

# STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL

IN 2021



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

# STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL IN 2021

The transition to secondary school is a major milestone. It will bring 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 young people.

This brochure explains the department's registration of interest process and the different government school options available.



# CONTENTS

<b>WHAT YOU NEED TO DO</b>	<b>4</b>
CHOOSE A SCHOOL	5
COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION	8
<b>HOW OFFERS ARE ALLOCATED</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>ENQUIRIES AND COMMON QUESTIONS</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>PRIVACY STATEMENT</b>	<b>11</b>

# WHAT YOU NEED TO DO



# CHOOSE A SCHOOL

## Decide which secondary school to register your interest for:

- your child's local/zoned school
- a special interest school or a specific program in a school
- an education option for a child with a disability
- a non-local/out-of-zone school.

It's a good idea to personally visit your local/zoned secondary school/s, perhaps on an open day, principal's tour or information evening. Schools have more detailed information on their websites or you can call the school directly.

## Local school (zoned)

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 for 2021 at:

[www.education.sa.gov.au/findaschool](http://www.education.sa.gov.au/findaschool)

### Note:

For families in outer metropolitan Adelaide 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 (the department) provided school bus service.

When a student resides 5 kilometres or more from their nearest government secondary school or a provided school bus service, they may be eligible for a student travel allowance payment.

## Local school (shared zone)

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.

## Non-local school (out-of-zone)

All government secondary schools aim to have enough places to accept students in their local/zoned area.

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

You can register interest to attend up to 3 non-local/out-of-zone schools on your registration of interest form, in order of preference.

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 is important to also include the reason/s why you are applying for non-local/out-of-zone school or your preferred local/zoned school in a shared zone.

For secondary schools with a capacity management plan or separate enrolment criteria, only those students who meet the enrolment criteria are considered. Capacity management plans for 2021 are available at [www.education.sa.gov.au/cmp](http://www.education.sa.gov.au/cmp).

If your child currently goes to a combined school (eg reception to year 12), you can stay at that school or apply for another secondary school.

In some cases, the department gives automatic entry to a child living outside the local/zoned area. This includes, children with an older sibling at the school at the same time\*, Aboriginal children and children in care with a custody or guardianship order.

Read further how placements are determined at: <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parenting-and-child-care/your-childs-enrolment/enrolment/placement-school-or-preschool>

*\* excludes siblings who entered through a selective special interest program in 2020.*

## Special interest schools or 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, music, arts and sports.

The secondary school may be approved by the department to select students for entry via an audition, test or interview the year prior to starting at the school. Please contact the secondary school or visit their website for more information on their programs and application process.

Schools will make their first round offers during term 2, 2020.

Note 2020 onwards there is no automatic entry for future siblings for children chosen by the school to enrol and participate in approved selective special interest programs.

Students from country schools can apply to a special interest school or program, however the responsibility for accommodation and travel arrangements is with the family.

If you have accepted a place in a specialised school or program, you are still asked to complete the registration of interest form and provide a copy of the school acceptance letter so your details can be registered by the department.

If you are looking for an all girls' education, please contact Mitcham Girls High School or Roma Mitchell Secondary College – Girl's Education Campus for further details.

### Australian Science and Mathematics School (ASMS)

ASMS is for students in years 10 to 12 and can't be chosen at this stage. For further information or a copy of the ASMS 'registration of interest form', please visit [www.asms.sa.edu.au](http://www.asms.sa.edu.au).

### Country special interest schools and programs

Some country secondary schools specialise in particular areas, eg 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.

## Education options for students with a disability

Many students with a disability enrol in their local/zoned school. The department provides schools with additional resources to support students with a disability or additional needs in mainstream classes and specialised education options.

If you wish to explore a specialised education option you can choose to participate in a state-wide panel process for placement in a special class, disability unit or special school. Your primary school, department psychologist and special educator will support you in this process. Local student support services are responsible for coordinating the placement panel process each year.

All families are required to also complete a registration of interest form, even if they are applying for a specialised education option.

There are other specialised education options for students with specific disabilities. These include the Centres of Deaf Education, Kilparrin Teaching and Assessment School and Services (vision and/or hearing impairment, with additional needs) and SA School for Vision Impaired (SASVI). There is a separate placement panel for these centres. Centres have more information on their websites or you can call them directly.



# COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION

## Coming from a government primary school

### Step 1:

Make sure your child's primary school has your current email addresses and your child's correct residential address. Addresses cannot be a commercial property, PO Box or a mailing address.

If there is a mistake with your child's residential address, please contact your primary school as soon as possible so they can update your details.

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.

Further information on proof of residence is available at <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parenting-and-child-care/your-childs-enrolment/enrolment/confirming-enrolment-school-or-preschool>

### 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 for your child
- complete all mandatory fields.
- once you have completed a page click on the 'NEXT' button.
- once you have filled out all pages click the 'SUBMIT' button by **22 May 2020**.

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

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

### Remember:

1. The link to this unique form has been sent to each person who has legal responsibility for your child.
2. It is important that parents/guardians reach an agreement regarding which secondary school(s) you want to nominate for your child before you complete the registration of interest form, as only one form can be submitted for each child.
3. If you need to make changes after you have submitted the registration of interest form you will need to contact your primary school.

## Coming from a non-government school

### Step 1:

Children who are currently enrolled at a non-government school (eg Catholic or private) can contact their local government secondary school, local education office for a transition pack, or email

[education.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au](mailto:education.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au) for a PDF copy.

### Step 2:

The [www.education.sa.gov.au/findaschool](http://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. You will need to supply proof of residence documents when you submit the form to the department. Refer to <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parenting-and-child-care/your-childs-enrolment/enrolment/confirming-enrolment-school-or-preschool> for further information.

### Step 3:

Return the completed form and proof of residence documents by **Friday 22 May 2020** to [education.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au](mailto:education.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au) or send to:

**Year 7 to 8 transition team**  
**Conditions for Learning Directorate**  
**Department for Education**  
**Level 10, 31 Flinders Street**  
**Adelaide South Australia 5000**

# HOW OFFERS ARE ALLOCATED

## Offers

Offers are made in order of the schools you nominate on your child's registration of interest form.

Families will get an offer from their final allocated secondary school on or by **14 August 2020**.

You should accept the offer by the date indicated by the school, to make sure your offer does not lapse and go to another applicant.

To secure your place, you must follow the enrolment instructions provided by the school in your allocation pack.

This may include completing the school's enrolment form, attending the school in person and providing requested documentation, such as evidence of proof of residence.

Note: accepting an offer will not prevent your child from being considered in later offers, if applicable, or selective special interest program offers from other schools (eg round 2 offers).

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

## Allocation reviews

If your allocated secondary school is not your first choice, the offer from the allocated secondary school will also include review information and timelines, if applicable.

Review requests must include a letter and all supporting documented evidence not provided in your original registration of interest form.

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 special interest school or program, you must 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 documented evidence that a special consideration was missed in the original registration of interest. The threshold of special consideration to these schools is very high, and only provided in exceptional circumstances. Please check with the school for more information.

Requests for a review must be lodged with the transition team at [education.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au](mailto:education.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au) by 5pm **Friday 28 August 2020**. Requests received after this date will not be accepted.

# ENQUIRIES AND COMMON QUESTIONS

If you have questions not answered in this brochure, please contact your primary school for advice or email [education.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au](mailto:education.startingsecondaryschool@sa.gov.au)

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

A: From individual school websites.

**Q: When will I find out where I have been accepted for secondary school?**

A: Students will receive their allocation packs on or by Friday **14 August 2020**.

**Q: When will I receive the email or letter to complete the registration of interest for my child?**

A: Public school families will receive transition information including an email or letter with the unique URL from their primary school at the beginning of term 2, 2020.

**Q: What if I miss out on my preferred schools?**

A: You will be allocated to a local/zoned school.

Students who miss out on their first, second and/or third preferences will be placed on each of the secondary school's waiting lists, if they have one. Waiting lists are managed directly by schools and to ensure the process is fair and equitable, parents will not be advised of their position on the waiting list.

Note: there is no non-local/out-of-zone waiting list for schools with a capacity management plan.

**Q: What documentation will I receive in my allocation pack?**

A: A letter of welcome, offer for year 8 enrolment, confirming enrolment instructions and review information, if applicable.

**Q: What can I do if I am unhappy about my allocation?**

A: You can request a review of the process by completing the review form you receive 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 **18 September 2020**. If the review is successful, your position on the waiting list may be amended, although this review does not guarantee entry to the school.

**Q: What happens after the statewide registration process has closed?**

A: After this registration of interest process closes each year, schools will take late applications directly. 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 8 enrolment was based on false or misleading information, or the child no longer meets the school's enrolment criteria for a place, the principal may reconsider the offer for enrolment prior to the start of the school year.

**Q: When will year 7s move into government secondary schools?**

A: All Year 7s will move to secondary school by 2022. Further information is available from <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/sites-and-facilities/year-7-high-school>

# PRIVACY STATEMENT

We respect the confidentiality of information provided through the statewide registration of interest 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 <https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/resources-and-publications/premier-and-cabinet-circulars/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 reasonable to 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.ombudsman.sa.gov.au](http://www.ombudsman.sa.gov.au)), the department will not otherwise disclose personal information to a third party, outside the purposes described above, without your consent.

