the Unit a *Report of academic merit* which includes a full scale WISC IV IQ report. See [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/iandosstuds.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/iandosstuds.php)

You must apply by the due date, but if the IQ test results are not available at the time you can send the *Report of academic merit* to the Unit before the test date on 10 March 2016.

If you are living out of NSW temporarily and your child was in Year 5 in NSW and has school assessment scores, the illness/misadventure process could apply to you. Find out more at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/appealsmisadv.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/appealsmisadv.php)

### Boarders

There are three agricultural high schools with boarder places where students live at the school during the school term. If you want your child to be considered for boarder placement you must complete the details about distance and travel times on the online application form. The selection committee gives a higher weighting to applications for students who are isolated than to applications for other country and city students.

If your child is offered a place at one of the three agricultural high schools taking boarders you will have to complete further forms and pay boarder fees. There are scholarships available that may help you to pay the boarder fees. Further information is available at [http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/7-12assessments/ss\\_boarding.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/7-12assessments/ss_boarding.php)

If you accept a boarder place for your child you will sign an agreement to pay boarder fees on time. If you do not pay the fees as agreed the offer will be withdrawn and offered to the next eligible applicant.

If your child gains a boarder place at an agricultural high school that also has day students, you cannot later transfer across to a day place.

### Rural and remote

If you intend to enrol your child at one of the high schools in country areas far from a city, you can apply for a place at Aurora College, the virtual secondary school. Students attend their local secondary schools and join the selective stream in English, mathematics and science remotely using computer technology and personal contact with teachers. 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 <http://www.aurora.nsw.edu.au/>

### **How should I choose selective high schools?**

You can apply for up to three selective high schools in the order you want them. Think about your choices carefully. List 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.

If your child qualifies for two schools, he or she will get an offer only to the higher choice. Make sure that all the schools you choose are suitable for your child and that travel time is reasonable. See where selective high schools are on the map on the Unit's website and check the school websites listed at the end of this document. Boarder school selection committees look at how far away you live but all other selection committees do not consider whether your choices are practical. Further details can be found at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/points\\_consider.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/points_consider.php)

### **Change of school choice**

You can change your school choices before 29 April 2016 by writing to the Unit. You cannot usually change choices after the outcome of placement is sent to you unless something outside your control changes after 29 April 2016 and you have documentary evidence.

After enrolment, you cannot transfer between selective high schools. You may apply for your child to enter a selective high school in Years 8 to 12 by using the application form for Years 8 to 12 entry which will be published on the Unit's website in late June in the year before entry. Find out more about Years 8 to 12 entry on the Unit's website.

### **How are students ranked for selective high school entry?**

All students are ranked and placed in order of academic merit. Academic merit is decided mainly by combining the results of the primary school assessments in English and mathematics and the Selective High School Placement Test. This combination is expressed as a calculated profile score out of 300.

For some applicants, some extra information is requested such as:

- overseas and interstate applicants – *Report of academic merit*
- Aurora College applicants – suitability for a virtual learning environment.

### **School assessment scores**

The primary school gives school assessment scores to show each student's achievement on the school curriculum in English and mathematics in Year 5.

The scores are scaled (moderated) according to the performance in the Selective High School Placement Test of the candidates from the child's primary school. This means the moderated school assessment scores can be compared with those of all other applicants in NSW and gives them equal weighting with the English and mathematics test scores.

If students do not have school assessment scores that can be moderated, only their test scores will be used to calculate their final score. Government school principals give the scores to the Unit online.

If your child is at a non-government school you will need to give the principal's page to the school to get school assessment scores. The principal's page will be part of the document you will be emailed as soon as you submit your application online. If non-government principals will not give any of their students school assessment scores, you can apply for exemption. Exemption will not be approved if any other applicants from the same school have been given school assessment scores. In such a case, selection committees may decide not to accept the applicant. Find the *Request for formal exemption* form at <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/ss-parentsforms.php>

Find out more about scores at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/ss-marksexplain.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/ss-marksexplain.php)

### **The Selective High School Placement Test**

The Selective High School Placement Test for entry to Year 7 in 2017 is held on **10 March 2016** in test centres, usually at government high schools. The test is held only on this day and only in official test centres in NSW. All test materials are kept secure before, during and after the test and are not released to the public. The test measures ability rather than performance on the curriculum.

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

By **Thursday 25 February 2016** you will receive a *Test authority* letter that tells you where to take your child to sit the test.

You will receive this information by both mail and email (if you have an email address). **Your child must bring the *Test authority* letter or email to the test centre to be allowed to sit the test.** You will also receive a *Test information bulletin* which explains the test and lists what your child should bring. The bulletin explains how to show the answers to the questions in the test.

If you have not received your *Test authority* letter by Thursday 25 February 2016, you must contact the Unit urgently. Parents are responsible for ensuring that they have kept their contact details current during the application process.



Students from the same primary school will usually attend the same test centre.

Apart from receiving an individual letter and email you will be able to see the list of test centres on the Unit's website.

You must arrange for your child to get to and from the test but you must not stay on the school grounds during the test unless the Unit asks you to stay for health or disability reasons.

### Test components

The test has multiple-choice questions in reading (45 questions), mathematics (40 questions) and general ability (60 questions). Each multiple-choice test is 40 minutes long.

The writing test is 20 minutes long and only two lined pages are provided. To receive marks the writing must be the student's own work and must be about the topic or image provided in the test. It will be judged on the quality of thinking about a topic, organisation of ideas and the use of language.

The test is in two parts, each with a question booklet and an answer booklet for recording the answers. For marking, students are identified by test booklet numbers only. Students use black pen 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 marks may not be counted.

### Sample tests

Sample tests are published on the Unit's website to help your child practise answering the questions on the sample answer sheet. Find the sample tests at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/ss\\_sampletest.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/ss_sampletest.php). These samples are provided only to allow students to become familiar with the test format, so results obtained may not reflect the score your child will get in the actual test. Selection committees will not make any decisions based on your child's score on practice items.

### Special test provisions

If your child has a disability or condition that could affect his or her performance on the test, you can ask for special test provisions when you apply. For example, the Unit can arrange provisions such as enlarged papers, specific seating, taking medications into the test room.

Students cannot normally be given extra time or a person to write for them and cannot use computers. If you explain your child's special needs in your application, the Unit may contact you or the school to talk about special test provisions.

You must provide supporting documents if you are asking for special test provisions. All students with a disability, medical condition or behavioural disorder will be given individual consideration by selection committees.

#In this document 'Aboriginal' refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

## What happens if something goes wrong?

If some problem such as sickness or an accident stops your child from taking the test or from doing his or her best either in the test or at the school, you can make an illness/misadventure claim using the form on the Unit's website. The claim must reach the Unit by **Friday 25 March 2016**. If your child is sick or injured, you must have a medical certificate and a completed *Independent evidence of illness* form, both of which cover the day of the test. It is generally better for the student to sit the test, if possible, and make an illness/misadventure claim afterwards.

If you believe something has occurred to prevent your child from gaining higher school assessment scores, you should provide documentary evidence if possible.

School selection committees discuss the illness/misadventure claims and decide whether or not to accept them. You cannot make an appeal later claiming illness or misadventure.

Further information is available at: [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/appealsmisadv.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/appealsmisadv.php)

## How are decisions made?

All school selection committees make their placement decisions using the same selection criteria but each school selection committee makes its decisions independently. Each committee includes the selective high school principal, a parent or community representative, and can include other staff members such as school counsellors. Directors, Public Schools NSW may also attend.

Selection committees:

- place applicants for that school in order of their profile scores
- look at the likely impact of disability and illness/misadventure claims
- give priority to isolated students who apply for boarding at agricultural high schools
- consider matters affecting students outside the age or school year
- give consideration to students who are Aboriginal# or who have been educated in English for less than 48 months
- look at other evidence of academic merit if necessary
- list students for offers and reserve places according to the number of vacancies at the school
- consider any other relevant factors brought to their attention.

## How do I find out the outcome?

In early July you will be sent your child's placement outcome. Your child may be:

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

If your child is made an offer to one school and also had a score high enough for a lower choice school, that lower choice school will be shown as 'not applicable'.

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

In most cases you will receive your child's profile score out of 300.

There is no minimum fixed score required for entry to individual schools as students are placed in rank order to fill the available vacancies. The score held by the last student accepting a place at the school in the previous year is the 'minimum entry score' that is published on the Unit's website in April each year. This score varies from school to school and from year to year. You cannot use these scores from the previous placement process to prove that your child should have received an offer to a particular school in the current placement process.

The Unit sends reports to public primary schools listing the outcome for all their students who applied. Non-government school principals can request this information if you give the Unit permission for communication with the non-government school when you apply.

## Getting an early hint about the outcome

If there is a good reason that you need to know the possible outcome before it is released, usually having to pay a non-refundable deposit of more than \$1,000 to secure a place at an alternative school, you may contact the Unit for an *Early advice request* form. This early advice may not be the final outcome and generally the only information the Unit can be sure of at this stage is whether a student is unsuccessful for all choices. You can ask for early advice once only, and can access it just before the deadline for paying the non-refundable deposit.

## Responding to offers

If you receive an offer you must fill out the response form that you are sent with your placement outcome information and return it by the date shown on the form. This is usually 14 days later. If you get an offer by phone you might have only 24 hours to decide whether or not to accept. If you do not respond by the due date the Unit may assume that you do not want the offer. If you accept an offer and then change

your mind and want to decline it, you must write to the Unit immediately so that the place can be offered to another student.

If you will be away at the time offers are made, you can advise the Unit in writing if you wish to accept any offer in advance or if you want to change contact details.

The Unit will confirm your response to an offer within 21 days. If you have not received an acknowledgement 21 days after you sent your response, please contact the Unit.

## Being on a reserve list only

If your child is on a reserve list only, you will be offered a place if his or her position on a list is reached. The Unit continues to make these offers, if vacancies occur, until June of the year of entry provided that students have not already enrolled in another selective high school.

## Further offers

Your child can be made an offer and also be on reserve lists for higher choice selective high schools. If you are given a further offer to a higher choice school, you must accept or decline the new offer. If you accept the further offer, the Unit will consider the original offer declined. The Unit will make further offers to your higher choice schools even if you declined an offer to a lower choice school.

If you accept an offer and are also on a reserve list, you can remain on that reserve list until **3pm on 14 December 2016**. 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 all reserve lists.

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

You can request more information about your child's scores using the online *Request for scores* form. This will show you the scores your child gained on the Selective High School Placement Test and the school assessment scores. You cannot use these scores to try to recalculate the profile score. Details of scores will not be provided over the phone. Find out more about scores at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/ss\\_marksexplain.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/ss_marksexplain.php)

## How do I appeal?

You may appeal against the decision of the selection committee if you know something specific happened to prevent your child from gaining higher school assessment scores or test scores (but not both) which might not have been considered by the selection committee. All appeals must be supported by relevant documentary evidence. You must download the official appeal form that will be available on the Unit's website.

Complete the parent section of your form and hand the appeal to the principal of your child's school no

later than **Monday 18 July 2016**. The principal will pass it on to the Unit by **Monday 25 July 2016**. Late appeals will not be accepted.

Anything that should have been dealt with or was dealt with by the selection committee at the time of the illness/ misadventure process will not be considered valid grounds for appeal. Further details about grounds for appeal can be found at: <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/appeals.php>

### **Can my offer be taken away?**

If the Unit cannot contact you to make an offer or find out your response after trying three times, the offer will no longer apply.

If your child does not satisfy all requirements, such as permanent residency, or does not attend the school on the first day without a satisfactory explanation, the offer will be taken away. Offers and enrolments will also be taken away if the placement was based on false or misleading information.

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

If you have accepted an offer you will receive in January 2017, an *Authority to attend* letter, which your child takes to the school on the first day of the school year as part of the enrolment process. You may also need to provide original documentation, such as proof of residency, and meet all other NSW Department of Education enrolment conditions.

There are no extra fees for attending a selective high school, unless your child is a boarder. Schools may ask for materials contributions for some subjects, as do other government high schools. Information about enrolment policy in NSW Department of Education schools is at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/schoolfind/enrolment/parentsinfo.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/schoolfind/enrolment/parentsinfo.php)

If you need to delay your starting date beyond the first day of the school year you must discuss it with the selective high school principal (or the Unit in school holidays) before enrolling your child. You cannot delay enrolment past the first day of Term 2 in the year of entry.

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

The Unit corresponds with the parents or carers that you list on the application. If you wish to let other people discuss your child's application with the Unit, you can list them as another concerned adult or as a special contact. If you want someone to make decisions on your behalf while you are away or uncontactable, you must email the Unit giving their details and authorising them to act on your behalf.

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

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

The Unit updates information about selective high school entry and placement procedures regularly on the Unit's website at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement)

The Unit's telephone system also has current information about the placement process.

If you need to, contact the Unit by email [ssu@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ssu@det.nsw.edu.au) or phone 1300 880 367 or fax (02) 9266 8435.

You will need to give the student number and other identifying information when talking about a particular student. For email enquiries, you should use the original email address used in the application.

Ask your child's teacher if you want advice about whether your child might benefit from attending a selective high school.

Find out about courses and programs offered by specific schools using the list of school websites at the end of this document.

For regular updates on the placement process join Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Selectivehighschoolplacement>



## Frequently asked questions

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### **Does my child get an advantage if we live very close to a selective high school?**

No, selection committees do not consider travelling times and transport arrangements when offering places.

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

The selection procedures are the same for all students. The only difference is that the Unit advises government school principals about the students from their school who have applied. Parents of non-government schools must ask their principals to complete the principal's page (sent with their application confirmation) and then must return the page to the Unit.

If your non-government school does not provide school assessment scores, you should complete the *Request for formal exemption* form at [http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/schoolsweb/learning/k\\_6assessments/ss/ss\\_exemption.pdf](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/schoolsweb/learning/k_6assessments/ss/ss_exemption.pdf)

The selection committee will NOT generally grant an exemption to applicants who do not have school assessment scores if any other students from the same school have them. The selection committee may decide not to accept the application in this case.

### **What can I do to prepare my child for the Selective High School Placement Test?**

Encourage your child to use the sample tests on the Unit's website to practise answering the questions on the sample answer sheets. Students will also be given practice questions before the test begins. See sample tests at: [http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k\\_6assessments/shsplacement/ss\\_sampletest.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k_6assessments/shsplacement/ss_sampletest.php)

The results of practice items do not mean that your child will score the same in the test. Selection committees and appeals panels will not make any decision based on your child's score on practice test items.

The Department of Education does not endorse coaching for the Selective High School Placement Test.

### **If my outcome advice indicates that my child is unsuccessful, can his or her name be placed on a reserve list?**

No. Three terms are used in placement outcome letters: 'offer', 'reserve list' and 'unsuccessful'. Selection committees decide the students who will receive offers and those who will be placed on reserve lists. Students who have been offered places for a particular school will have higher scores than those who are on the reserve list or are unsuccessful for that school. Students placed on reserve lists will be given a number indicating their position on the reserve list. Progress on the reserve list

varies from year to year. When offers begin to be made from the reserve list, the progress of each school's reserve list is available on the Unit's website from early August each year.

### **What does the Selective High School Placement Test tell me about my child's performance?**

The Selective High School Placement Test measures ability, while school assessment scores show each student's achievement on the school curriculum. The test helps to identify students for entry into selective high schools on the basis of academic merit. It is not meant to be a diagnostic test to identify the student's strengths and weaknesses in English or mathematics performance. The student's primary school is most appropriate to advise you on your child's performance in these areas.

### **If my child was unsuccessful for opportunity class placement, does it mean he or she will be unsuccessful for selective high school entry?**

Not necessarily. The entry requirements for opportunity class and selective high school placement can be quite different. Students can improve over the time since they applied for opportunity class placement. Many gifted and talented 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 over twice as many Year 7 places in selective high schools as there are Year 5 places in opportunity classes.

### **If I receive an offer to one of my lower choices as well as being on the reserve list for one of my higher choices, do I have to give up the offer to stay on the reserve list?**

You can accept an offer to one school and stay on the reserve list for one or more of your higher choices until 3pm on 15 December 2016. After that time no further offers will be made to students who have already accepted placement in a selective high school and have not later declined the offer.

### **If my child is one of the last to be made an offer, does that mean he or she will struggle at a selective high school?**

The selection committee offers places or reserve list positions only to those students they think are capable of doing well at a selective high school. There are many things which can affect student performance, including your child's willingness to learn, his or her response to teachers and interaction with other students. While some students who receive late offers might have problems, the majority should have no difficulties.



### **What should I do if my child does not get into a selective high school?**

As there is one place for approximately three people applying, not all students can be placed. Be supportive and explain to your child that he or she can be very successful at a comprehensive high school. Students from comprehensive high schools can achieve results which are as good as, or even better than, results gained by selective high school students, as not all gifted and talented students apply for selective high schools.

The NSW government also provides excellent comprehensive high schools. Comprehensive high schools implement gifted and talented programs as a feature of the Department of Education's gifted and talented policy.

### **What score does a student have to gain to be successful for selective high school placement?**

There is no fixed score that a student has to achieve to be successful for placement at a particular selective high school as students are placed in rank order to fill the available vacancies. The score held by the last student placed at the school is the 'minimum entry score' that is published on the unit's website in the following April each year. This score can vary from school to school and from year to year. The greater the demand for the school, the higher the entry score is likely to be. For example, in a school with 150 places, the entry score achieved for the 150th ranked student who accepts a place at that school becomes the entry score.

As a guide, the entry scores required for placement in the previous year are available on the Unit's website.

Please note that the scores on the website show the score held by the last student accepting a place for entry in that year. The entry score for 2017 will not be known until after the placement process is finalised. Though your child's score may be higher than that shown for entry in 2016 this does not necessarily mean that he or she will be offered a place for entry in 2017.

### **How is the profile score calculated if my child is the only one applying from his/her school?**

Students who do not have school assessment scores or those who are the only candidates from the school will be considered on test marks only for the full 300 marks.

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

Most parents/carers will receive their child's profile score at the bottom of their placement outcome letter or email in July. You can receive further details of your child's scores in the selective high school placement process after you have received your placement outcome. Use the form *Request for scores* on the Unit's website. The only further details available are school assessment scores and test scores. No other score details can be provided.

### **Why are profile scores and further details sometimes unavailable?**

Where students have been considered on other evidence of academic merit, such as an individual IQ test, or the selection committee has used different components of the scores based on supplementary information, the original calculated profile score does not apply. The Unit does not have the resources to provide information about adjusted scores.

### **How does the reserve list work?**

If your child is on a reserve list for a selective high school, the number on the placement outcome advice shows his or her position on the list. How quickly the Unit offers places to those on a reserve list depends on whether students accept or decline an offer, and whether other students receive further offers to a school of higher choice. If your child's position is reached on the reserve list, the Unit will contact you with an offer. From early August you can track where the reserve list is up to on the Unit's website at [http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/ss\\_reservelist.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/ss_reservelist.php)

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

You must think about your choices very carefully when you apply. You can ask for a change of choice without explanation if it is submitted by 29 April 2016, when selection committee lists are created. After this date there have to be extenuating circumstances which occurred after 29 April 2016, there has to be documentary evidence of the extenuating circumstances and any change must be approved.

### **Why do some partially selective high schools combine selective and comprehensive students in the senior years?**

Some partially selective high schools do this. It allows the school to better organise the timetable and offer more electives than would be possible if the selective students were kept as a separate group. This organisation advantages selective students as the school can offer a wider range of electives.

## Selective high schools with Year 7 vacancies in 2017

You may choose up to three selective high schools in order of preference.

| School code           | School details  | Website   |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| <b>Co-educational</b> |   |   |
| BHH                   | <b>Baulkham Hills High School</b><br>Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills 2153                          | <a href="http://www.baulkhamhillshighschool.com.au">http://www.baulkhamhillshighschool.com.au</a>   |
| CAR                   | <b>Caringbah High School</b><br>Willarong Road, Caringbah 2229                                  | <a href="http://www.caringbah-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/">http://www.caringbah-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/</a> |
| FOR                   | <b>Fort Street High School</b><br>Parramatta Road, Petersham 2049                               | <a href="http://www.fortstreet.nsw.edu.au">http://www.fortstreet.nsw.edu.au</a>                     |
| GIR                   | <b>Girraween High School</b><br>Gilba Road, Girraween 2145                                      | <a href="http://www.girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>   |
| GOS                   | <b>Gosford High School</b><br>Racecourse Road, Gosford 2250                                     | <a href="http://www.gosfordhigh.com.au">http://www.gosfordhigh.com.au</a>                           |
| MAN                   | <b>Manly Campus<br/>Northern Beaches Secondary College</b><br>Abbott Road, North Curl Curl 2099 | <a href="http://www.nbscmanlys-h.schools">http://www.nbscmanlys-h.schools</a>                       |
| MER                   | <b>Merewether High School</b><br>Chatham Street, Broadmeadow 2292                               | <a href="http://www.merewether-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.merewether-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a> |
| PEN                   | <b>Penrith High School</b><br>High Street, Penrith 2750   | <a href="http://www.penrithhighschool.nsw.edu.au">http://www.penrithhighschool.nsw.edu.au</a>       |
| SMH                   | <b>Smiths Hill High School</b><br>Gipps Street, Wollongong 2500                                 | <a href="http://www.smithshill-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.smithshill-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a> |
| <b>Male</b>           |   |   |
| NBH                   | <b>Normanhurst Boys High School</b><br>Pennant Hills Road, Normanhurst 2076                     | <a href="http://www.normanhurb-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.normanhurb-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a> |
| NSB                   | <b>North Sydney Boys High School</b><br>Falcon Street, Crows Nest 2065                          | <a href="http://www.nsbhs.nsw.edu.au">http://www.nsbhs.nsw.edu.au</a>                               |
| SBH                   | <b>Sydney Boys High School</b><br>Moore Park, Anzac Parade, Surry Hills 2010                    | <a href="http://www.sydneyboyshigh.com">http://www.sydneyboyshigh.com</a>                           |
| STH                   | <b>Sydney Technical High School</b><br>Forest Road, Bexley 2207                                 | <a href="http://www.sths.nsw.edu.au">http://www.sths.nsw.edu.au</a>                                 |
| <b>Female</b>         |   |   |
| HGH                   | <b>Hornsby Girls High School</b><br>Edgeworth David Avenue, Hornsby 2077                        | <a href="http://www.hornsbygir-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.hornsbygir-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a> |
| NSG                   | <b>North Sydney Girls High School</b><br>Pacific Highway, Crows Nest 2065                       | <a href="http://www.northsydgi-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.northsydgi-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a> |
| SGG                   | <b>St George Girls High School</b><br>Victoria Street, Kogarah 2217                             | <a href="http://www.stgeorgegi-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.stgeorgegi-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a> |
| SGH                   | <b>Sydney Girls High School</b><br>Moore Park, Anzac Parade, Surry Hills 2010                   | <a href="http://www.sghs.nsw.edu.au">http://www.sghs.nsw.edu.au</a>                                 |

## Selective high schools with Year 7 vacancies in 2017

### Partially selective

| School code | School details   | Website   |
|-------------|--|---|
| ALX         | <b>Alexandria Park Community School+</b><br>Park Road, Alexandria 2015                                       | <a href="http://www.alexparkcs-c.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.alexparkcs-c.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>   |
| ARM         | <b>Armidale High School</b><br>Butler Street, Armidale 2350  | <a href="http://www.armidale-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.armidale-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>       |
| AUB         | <b>Auburn Girls High School</b><br>Hunter Street and Braemar Ave, Auburn 2144                                | <a href="http://www.auburng-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.auburng-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>         |
| BAL         | <b>Balmain Campus</b><br><b>Sydney Secondary College (Years 7 to 10)</b><br>Terry Street, Rozelle 2039       | <a href="http://www.balmain-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.balmain-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>         |
| BLB         | <b>Blacktown Boys High School</b><br>Sunnyholt Road & Fifth Ave, Blacktown 2148                              | <a href="http://www.blacktownb-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.blacktownb-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>   |
| BLG         | <b>Blacktown Girls High School</b><br>Fifth Avenue, Blacktown 2148   | <a href="http://www.blacktowng-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.blacktowng-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>   |
| BON         | <b>Bonnyrigg High School</b><br>Elizabeth Drive, Bonnyrigg 2177  | <a href="http://www.bonnyrigg-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.bonnyrigg-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>     |
| CHA         | <b>Chatswood High School</b><br>Centennial Avenue, Chatswood 2067  | <a href="http://www.chatswood-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.chatswood-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>     |
| DUV         | <b>Duval High School</b><br>Crest Road, Armidale 2350  | <a href="http://www.duval-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.duval-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>             |
| EMH         | <b>Elizabeth Macarthur High School</b><br>Waterworth Drive, Narellan 2567                                    | <a href="http://www.elizabeth-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.elizabeth-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>     |
| GOR         | <b>Gorokan High School</b><br>Goobarabah Ave, Gorokan 2263   | <a href="http://www.gorokan-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.gorokan-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>         |
| GRA         | <b>Grafton High School</b><br>Oliver & Mary Streets, Grafton 2460  | <a href="http://www.grafton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.grafton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>         |
| GBH         | <b>Granville Boys High School</b><br>14 Mary Street, Granville 2142  | <a href="http://www.granvilleb-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.granvilleb-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>   |
| KAR         | <b>Karabar High School</b><br>Donald Road, Queanbeyan 2620   | <a href="http://www.karabarhigh.com.au">http://www.karabarhigh.com.au</a>                             |
| KOO         | <b>Koorinal High School</b><br>Ziegler Avenue, Koorinal 2650   | <a href="http://www.koorinal-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.koorinal-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>       |
| LEI         | <b>Leichhardt Campus</b><br><b>Sydney Secondary College (Years 7 to 10)</b><br>Balmain Road, Leichhardt 2040 | <a href="http://www.leichhardt-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.leichhardt-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>   |
| MFH         | <b>Macquarie Fields High School</b><br>Harold Street, Macquarie Fields 2564                                  | <a href="http://www.macfields-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/">http://www.macfields-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/</a>   |
| MOO         | <b>Moorebank High School</b><br>Bangalow Avenue, Moorebank 2170  | <a href="http://www.moorebank-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.moorebank-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>     |
| PAR         | <b>Parramatta High School</b><br>Great Western Hwy & Pitt St, Parramatta 2150                                | <a href="http://www.parramatta-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.parramatta-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>   |
| PHS         | <b>Peel High School</b><br>Gunnedah Road, Tamworth 2340  | <a href="http://www.peel-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.peel-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>               |
| PRA         | <b>Prairiewood High School</b><br>Prairie Vale Road, Wetherill Park 2164                                     | <a href="http://www.prairiewoo-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/">http://www.prairiewoo-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/</a> |
| ROS         | <b>Rose Bay Secondary College+</b><br>Hardy Street, Dover Heights 2030                                       | <a href="http://www.rosebay-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.rosebay-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>         |
| RYD         | <b>Ryde Secondary College</b><br>Malvina Street, Ryde 2112   | <a href="http://www.rsc.nsw.edu.au">http://www.rsc.nsw.edu.au</a>                                     |
| SEF         | <b>Sefton High School</b><br>Hector Street, Sefton 2162  | <a href="http://www.sefton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.sefton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>           |
| TEM         | <b>Tempe High School+</b><br>Unwins Bridge Road, Tempe 2044  | <a href="http://www.tempe-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.tempe-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>             |

+ Alexandria Park, Rose Bay and Tempe have targeted places available for Aboriginal students.

Note: **▲** Sydney Secondary College Balmain and Leichhardt campuses offer places in Years 7 to 10. Students from these campuses will generally proceed to Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay Campus for Years 11 and 12.

### Selective agricultural

| School code                                   | School details   | Website   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Day places only: co-educational</b>        |  |   |
| JRA   | <b>James Ruse Agricultural High School</b><br>17–31 Felton Road, Carlingford 2118  | <a href="http://www.jamesruse.nsw.edu.au">http://www.jamesruse.nsw.edu.au</a>                       |
| <b>Boarder places only: co-educational</b>    |  |   |
| YAF<br>YAM                                    | <b>Yanco Agricultural High School</b><br>Yanco female boarder<br>Yanco male boarder<br>Euroley Road, Yanco 2703                                    | <a href="http://www.yancoag-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.yancoag-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a>       |
| <b>Boarder and day places: male only</b>      |  |   |
| FAM<br>FAD                                    | <b>Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School</b><br>Farrer male boarder<br>Farrer male day<br>585 Calala Lane, Tamworth 2340                        | <a href="http://www.farreragri-h.schools.nsw.edu.au">http://www.farreragri-h.schools.nsw.edu.au</a> |
| <b>Boarder and day places: co-educational</b> |  |   |
| HAF<br>HAM<br>HAD                             | <b>Hurlstone Agricultural High School</b><br>Hurlstone female boarder<br>Hurlstone male boarder<br>Hurlstone day<br>Roy Watts Road, Glenfield 2167 | <a href="http://www.hurlstone.com.au">http://www.hurlstone.com.au</a>                               |
| <b>Virtual Selective</b>                      |  |   |
| VIR   | <b>Aurora College*</b><br>Rural and remote, virtual secondary school   | <a href="http://www.aurora.nsw.edu.au/">http://www.aurora.nsw.edu.au/</a>                           |

**Note:**

\*Only students in government high schools in country areas far from a city may apply for Aurora College, the virtual secondary school.