



Changes to the enrolment policy

Information for families

Why choose public education?

The NSW public education system provides all students with a world-class education, preparing today's children to succeed and build better communities for tomorrow. With holistic, high-quality educational offerings and unrivalled co-curricular opportunities in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, arts, sport and beyond, our diverse and inclusive public schools support every student to reach their full potential.

What is the enrolment policy?

The enrolment policy assist schools to meet their obligations under the Education Act 1990, ensuring that all students have access to their local public school. The policy also provides clear information to staff and the community about how enrolments are handled in NSW public schools.

Why is the policy changing?

The NSW Department of Education consulted with education partners, community groups and school leadership teams on the current enrolment policy. We received significant feedback on the importance of addressing the barriers that families encounter when trying to enrol in NSW public schools. The updated enrolment policy addresses these barriers and aligns with the department's commitment to building and sustaining an equitable and accessible public school system.

What are the changes?

The following changes will apply to all enrolments commencing in Term 1 2025.

Temporary residents

All students on a temporary resident visa will now be able to enrol in their local school, based on their residential address.

Enrolment fees will be waived for families that are regional holders of Temporary Skills Shortage visas (subclass 482), i.e. those who reside outside of greater Sydney and Wollongong.

Updated criteria for non-local enrolment

NSW public schools have specific local enrolment areas. The designated intake areas are determined by the department. These schools ensure that there are enough places for students who reside in their local enrolment area. You may apply to enrol your child outside your designated area as a 'non-local enrolment', if places are available.

The updated criteria prioritise non-local enrolments for siblings of currently enrolled students, with priority given to siblings of students enrolled in support classes in eligible mainstream schools.

Under the updated criteria, schools may now also consider non-local enrolments for children of school staff.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do these changes apply to my child?

The changes to enrolment in NSW public schools relate to you if:

- your child is school-aged and on a temporary resident visa, or
- your child is school-aged and has a sibling currently enrolled in a different NSW public school and you would like them to attend the same school. A school's ability to accept your child's enrolment depends on their capacity and eligibility criteria.
- you are a staff member at a NSW public school outside of your child's designated intake area. A school's ability to accept your child's enrolment depends on their capacity and eligibility criteria.

Will every school be required to apply these changes?

All schools are required to apply the changes for students on temporary resident visas.

Most schools, depending on their capacity, are required to apply the changes for non-local enrolments for students enrolling for Term 1, 2025.

The enrolment policy changes for temporary resident students and non-local students will not affect eligibility requirements for specialist settings or programs. Schools with eligibility criteria including fully selective schools, schools for specific purposes (SSPs), distance education schools, and schools with classes or programs with specific eligibility requirements (for example, opportunity classes, specialist sports and/or visual arts streams) will continue to follow their current enrolment process.

Single-sex schools must apply the changes as long as the enrolling child meets the school's eligibility requirement for that sex. Contact the relevant school to ask how these changes apply.

If my child is a sibling of a currently enrolled student, will their application for non-local enrolment be automatically accepted?

These changes do not guarantee enrolment of your child in the same non-local public school as their sibling. Schools will prioritise non-local enrolments for siblings of currently enrolled students where possible, but acceptance of their application may depend on the school's capacity. Contact the relevant school for more information.

Does this mean only siblings will be accepted as non-local enrolments from now on?

No, you can still apply to enrol your child at any public school if the child is eligible to attend the school and the school can accommodate the child. Schools must now prioritise and consider applications against the updated non-local enrolment criteria (including criteria relating to student wellbeing needs), which prioritises siblings of currently enrolled students and considers children of school staff.

Will non-local enrolments for children of school staff be automatically accepted?

No. Schools will prioritise non-local applications for siblings of currently enrolled students, and then may consider non-local enrolments for children of school staff. If you are a school staff member, acceptance of your child may depend on the school's capacity. The updated non-local enrolment criteria will not impact your child's entitlement to enrol at their local school.

Enrolment of students on a temporary resident visa

My child is on a temporary resident visa. I have previously applied to enrol them at their local school but the application was declined. Can I submit my child's enrolment application again?

You can resubmit your enrolment application if your child is on a temporary resident visa and their previous application to your local school was declined. Please follow the steps outlined in the below section "How do I change where I have enrolled my child for 2025?"

My child is on a temporary resident visa and I have already enrolled my child in a school for 2025. Can I change where I have enrolled my child?

If your child is on a temporary resident visa and is already enrolled in a school for 2025, you can apply to change where they are currently enrolled. Please follow the steps outlined in the below section "How do I change where I have enrolled my child for 2025?"

How do I change where I have enrolled my child for 2025?

Parents or carers of students on a temporary resident visa need to follow these steps to change their enrolment to their local school:

1. Contact the Temporary Residents Program team by phone on 1300 300 229 (option 1) or by email on tempvisa@det.nsw.edu.au to request a change of school for your child. You will be notified by the Temporary Residents Program team once the school transfer has been completed for your child.
2. Contact your local school to enrol your child. The school will provide you with a paper application form that you'll need to complete to enrol. Find your local school contact details at education.nsw.gov.au/find-a-public-school

My child is a temporary resident on a visa other than a 482 visa. Do I need to pay enrolment fees?

The temporary resident application fee and tuition fee to enrol in a government school are generally calculated using the visa subclass held by the student. For detailed information on the fees applicable to your visa subclass, please visit the DE International website: deinternational.nsw.edu.au/study-options/study-programs/temporary-residents. If you are still unsure whether a fee waiver applies to you, you can contact the Temporary Residents Program team at tempvisa@det.nsw.edu.au

Enrolment of non-local siblings

I applied to enrol my child in the school their sibling attends but their application was declined. Can I submit my child's enrolment application again?

If you have applied to enrol your child in their sibling's non-local school and the application was declined, please follow the steps outlined in the below section "How do I change where I have enrolled my child for 2025?" to resubmit.

I enrolled my child in a school for 2025, but their sibling is enrolled in a different non-local school. Can I apply to change where they are enrolled?

If you would like to change the school your child is enrolled in for 2025 to the same non-local school that their sibling is currently attending, please follow the steps outlined in the below section "How do I change where I have enrolled my child for 2025?"

How do I change where I have enrolled my child for 2025?

Parents or carers who would like to enrol their child in the same non-local school as their sibling need to follow these steps to change their enrolment:

Online enrolment applications

1. Go to the school website that you wish to apply to enrol, then click on enrolment in the menu options.
2. On the enrolment webpage, under the how to enrol heading click on the link to the online enrolment application.
3. Once you have submitted your application to enrol, the school may make you an offer which you will need to accept within 14 days.
4. If your application is accepted, contact the school your child was previously enrolled in for 2025 to withdraw that enrolment.

Paper form applications

1. Contact your child's sibling's school to find out if they are able to accommodate your child.
2. If the school can accommodate your child, complete a new paper application form, which the school can provide.
3. Once you have submitted your application to enrol form, the school may make you an offer which you will need to accept within 14 days.
4. If your application is accepted, contact the school your child was previously enrolled in for 2025 to withdraw that enrolment.

I have submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) for Year 6 to 7 transition in 2025. Can I change where I have enrolled my child?

The EOI for Year 6 to 7 transition has closed and therefore parents and carers can no longer make changes to their school preference list for 2025.

If you would like to change the school you have enrolled your child in for 2025 to the same non-local school their sibling is attending, you should follow the following steps:

Online enrolment applications

1. Go to the school website that you wish to apply to enrol, then click on enrolment in the menu options.
2. On the enrolment webpage, under the how to enrol heading click on the link to the online enrolment application.
3. Once you have submitted your application to enrol, the school may make you an offer which you will need to accept within 14 days.
4. If your application is accepted, contact the school your child was previously enrolled in for 2025 to withdraw that enrolment.

Paper form applications

1. Contact your child's sibling's school to find out if they are able to accommodate your child. Find the school's contact at: education.nsw.gov.au/find-a-public-school.
2. If the school can accommodate your child, complete a new paper application form, which the school can provide.
3. Once you have submitted your paper application to enrol form, the school may make you an offer which you will need to accept within 14 days or as soon as possible.
4. If your application is accepted and you have already accepted your EOI offer, please contact the school directly to withdraw the enrolment.

Enrolment of non-local children of school staff

I applied to enrol my child the school I work at, but their application was declined. Can I submit my child's enrolment application again?

If you have applied to enrol your child at the school you work at and the application was declined, you can resubmit. To do so, please follow the steps outlined in the section above under "How do I change where I have enrolled my child for 2025?"

Where can I find more information?

For enrolment enquiries, speak to your preferred school. Find your school's contact details at: education.nsw.gov.au/find-a-public-school

For more information on how to enrol in a NSW government school: education.nsw.gov.au/enrolment

For more information on how to enrol in a NSW government school as a Temporary Resident: <https://www.deinternational.nsw.edu.au/>

For general enrolment enquiries, contact the Department of Education head office: 1300 679 332

Telephone Interpreter Service If you need an interpreter to assist you to contact a school or the Department of Education, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 13 14 50 and ask for an interpreter in your language. Tell the operator the phone number you want to call and the operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with the conversation. You will not be charged for this service.