

STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL

Information for
families with
students in year 6



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

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The word 'Aboriginal' is used throughout this document as inclusive of people who identify as Aboriginal, Anangu, Torres Strait Islander or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

If English is not your first language and/or you need help understanding or completing the registration process, contact your child's primary school.

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如果英语不是您的母语, 而且/或者您在理解或者办理注册手续时需要帮助, 请联系您孩子的小学。

Tjinguru nyuntu English kulilpai munu wangkapai wiya munu nyuntu putu kulini registration nyanga palunya yaaltji - yaaltji palyantjaku.
Ringamilala nyuntumpa tjitjiku kuulakutu.

Si el inglés no es su primer idioma y/o necesita ayuda para entender o completar el proceso de matriculación, póngase en contacto con la escuela primaria de su hijo/a.

Nếu tiếng Anh không phải là tiếng mẹ đẻ của quý vị và/hoặc quý vị cần giúp để hiểu hoặc để hoàn tất quá trình đăng ký, hãy liên hệ với trường tiểu học của con quý vị.

STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL

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 your child.

This brochure explains different government school options available. It applies to students currently in year 6 who will be starting secondary school next year.

Statewide transition process

This 2-stage process allocates approximately 14,000 South Australian year 6 students to a secondary school.

Stage 1 - Registration of interest

This occurs in May, where families submit a 'registration of interest' form.

Stage 2 - Allocation

This occurs in August, when families receive an enrolment offer from their allocated secondary school and submit an enrolment form to the school.

જો અંગ્રેજી તમારી પ્રથમ ભાષા નથી અને/અથવા તમને નોંધણી પ્રક્રિયા સમજવા અથવા પૂર્ણ કરવા માટે મદદની જરૂર હોય, તો તમારા બાળકની પ્રાથમિક શાળાનો સંપર્ક કરો.

यदि अंग्रेज़ी आपकी पहली भाषा नहीं है और/या यदि आपको इस पंजीकरण प्रक्रिया को समझने या पूरा करने में सहायता की आवश्यकता है, तो अपने बच्चे के प्राइमरी (प्राथमिक) स्कूल से संपर्क करें।

यदि अङ्ग्रेजी तपाईंको मातृभाषा होइन र/वा दर्ता प्रक्रिया बुझ्न र पूरा गर्न तपाईंलाई सहयोग चाहिन्छ भने तपाईंको बालबालिकाको प्राथमिक स्कूललाई सम्पर्क गर्नुहोस्।

ਜੇ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਪਹਿਲੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ/ਜਾਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਪੰਜੀਕਰਨ ਪ੍ਰਕਿਰਿਆ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਜਾਂ ਪੂਰਾ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਬੱਚੇ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਾਇਮਰੀ ਸਕੂਲ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

إذا لم تكن اللغة الإنجليزية هي لغتك الأولى و/أو كنت بحاجة إلى مساعدة في فهم أو إكمال عملية التسجيل، فاتصل بالمدرسة الابتدائية لطفلك.

اگر انگلیسی زبان اول شما نیست و/یا برای درک یا تکمیل مراحل ثبت نام به کمک ضرورت دارید، با مکتب ابتدایی فرزندتان تماس بگیرید.

چنانچه انگلیسی زبان اول شما نیست و/یا برای درک یا تکمیل مراحل ثبت نام نیاز به کمک دارید، با مدرسه ابتدایی فرزندتان تماس بگیرید.

اگر انگلش آپ کی پہلی زبان نہیں ہے اور/یا آپ کو رجسٹریشن کے بارے میں سمجھنے یا رجسٹریشن کرنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو اپنے بچے کے پرائمری سکول سے رابطہ کریں۔

ENROLMENT TIMELINE

Term 1

- Decide which secondary school/s to register your interest for. It's a good idea to visit your local/zoned secondary school/s, at an open day, principal's tour or information evening.
See page 4.
- Check with your primary school that your contact details (email, mobile and child's residential address) are up to date.

Term 2

Week 1

- Information and registration forms provided to families.
See page 9.

Week 4

- Submit 'registration of interest form' by **Friday 22 May 2026**.
See page 9.



Term 3

Week 3

- Enrolment offers sent to families between **Wednesday 5 August and Friday 7 August 2026**

See page 11.

Week 5

- **Friday 21 August 2026** – review process closes.

Week 8

- Families sent the outcome of review process by **Friday 11 September 2026**.

Term 4

Week 1

- Schools with capacity can make enrolment offers to non-local students from their waiting list and/or reserve list for selective entry special interest program.

Week 8

- Transition days held.

You can find term dates for South Australian schools online at www.education.sa.gov.au/termdates



WHAT YOU NEED TO CONSIDER

There's a place available for your child at your local government school, as listed on the 'registration of interest' form sent to you as part of the secondary school statewide transition process. It's a good idea to visit your local/zoned secondary school, attend an open day, principal's tour or information evening. Schools have more detailed information on their websites or you can call the school directly.

You can view upcoming individual school 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 at www.education.sa.gov.au/findaschool

Outer metropolitan Adelaide and regional South Australia

For families in outer metropolitan Adelaide or regional South Australia 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 provided school bus service.

When a student resides 5 kilometres or more from their nearest government secondary school or from a Department provided school bus service, they may be eligible for a student travel allowance payment. You can find more information at www.education.sa.gov.au - search for 'Student travel concession and allowances'.

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.

Reception to year 12 schools

If your child currently attends a reception or birth to year 12 school, they can continue at that school or you can apply to attend another secondary school.

Families are encouraged to complete the 'registration of interest' form if your child is continuing at their current school. This supports school planning and indicates their intention to remain at the school.

Capacity management plans

Some schools have capacity management plans in place, which is 1 of the strategies the department uses to support government schools that have more demand for enrolment than available places.

A capacity management plan enables a school to return to or maintain sustainable enrolment numbers, which helps children attend their local school.

For secondary schools with a capacity management plan:

- only those students who meet the enrolment criteria are considered (generally, this means that only the students living in the zone will be offered enrolment)
- there is no automatic entry for enrolment for siblings living outside the school zone.

Further information, including a list of schools with a capacity management plan in place, can be found at www.education.sa.gov.au/cmp

Non-local/out-of-zone secondary school

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

Families can list up to 3 government schools in order of preference on the 'registration of interest' form. Remember to only register your interest for schools you are prepared for your child to attend. If the child is unable to be placed at any of the preferred schools, they will be allocated to their local/zoned secondary school.

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 special interest programs)
- social or family links to the school
- transport and location needs.

It's important to include on the 'registration of interest' form your reason/s for applying for a non-local/out-of-zone school, or if you live in a shared zone, your reasons for nominating your preferred local/zoned school. You may wish to attach supporting documentation that provides evidence to assist in the assessment process.

In some circumstances, a child may be automatically entitled to attend a school they are not zoned to if they select it as a preference. This includes Aboriginal children¹, children in care with a custody or guardianship order, and may include children with an older sibling at the school at the same time².

Read more about how school placements are decided at www.education.sa.gov.au/schoolplacement

Separated parents - shared care arrangements

In most cases, both parents are involved when making decisions about a child's secondary school. It is important that parents reach agreement about which secondary school/s to nominate for their child before completing the 'registration of interest' form, as only 1 form can be submitted for each child. While schools support families and children, they have no role in resolving family disputes.

Generally, a child will attend a school close to the home of the parent who provides most of their primary day-to-day care.

If a child lives in a shared care arrangement between 2 primary home addresses, the family can seek placement at either local (zoned) school. Families must provide their child's primary school with documentary evidence of a child's living arrangements, including proof of residence and any court orders.

Alternatively, if parents agree, they can request their child attend a school mid-way between the 2 homes. Every reasonable effort will be made to place the child or young person at the preferred school mid-way between the 2 homes, however, if the request cannot be accommodated, an alternative may be offered.

To ensure your details are up to date, please contact your child's primary school.

¹ See page 6 for further information for Aboriginal families

² Excludes siblings who entered through a selective special interest program, and schools with a capacity management plan.

Special interest 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, the arts and sports. Read more at www.education.sa.gov.au/specialinterest

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

There is no automatic entry to a school for children whose older siblings gained entry through a selective entry special interest program.

Students from country schools can apply to a special interest school or program at a school that is not local to them. If the application is successful, the family is responsible for accommodation and travel arrangements.

Even if you have accepted a place in a special interest school or program, you must still 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 and be included in the statewide transition process.



South Australia's new technical colleges support students in years 10 to 12 to graduate career-ready, with their SACE, vocational education and training (VET) qualifications, and guaranteed career opportunities.

With industry training programs centred around in-demand industries, designed and delivered in partnership with employers, students can go directly into a job, apprenticeship, traineeship, or further study.

The brand-new, purpose-built facilities replicate the look and feel of actual industry workplaces, allowing students to gain practical, hands-on experience using industry-standard equipment and technologies.

For more information and to register your interest, visit

Specialised schools

Some schools have been established to offer students a specific learning program, in either curriculum or in the nature of the student enrolment. These are referred to as specialised schools. This includes girls' education, agricultural, senior colleges (for example year 11 and 12 only), and science and mathematics schools.

Families seeking a placement in a specialised school can approach the school directly for more information.

Mitcham Girls High School

www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au

Phone (08) 8272 8233

Roma Mitchell Secondary College – Girls' Education Campus

www.rmssc.sa.edu.au

Phone (08) 8161 4600

Urrbrae Agricultural High School

www.urrbraehs.sa.edu.au

Phone (08) 8274 7455

Australian Science and Mathematics School

ASMS is a non-zoned school for year 10 to 12 students, providing opportunities for young people with a passion for science and mathematics.

www.asms.sa.edu.au

Phone (08) 8201 5686

The following specialised schools offer secondary schooling for Aboriginal students:

Warriappendi Secondary School

www.warriappendi.sa.edu.au

Phone (08) 8293 3137

Kurna Plains School

www.kurnaas.sa.edu.au

Phone (08) 8252 4419

For more information about other programs, such as the Clontarf Foundation, SAASTA, Wiltja, Shooting Stars and the Workabout Centre contact the Aboriginal Education Directorate via education.aboriginalservices@sa.gov.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 intellectual disability

A specialised education setting may be considered when a student with an intellectual disability is not making meaningful progress in a mainstream learning environment, despite having realistic goals and appropriate support in place. If your child is being considered for placement in a Special Educations Option, you should have been contacted by your local student support services in relation to your placement for secondary school.

If you would like more information about a specialised education option for your child, please contact your primary school for support with this process.

ENTER FOR SUCCESS

The Enter for Success strategy supports the inclusion, attendance, participation, and retention of Aboriginal students at school.

Aboriginal students in year 6 can enrol and be accepted into any government secondary school they nominate.

Who can apply

Students who identify as Aboriginal and who are in year 6 applying to start secondary school next year. This does not apply to enrolments into special options for students with disability or selective entry special interest programs.

Further information can be found online at www.sa.gov.au/enter-for-success

What do I need to do

You can talk to your school principal, the Aboriginal Education teacher, Aboriginal Community Education officer or Aboriginal Education worker at your child's primary school, or the Aboriginal Community Education team leaders or Aboriginal Services Engagement Officer at your local education office.



HOW TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

You can register your interest for your child to attend:

- their local/zoned school
- a special interest school or a specific program in a school (more information about these options can be found on pages 5-7)
- a non-local/out-of-zone school.

For more information about an education option for a child with disability, refer to page 7.

If your child currently attends 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 you need to make 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. This is important as these details are used for the 'registration of interest' form and to determine your child's local school.

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

Read more at www.education.sa.gov.au/proof

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 link for your child
- click on the URL to open the form, complete all mandatory fields and attach documents where requested
- once you have completed a page click on the **'NEXT'** button
- once you have filled out all pages click the **'SUBMIT'** button by **the end of week 4, term 2.**

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

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

If your child currently attends a non-government school

Step 1

If your child is currently enrolled at a non-government school (eg Catholic or Independent), you can contact your local government secondary school or local education office for a transition pack, or visit www.education.sa.gov.au/startingsecondaryschool to register.

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.
Read more at www.education.sa.gov.au/proof

Step 4

Return the completed form and proof of residence documents by the end of week 4, term 2 to education.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au or send to:

Statewide Transition Team
Department for Education
Level 10, 31 Flinders Street
Adelaide SA 5000



Remember

The link to this unique form has been sent to each person who has legal responsibility for your child.

Only 1 form can be submitted for each child, so it is important that parents reach agreement about which secondary school/s you want to nominate for your child and who will submit the form before you complete the 'registration of interest'.

If you need to make changes after you have submitted the online 'registration of interest' form, you will need to contact your primary school.

HOW OFFERS ARE ALLOCATED

Offers for enrolment

You will receive an offer from the secondary school to which your child has been allocated between Wednesday and Friday week 3, term 3. The offer, enrolment form and any related documentation which the school requires you to complete and return is referred to as an 'allocation pack'.

The allocation pack, including the enrolment form, may be sent to you by email as the enrolment process can now be completed online. Hard copy packs will continue to be available from your allocated secondary school for those unable to complete it online or for applicants from non-government schools.

To secure your place, you must follow the enrolment instructions provided in the offer letter or email. This will include completing the enrolment form and providing all requested documents. You should do this by the date listed in the offer to make sure your offer does not lapse.

The school may also require you to attend the school in person, and bring specific information, such as proof of residence documentation.

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

If you have not received an enrolment offer by Monday week 4, term 3:

- If your child attends a government primary school, please check your email Junk or Spam folder or contact the primary school.
- If your child attends a non-government primary school, contact us at education.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au

Allocation to secondary school

Every effort is made by the department to place students in the preferred order of secondary schools from your registration of interest. When the number of applications exceeds the places available at the school, this is not possible. In this case, students may be allocated to 1 of the other schools nominated or their zoned/local school.

Allocation review process

If you believe there are grounds, you can request a review of your allocated school by submitting the 'allocation review' form. This form is included in your allocation pack or can be requested from the Statewide Transition Team.

The review request must contain additional or new evidence that was not provided in your original 'registration of interest' form. The review panel will reassess the points allocated to the student's first choice school. In some cases, as a result of the review, a student may have their position on the school's ranked waiting list amended, although this does not guarantee entry to the school.

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 entry special interest school or program, 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 week 5, term 3.

Requests received after this date will not be accepted.

Families will be notified of the outcome of the review by Friday week 8, term 3.

ENQUIRIES AND COMMON QUESTIONS

If you have questions not answered here, please contact your primary school for advice or email the Statewide Transition Team at education.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au.

Common questions

Q: Where can I find dates for open days and principal tours for secondary schools?

A: You can view upcoming open days and principal's tours at www.education.sa.gov.au/opendays, or contact the school directly.

Q: When will I find out which secondary school my child has been allocated to?

A: Students will receive their enrolment offers between Wednesday and Friday week 3, term 3.

Q: I think my child's primary school is a 'feeder school' for my preferred non-local/out of zone school. Does this mean my child will get automatic entry to this secondary school?

A: No. Students are allocated to a secondary school based on their residential address at the time of the registration of interest process, not the primary school they attend. The registration process is described on page 8.

Q: I'm home educating my child and intend to continue for year 7. Do I need to complete a registration of interest form?

A: Yes. As part of the home education registration process, all home education students are required to be enrolled at a school. You can advise as part of your registration of interest form that you intend to continue home education for year 7.

Q: I moved house after submitting my registration of interest, what do I do?

A: If your child is enrolled at a government primary school, contact your child's primary school. If your child is enrolled at a non-government primary school, contact the Statewide Transition Team. You will need to provide proof of residence to update your address details, and then change your registration of interest form details if required.

Note: that this can only be done during the registration of interest process, up until 5pm Friday week 8, term 2.

Q: What if my child is not allocated to one of my requested schools?

A: Your child will be allocated to your local/zoned school. Students who are not allocated to their first, second and/or third preferences will be placed on each of the secondary schools' waiting lists (if they have one). Waiting lists are managed directly by schools. To ensure the process is fair and equitable, parents will not be advised of their child's position on the waiting list.

Note: schools with a capacity management plan do not have a non-local/out-of-zone waiting list.

Q: What can I do if I feel there are grounds to review my child's allocation?

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

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

A: Families will be notified of the review outcome on or by Friday week 8, term 3.

Q: What happens after the secondary school transition process has closed?

A: After this process closes each year, families can contact schools directly to discuss late applications for enrolment. 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 year 7 enrolment was based on false or misleading information, or the child no longer meets the school's enrolment criteria, 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.dpc.sa.gov.au/responsibilities/information-sharing-guidelines), the department will not otherwise disclose personal information to a third party, outside the purposes described above, without your consent.



