

Changes to the opportunity class placement process for Year 5 entry in 2021

Information for parents/carers and students

The department is committed to the continued education of all students across NSW, including advanced learning programs for high potential and gifted students.

The 2021 Year 5 opportunity class placement process was put on hold in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation.

We have now rescheduled and streamlined the application process. Please note the details of the changes below and assist parents and carers to understand these changes.

Why have changes been made to the 2020 opportunity class placement process?

Due to the shorter time frame available for the OC placement process, changes have been made to the process for this year. The department is committed to supporting the continuity of learning and transitions for each child, and the revised application and placement process will ensure students are placed in 2021 Year 5 opportunity classes as soon as possible.

What changes have been made?

The 2020 opportunity class placement process has been revised to accommodate the shorter timeline due to the postponement of the test.

To ensure the fair and consistent assessment of students across all schools and regions of NSW, this year students will be placed on test results only. Taking this approach reduces the effect of the disrupted start to the school year, which could compromise school assessment scores, and ensures that all students are placed using the same test performed under the same conditions. The test is created by an independent educational assessment provider and measures academic ability, not achievement, giving a reliable method for identifying highly gifted applicants which is not subject to the variable classroom conditions experienced this year.

What are the key dates I should be aware of?

The revised dates are listed below. Parents are advised to review the new dates carefully and ensure an application is submitted by the closing date for their child to be eligible to sit the placement test as, owing to the shorter timeline, late applications will not be accepted.

Action	Date
Applications open	9 June 2020
Applications close	26 June 2020
Opportunity Class Placement Test date	16 September 2020
Parents and schools advised of placement outcome information	From 1 December 2020
Parents accept or decline first round placement	By 15 December 2020
Principals arrange orientation day for successful candidates	December 2020
Reserve places offered	From mid-December 2020
Authority to attend an opportunity class letter sent to parents	Late January 2021
Successful candidates enrol in Year 5 at a school with an opportunity class	Late January 2021

A visual timeline showing the key dates is printed on the next page.

Further information

Visit the department's website

Opportunity classes – Year 5 updates available on the website at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/updates>

Opportunity classes – key dates on the website at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/general-information>

Parents are encouraged to speak to the principal of their child's primary school for further information about the changes made to the opportunity class placement process this year.

Contact

For further information or assistance contact:

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[Opportunity class placement](#)

2020 Opportunity class placement process - key dates

