



Education

High Performing Students Team

Information bulletin for primary schools

Year 5 entry to an
opportunity class
in **2020**

Changes to the bulletin

This bulletin contains detailed guidance for provision of school assessment scores. Please read carefully the information on pages 7 and 8 so you can ensure that the scores you give are most effective.

Important dates

Date	Process
Late March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application information sent to schools • Application information is updated on the High Performing Student Team's^ website
Tuesday 30 April 2019	Application website opens and parents apply online
Wednesday 1 May 2019	Advertisement announcing availability of application information in the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> and <i>Daily Telegraph</i> . Advertisements also on Facebook and Twitter
Friday 17 May 2019	Application website closes. The closing date for applications will be strictly observed except in areas where there is a shortage of suitable candidates or where the extenuating circumstances are serious and well documented
Tuesday 21 May 2019	Principals' application processing site opens (government schools only)
Friday 7 June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principals' application processing site closes (government schools only) • Non-government principals complete <i>Principal's page for provision of school assessment scores</i> and return it to the Team
Wednesday 17 July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are sent a <i>Test authority</i> letter from the Team • Test centre advice is sent to schools
Wednesday 31 July 2019	Opportunity Class Placement Test
Wednesday 14 August 2019	Illness/misadventure requests lodged with the Team
September 2019	Selection committees meet
Mid-October 2019	Parents and schools advised of placement outcome information
Friday 25 October 2019	Appeals submitted to principals
Friday 1 November 2019	Appeals forwarded to the Team with principals' comments
Mid-November 2019	Appeals panel meets
Late November 2019	Appeals outcome advised
January 2020	<i>Authority to attend an opportunity class</i> letters sent to parents of successful students

Note:

Parent* is defined under the *Education Act 1990* as 'a guardian or other person having custody or care of a child'.

^ In this document, the High Performing Students Team will be referred to as the Team.

Overview of the opportunity class application process

DATE	PROCESS	PRIMARY SCHOOL ACTION
Before 30 April 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletters <i>Intention to apply for an opportunity class</i> letter School website home page School signboard 	<p>Please use as many opportunities as possible to inform parents of Year 4 students to apply for opportunity class placement in Year 5 in 2020 such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> advising parents in at least two newsletters or equivalent of the opening and closing dates for applications and the fact that they must apply before the due date. advising the above on the school's website home page and signboard, if applicable, during the application period. sending <i>Intention to apply for an opportunity class</i> letters home to all Year 4 parents. keeping a record of all responses to the <i>Intention to apply for an opportunity class</i> letter. <p>Note the students who will need school assessment scores.</p>
30 April 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application website opens on: https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5 Application information emailed to schools. 	<p>Advise all parents wishing to apply of the availability of application information online.</p> <p>Refer parents without internet access to public libraries or you may assist parents to apply online.</p> <p>Advise parents not to submit duplicate applications. They should email the Team to correct any errors detected after submitting the application.</p>
17 May 2019	Application website closes.	Check that all those intending to apply have done so before the closing date as late applications are accepted only in very limited circumstances.
21 May 2019	The Team sends an email to the school's email account advising the principal of the applications received (government schools only).	<p>Alert your office staff to make sure this email is passed on to you.</p> <p>Register on the principals' application processing site to process online applications.</p>
By 7 June 2019	<p>Government principals' application processing site closes.</p> <p>School assessment scores and comments are added on the principals' processing site.</p> <p>Non-government principals add school assessment scores to the <i>Principal's page for provision of school assessment scores</i> provided by applicants.</p>	<p><u>Government school principals:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide school assessment scores online. make comments in the special comments field if applicable. save and print the emailed list of all completed applications for the school's records. <p><u>Non-government school principals:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> send completed <i>Principal's page for provision of school assessment scores</i> to the Team.
17 July 2019	<p>Parents are sent <i>Test authority</i> letters.</p> <p>Principals are sent test centre advice.</p> <p>List of all schools and their test centres will be published on the internet.</p> <p>Parents and principals advised of disability test provisions granted.</p>	<p>Check that all applicants know where they are going for the test.</p> <p>Advise parents to email the Team if they haven't received the <i>Test authority</i> letter by 18 July 2019. Remind them that parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from the test centre.</p>
31 July 2019	Opportunity Class Placement Test.	Please do not schedule other school activities on this day.
9 August 2019	Last day for parents to submit change of school choices in writing.	
14 August 2019	If applicable, parents submit illness/misadventure requests.	If applicable, direct parents to the Team's web page for information about illness/misadventure procedures.
September 2019	Selection committees meet.	
Mid-October 2019	Parents are sent placement outcome information. Principals receive report of placement outcome information.	Non-government principals can request a report of placement outcome information if they have provided school assessment scores and parents have given permission.
25 October 2019	If applicable, parents submit appeals to school principals for processing.	
1 November 2019	Principals process appeals.	Send appeals to the Team with your comments added.
Mid-November 2019	Appeals panel meets.	
Late November 2019	Outcome of appeals advised.	
Late January 2020	<i>Authority to attend an opportunity class</i> letters sent to parents of students who have accepted an offer.	
Late January 2020	Successful candidates enrol in Year 5 at a school with an opportunity class.	

Placement procedures for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2020

Actions required by principals

Principals must:

1. Advise parents of Year 4 students of the opportunity to apply online before the closing date (i.e. 17 May 2019). Principals are requested to use the *Intention to apply for opportunity class placement* form to keep track of interested applicants.
2. Advertise the opportunity class application online application website on the school's website, at least 2 newsletters or equivalent.
3. Ensure that important events such as school camps or athletic carnivals are not scheduled on the day of the test (i.e. 31 July 2019).
4. Assist parents who do not have access to the internet to apply online.
5. Provide school assessment scores on the principals' processing site from Tuesday 21 May to Friday 7 June 2019. Non-government principals are to return the *Principal's page for provision of school assessment scores* to the Team by Friday 7 June 2019.
6. Liaise with the Team about disability test provisions if applicable.
7. Ensure the Team is informed about students who have the potential to disrupt the test centre they will be allocated to.
8. Declare any conflict of interest in relation to provision of school assessment scores (see page 7).
9. Advise parents about the test centre the candidates have been allocated to in case their individual test centre advice goes astray and comment of appeals submitted.

What are opportunity classes?

Opportunity classes cater for high achieving, academically gifted and talented Year 5 and Year 6 students. They are located in 75 government primary schools in NSW.

These classes help gifted and talented students to learn by grouping them with other gifted and talented students, teaching them in specialised ways and providing educational materials at the appropriate level.

Students who are placed attend the opportunity class full time in Years 5 and 6.

Application criteria

Selection criteria, general procedures and an outline of the application process for the placement of students in Year 5 in opportunity classes are on the *Team's website* and contained in the application information booklet and are not repeated in this document.

Providing advice to parents

- Every year schools report that parents have become very concerned that they were not advised by the school about applying for opportunity class placement. To avoid these situations it is vital that principals advise all parents of Year 4 students that they can apply for Year 5 opportunity class placement in 2020. Parents apply online at the following link:
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>
- Applications are open between **Tuesday 30 April and Friday 17 May 2019**.
- Ensure that the opening and closing dates for applications and the Team's website are advertised at least twice in school newsletters or equivalent and on the school's website home page. A note on the school's signboard would also be helpful.
- Principals can advise parents using the *Intention to apply for opportunity class placement* form which is included on page 9 of this document. An electronic template is available at:
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/general-information> under the heading *Resources for schools*. Ensure parents know that the *Intention to apply for an opportunity class* letter is not an application. It only informs the school which students will need school assessment scores.
- Advertisements will be placed in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Daily Telegraph* and social media such as Twitter and Facebook to publicise opportunity classes and the closing date for applications.
- Translated information about the opportunity class placement test is published at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/translated-documents/opportunity-class-placement-test>

Suitability

Encourage parents to ask you about the suitability of opportunity class placement for their children, but be cautious about making predictions about a student's chances of selection.

Acceleration

No parent of a Year 3 student should be encouraged to apply unless the school has identified the child as a suitable candidate for accelerated progression into Year 5. If you do not recommend accelerated progression and parents of Year 3 students request application information you can provide it, but you should indicate your lack of support in the special comments section of the application processing site or non-government principals should note it on the *Principal's page for provision of school assessment*

Placement procedures for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2020

scores. **School assessment scores should be provided only if the Year 3 students have been assessed on the same tasks as the Year 4 candidates.**

Repetition

Parents of students who are in Year 5 in 2019 should be discouraged from applying. Where parents insist, school assessment scores should not be supplied unless the Year 5 students have been assessed on the same tasks and placed on the same scale as the Year 4 candidates. Principals of government schools should note this on the principals' processing site and non-government principals should note it on the *Principal's page for provision of school assessment scores*.

Selection committees have discretion not to place students who are currently in Year 5 and whose parents wish them to repeat Year 5 in an opportunity class in 2020.

Reapplying

Parents should be advised that the selection committees can consider whether or not students who took the Opportunity Class Placement Test in the previous year have gained undue benefit from their experience with the test.

Application processing by government school principals

The Team will email principals on **Tuesday 21 May 2019** with detailed instructions for providing school assessment scores for all applicants through the principals' processing site. The email will be sent to the school email account.

Application processing by non-government school principals

Non-government principals do not have access to the principals' processing site.

Principals of non-government schools are asked to add school assessment scores to the *Principal's page for provision of school assessment scores* provided by the parents. The school should forward the form to the Team by email or to the address shown on the form by **Friday 7 June 2019**.

Reports

Government schools will be emailed updates with their students whose parents have applied, even where there were no applications. Principals or their delegates should reconcile these names against the names on *Intention to apply for an opportunity class* forms received. Where parents have returned an *Intention to apply for an opportunity class* form but have not applied it would be appreciated if schools reminded them to apply by the closing date. Despite warnings to the contrary, some parents still expect the school to apply on their behalf.

Please check the report to ensure that all applicants from your school have been listed and that all details are correct. Let the Team know about any listed students not enrolled in your school and any duplicate applications for the same student.

Testing of students

All candidates are required to take the Opportunity Class Placement Test on **Wednesday 31 July 2019**.

Candidates are identified by answer booklet number and not by name to ensure impartiality in the marking process.

The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be conducted in test centres usually established in government high schools. Presiding officers and supervisors will administer the test.

All applicants will be sent *Test authority* letter on **Wednesday 17 July 2019** advising which test centre they have been allocated to. Please ensure that applicants from your school are advised about the test centre their students have been allocated to in case their individual letter goes astray.

Please use your newsletter or other communication method to let parents know where candidates from your school are being tested. The Team supplies suggested wording in the email it sends to schools advising them about the test centre.

Test centres will also be listed on the [Team's website](#).

Parents of students sitting the test are responsible for making travel arrangements to and from the test centre. Students are expected to return to school after the test and should not be marked absent for the first half of the day unless the school has been advised that the student is not sitting the test.

The following timetable is approximate and will vary according to the size and location of the test centre.

Activity	Time
Parents transport candidates to test centre	by 9.00 am
Administration and test practice	9.00 am – 9.50 am
Part 1 of test (30 minutes)	9.50 am – 10.20 am
Break (candidates remain in test centre)	10.20 am – 10.30 am
Part 2 of test (30 minutes)	10.30 am – 11.00 am
Test papers collected	11.00 am – 11.10 am
Candidates dismissed and parents collect students	11.10 am – 11.15 am

Placement procedures for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2020

Disability test provisions

When a parent or school makes a request for disability test provisions, the Team evaluates the feasibility of the request and writes to both the applicant and the principal of the student's current government primary school listing the disability test provisions that have been granted.

Where a student has a disability including a medical or behavioural condition requiring separate supervision during the test, the student's primary school is requested to send an aide or other staff member to ensure that the student is always supervised by two staff members.

Principals have an obligation to identify students who may pose a risk to other students or staff at a test centre. Principals do this by making a comment in the special comments section of the application processing site when entering school assessment scores.

Preparing students for the test

The Opportunity Class Placement Test is a secure test and papers are unavailable for scrutiny before, during or after the test session.

The Department does not endorse coaching for the Opportunity Class Placement Test as it is designed as a measure of academic ability or potential.

Parents or staff members who wish to familiarise students with the test could use the sample test papers located on the website at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/the-test#Test1>

The practice sample tests can assist students by providing them with experience in:

- answering the questions on a separate answer sheet
- time management
- checking the number of the question against the number of the answer to avoid misalignment of their answers.

Note: The page numbers on the sample answer booklet do not match the page numbers of the sample question items but the page numbers will match in the actual test.

Practice with any other kind of multiple-choice questions could also help students become familiar with this kind of test.

Selection committees

The Team makes recommendations based on Department of Education policy before the selection committees meet. Selection committees ratify those recommendations or change them as required in line with departmental policy.

All placement decisions are made using the results of the Opportunity Class Placement Test, the school assessment scores and, where relevant, information provided by schools and information supplied by parents. Overseas or interstate applicants not able to sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test are considered on the results of WISC-V or Stanford Binet - V testing (at the applicant's own expense).

Each selection committee consists of at least two members, including the principal of the school with an opportunity class and a member of the school counselling service. It may include a Director, Educational Leadership or other personnel invited by the principal.

A member of the Team participates as a non-voting executive officer to ensure that all selection committees use consistent procedures. Selection committees or appeals panels may consult with principals directly.

Placement outcome information and reports

The Team will email or post individual placement outcome information to parents.

Government primary school principals will be sent an initial outcome report for the principal's reference only. The report will show all students who have received offers, those on reserve lists and those who have been unsuccessful. It will also show the placement scores achieved by students. It is **strictly confidential**.

Non-government primary schools can request a report listing the outcome for only those applicants who have been given school assessment scores.

The report might indicate that some students have been placed on 'hold', pending further investigation of matters such as residency status or social and emotional maturity in the case of those seeking accelerated progression.

Communication with schools

Outcome placement information is encrypted and sent to the school email account.

The password is emailed to the principal's @det.nsw.edu.au email address.

School staff should inform the Team immediately if there is a relieving or acting principal so the password can be re-sent to them.

Placement procedures for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2020

Provision of school assessment scores

School assessment scores

Principals of all candidates attending **government schools** in NSW are required to provide school assessment scores on the application processing site from **Tuesday 21 May to Friday 7 June 2019**.

Principals of all candidates from non-government schools in NSW are asked to complete the *Principal's page for provision of school assessment scores* submitted by parents and then send the page to the Team by **Friday 7 June 2019**.

Conflict of Interest

Principals are required to:

- withdraw from anything to do with the preparation of school assessment scores if their child attends the school and they are seeking opportunity class placement for their child. In this instance principals must nominate a staff member who will be responsible and advise the Team Leader in writing of the potential conflict of interest and the name of the nominated staff member.
- advise staff members to withdraw from anything to do with the preparation of school assessment scores if seeking opportunity class placement for their own child. Another teacher should be delegated to prepare school assessment scores.

In either case, the principal or teacher should send the Team a **declaration of potential conflict of interest** (The teacher should include the principal in the email. The suggested wording is, 'I, Jill Smith, principal teacher at Sample school have applied for opportunity class placement for my child, Jack Smith, application number, C19 123 456. I will not take an active role in the preparation of school assessment scores for candidates from my school.'

Note: If a staff member has to be involved in the provision of school assessment scores for unavoidable reasons such as being the student's teacher and having all other candidates in the same class, the principal should contact the Team to discuss the matter.

How are students considered for placement?

All students are ranked and placed in order of academic merit. Academic merit is decided mainly by combining moderated primary school assessment scores in English and mathematics and scaled Opportunity Class Placement Test scores. This combination is expressed as a calculated placement score out of 300 (see pages 7 to 8 for details).

What to provide

Principals are asked to provide school assessment scores out of 100 in English and mathematics, based on students' performance in Year 4. In a small number of cases it may be necessary to consider a student's performance in Year 3. This could be necessary where a student has had a trauma or illness affect his or her Year 4 performance. In English, the assessment score must include a component for writing.

These scores must rank the candidates for opportunity class entry (NOT all students in Year 4) in order of merit, showing the relative gaps between students.

Keep all assessment tasks and information you used to generate the school assessment scores for a year, in case further scrutiny is required.

Note: It is extremely rare for students to perform exactly the same way in English and mathematics. Schools which provide exactly the same scores for English and mathematics for all students risk the credibility of their assessment procedures with parents. Remember that parents are sent their children's scores and they tend to compare with each other.

Why provide school assessment scores?

School assessment scores tell selection committees how well a student is performing on the school curriculum compared with other applicants from the same school, whereas test scores tell us the student's potential compared with all other applicants statewide. Test scores highlight the giftedness of the student and school assessment scores highlight the talent.

School assessment scores are compulsory as, in their scaled (moderated) form, they are worth half of the English and mathematics component scores.

Placement procedures for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2020

DO	DON'T																				
Do provide the ranking for only those of your students who are applying for opportunity class entry.																					
Do use your normal assessment procedures to derive the school assessment scores in English and mathematics. Remember to include a writing component in the English score.																					
Do base the school assessment scores on a combination of two or more of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. teachers' judgements 2. assessment of classwork 3. assignments 4. testing. 	Don't base your ranking on only a single assessment or test as the school assessment score should be a summary of the way each student has performed during Year 4, although you can go back to the previous year if the student has suffered a recent short-term setback during the assessment period or give more weighting to recent performance if the student has shown marked improvement.																				
Do base the school assessment score mainly on internal classwork, assignments or assessments. Selection committees need to know how the students perform on the school curriculum .	Don't use external tests (such as NAPLAN and ICAS) as your main source of information. Students will be taking the Opportunity Class Placement Test, which is an external test.																				
IMPORTANT Do spread your scores out so that selection committees can see the relative gaps between students, for example: <table> <tr><td>Student 1</td><td>95</td></tr> <tr><td>Student 2</td><td>89</td></tr> <tr><td>Student 3</td><td>86</td></tr> <tr><td>Student 4</td><td>81</td></tr> <tr><td>Student 5</td><td>74</td></tr> </table>	Student 1	95	Student 2	89	Student 3	86	Student 4	81	Student 5	74	Don't use tied scores if it is possible to avoid them and never group most of your candidates on one score with one or two candidates a few marks lower. In the following example all five candidates are likely to be seriously disadvantaged. <table> <tr><td>Student 1</td><td>99</td></tr> <tr><td>Student 2</td><td>99</td></tr> <tr><td>Student 3</td><td>99</td></tr> <tr><td>Student 4</td><td>96</td></tr> <tr><td>Student 5</td><td>95</td></tr> </table>	Student 1	99	Student 2	99	Student 3	99	Student 4	96	Student 5	95
Student 1	95																				
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Student 4	81																				
Student 5	74																				
Student 1	99																				
Student 2	99																				
Student 3	99																				
Student 4	96																				
Student 5	95																				
Do use up to one decimal place to distinguish between students, but only if you have a large candidature.	Don't use a decimal place to separate students in a candidature of less than 10 students.																				
Do give more challenging tasks to students who seem to be performing at the same level until one student shows a greater level of performance than the other.	Don't assess only on the basis of achieved criteria, but use open-ended tasks to allow students to show higher levels of mastery.																				
Do give more weight to the most recent scores if students have improved dramatically over the last few months of the assessment period.	Don't rely on assignment or test scores too rigidly. If students had a brief setback during some of the assessment period but generally function at a high level, use their usual performance to derive the score.																				
Do assess the students on the basis of their observed achievement over the assessment period. Note: Testing is simply a controlled way of making comparative observations.	Don't attempt to compensate a student for a long period of illness or other long-term setback by giving the student a higher school assessment score than the evidence warrants. Make a comment on the principals' processing site or on the <i>principal's page for provision of school assessment scores</i> instead and encourage parents to submit an illness/misadventure request.																				
	Don't provide school assessment scores for Year 3 students unless you believe that they are strong candidates for acceleration and you have assessed them on the same tasks as the Year 4 candidature.																				
	Don't provide school assessment scores for Year 5 students unless you have assessed them on the same tasks as the Year 4 candidature.																				

Placement procedures for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2020

How the school assessment scores are used

Raw test marks in reading, mathematics and general ability are first scaled to a score out of 100 with a set mean (usually 60) and a set standard deviation (usually 12). This gives all test marks the same weighting.

To provide statewide comparability of school assessment scores, the raw scores of students from a given school are scaled (or moderated) to the same mean and standard deviation (spread) as the mean and standard deviation of the scaled marks gained by students from that school in the test.

Example

Supposing the candidature of a school consists of students whose English school assessment scores are as follows:

Student 1	95
Student 2	89
Student 3	86
Student 4	81
Student 5	74

The mean of these scores is 85 and the standard deviation is 8.0.

Suppose that, when the reading test scores for those five students are calculated, the scores have a mean of 60 and a standard deviation of 12. (Statewide the test scores are usually set to a mean of 60 and a standard deviation of 12 but these can vary within school groups.)

The mean of 60 and the standard deviation of 12 would be applied to the raw school assessment scores and the scaled school assessment scores for the same students would be:

Student 1	75.07
Student 2	66.02
Student 3	61.51
Student 4	53.98
Student 5	43.44

Spreadsheets are available on the internet at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/general-information> under the heading *Resources for schools* which can help you to calculate a score which ranks your candidates on the basis of assessment scores.

Composition of the calculated placement score

Component	School assessment scores %	Test scores %	Total scores
English	50%	50%	100
Mathematics	50%	50%	100
General ability	Not applicable	100%	100
Total	33.3%	66.6%	300

Scaled test scores

The raw reading, mathematics and general ability test scores are scaled to a score out of 100 with a statewide mean such as 60 and a standard deviation such as 12. The reason for scaling marks to the same mean and standard deviation is to give scores equal weighting.

Scaled school assessment scores

The raw English school assessment scores are also moderated to a score out of 100 with the same mean and standard deviation that students from the school gained in the English test. The raw mathematics school assessment scores are moderated to a score out of 100 with the same mean and standard deviation that students from the school gained in the mathematics test. Scaling establishes statewide comparability of school assessment scores and gives school and test scores equal weighting.

Component scores

The scaled test scores in general ability remain unchanged and form the general ability component score. The scaled mathematics test scores and moderated mathematics school assessment scores are averaged then rescaled to a statewide mean such as 60 and standard deviation such as 12 to form the mathematics component score.

The scaled reading test scores and the English school assessment scores which were moderated on the basis of the reading test are averaged then rescaled to a statewide mean such as 60 and standard deviation such as 12 to form the English component score. The reason for scaling marks to the same mean and standard deviation is to give each component score equal weighting.

Placement score

The component scores in English, mathematics and general ability are then added to give a calculated placement score out of 300. The placement score is the most important determinant of academic merit. All scores are rounded to two decimal places. Rounding procedures may lead to slight differences in the total. The selection committee has the discretion to adjust the placement score of a student by considering an alternative combination of scores. This can be as a result of an illness or misadventure request or some other circumstance which the committee deems to have disadvantaged the student, or where it is considered there was sufficient additional evidence of academic merit presented by the school or parent to warrant an adjustment.

Intention to apply for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Opportunity classes cater for academically gifted and talented students who may otherwise be without sufficient classmates at their own academic and social level. These schools help gifted and talented students to learn by grouping them with other gifted and talented students, teaching them in specialised ways and providing educational materials at the appropriate level.

Applications for opportunity class placement are considered mainly on the combined results of the Opportunity Class Placement Test and school assessments. The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be held on **Wednesday 31 July 2019**.

If you would like to have your child considered for Year 5 opportunity class entry in 2020, you need to apply soon. You will need to apply on the internet using a valid email address (not the student's email address).

Detailed instructions on how to apply online will be available from **Tuesday 30 April 2019** at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>. The application website opens on **Tuesday 30 April 2019** and closes on **Friday 17 May 2019**. You must apply by the due date.

There are no paper application forms. If you do not have internet access, you could apply at a public library. If you have a disability that prevents you from using a computer, you can contact the Team for assistance after **30 April 2019**.

You must submit only ONE application for each student.

Remember: The tear-off strip below is not an application and the school cannot apply on your behalf.

Yours sincerely,

Principal

Cut along the dotted line and return the completed slip below by next Friday.

Note: THIS IS NOT AN APPLICATION FOR ENTRY TO AN OPPORTUNITY CLASS. This is a notice to your primary school only that you intend to apply.

TO APPLY YOU WILL NEED TO REGISTER AND THEN APPLY THROUGH THE HIGH PERFORMING STUDENTS APPLICATION WEBSITE: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>

Intention to apply for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2020

Student's name: _____ Class: _____

I intend to apply for opportunity class placement in 2020. Yes ☐ No ☐

I understand that I need to register and then apply through the High Performing Students website. Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, either:
I have internet access and will be applying online ☐

OR

I do not have internet access and will use the public library to complete the application ☐

Signature of parent/carers: _____ Date: _____

Note: THIS IS NOT AN APPLICATION FOR ENTRY TO AN OPPORTUNITY CLASS. This is a notice to your primary school only that you intend to apply.

TO APPLY YOU WILL NEED TO REGISTER AND THEN APPLY THROUGH THE HIGH PERFORMING STUDENTS APPLICATION WEBSITE: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>

Placement procedures for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2019

Parent requests for school assessment scores prior to release of placement outcome

When placement outcomes are released, parents are also sent their child's raw school assessment scores for English and maths and raw test scores for reading, maths and general ability.

Prior to the release of placement outcomes, principals may release raw school assessment scores to parents on request at their discretion. However, the Team cautions against doing so as it may generate many such requests, creating an unnecessary workload.

Principals should not release the student's rank as it may inadvertently betray the privacy of other students.

Further information

Resources for schools are published on the internet at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/general-information> under the heading *Resources for schools*.

Information for parents is published on the internet at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>

Contact the High Performing Students Team at:

Email: ssu@det.nsw.edu.au

Telephone: 1300 880 367 (for parents) or (02) 9244 5669 (for principals only)

Fax: (02) 9266 8435

Post: Locked Bag 53, DARLINGHURST NSW 1300

For regular updates on the placement process log into Facebook to access this link:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/159342048077050/>

For information on the opportunity class placement process go to:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>

The illness/misadventure process is described at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/the-test/illness-or-misadventure>

Information about score processing for opportunity class placement is provided at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/selection-process>

Information about appeals can be found at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/outcome/appeals>

Detailed information about the *Rules and procedures for Year 5 placement in an opportunity class* is provided at:

https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/items/89ba8c23-1b03-44a2-95c6-60239cd7e0a9/1/viewcontent/007c287a-c545-45af-a47f-2d14df82988c?_sl.t=true