General Conditions of Enrolment and Admission for Temporary Residents

Students from countries around the world enrol in New South Wales government schools every year. New South Wales government schools offer a world-class standard of education from the largest education provider in Australia.

The Temporary Residents Program (part of Department of Education International) administers the enrolment of school aged students into the New South Wales government school system in consultation with the accepting school.

Temporary resident students require an Authority to Enrol issued by the Temporary Residents Program in order to be admitted by a New South Wales government school.

Norfolk Island permanent residents and New Zealand citizens holding a current New Zealand citizen passport may be admitted direct by a New South Wales government school in the same manner as Australian permanent residents.

All students seeking enrolment are subject to the New South Wales Department of Education policy on enrolment in a New South Wales government school, including a risk assessment. For information on the general enrolment process for New South Wales government schools, please click here.

Temporary resident and visitor visa holders are subject to additional conditions.

- Students must hold a current valid visa for temporary residence in Australia and must meet the specific travel, entry and residency conditions determined by the Australian Department of Immigration & Border Protection (DIBP). Enrolment in the New South Wales government school is generally accepted for the length of the visa, subject to policy and the terms and conditions of admission.

- Students on temporary visas may be enrolled in their local area school based on residential address or they may request enrolment for an out of area school. A request for an out of area enrolment may be considered by the school's enrolment panel, according to the Department's policy and subject to selection criteria such as availability of appropriate staff and classroom accommodation.

- Temporary residents are not eligible to enrol in Selective High Schools including Agricultural High Schools, the selective component of Comprehensive High Schools and Opportunity (OC) classes in Primary Schools and are generally not eligible to enrol in the Conservatorium High School.

- Most students holding a temporary resident visa are required to pay the Temporary Residents Administration Fee and Education Fee. Please refer to the Schedule of Visa Subclass & Conditions document on our website to determine if a visa subclass is considered as a fee liable category. For more information on fees, please refer to the Education Fees document on our website.
Students holding a dependent student visa must pay the Temporary Residents Administration Fee and Education Fee in accordance with the pre-entry, financial means testing procedures and conditions of the visa determined by the Department of Immigration & Border Protection. Students holding dependent student visas are subject to specific arrangements. Please refer to the information template regarding the Enrolment Procedures for Dependents of International Students.

All Students must provide evidence of their immunisation status directly to the school at the time of enrolment in the form of an immunisation certificate, a letter from a registered medical practitioner or community health centre. For more information on immunisation guidelines, please click here.

Many government schools provide English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D) programs. Student eligibility for intensive EAL/D support is determined by the visa subclass and the school’s capacity to provide the support. Please refer to the Schedule of Visa Subclass & Conditions document on our website for a full listing of visa subclasses and their eligibility for intensive EAL/D support. To view the Temporary Residents Program information sheet for EAL/D programs, please click here. For more general information for EAL/D programs, please click here.

The New South Wales Department of Education requires that all school aged students who are less than 18 years of age and who hold a subordinate visitor or temporary resident visa based on a parent’s principal visa and who are seeking enrolment in a New South Wales government school, must reside with the parent during any period of enrolment, except in the most extenuating circumstances acknowledged by the New South Wales Department of Education.