Year 6 to Year 7 Transitions: Frequently Asked Questions (Parents)

Where can I find general information about the transition to Year 7?
The Department of Education and Training’s website contains comprehensive information on the transition from Year 6 to Year 7.
For more information, please see http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/secondary/Pages/startin g.aspx.

How can I find a list of schools in my area?
To find a list of secondary schools by location, please see:
- Catholic schools: http://web.cccv.catholic.edu.au/schools/default.asp
- Independent schools: http://services.is.vic.edu.au/ebiz/customerservice/schoollocator.aspx
-within the Victoria Region accepting Year 7 enrolments in 2016 is included in this information.

What is a designated neighbourhood school?
For children residing in metropolitan areas, Ballarat, Bendigo or Geelong, the designated neighbourhood school is usually the nearest government secondary school in a straight line from to your child’s permanent residential address. In any other area it is the nearest school by the shortest practicable route.

Within the South Western Victoria Region, however, a number of government secondary schools will not be able to accommodate all young people who wish to enrol. In these schools, approval has been given by the Regional Director to restrict the number of enrolments. For these schools, a specific designated neighbourhood zone (i.e. area or boundary) has been identified. In such circumstances, your designated neighbourhood school may not be the nearest school.
For more information, please see http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/secondary/Pages/bound ary.aspx.

Can my child attend a government secondary school if we live outside of the designated neighbourhood zone?
If you select a government secondary school other than your child’s designated neighbourhood school as your first preference, you should consider providing at least two other preferences in Section 3 of the Application for Year 7 Placement form. If these preferences are not successful, your child will be automatically placed into their designated neighbourhood school.

All requests from parents living outside the specific designated neighbourhood zone will be considered by the principal at each government secondary school. It must be noted however, that all placements are subject to the availability of accommodation at a particular school. Where there are insufficient places at a school for all young people who seek entry, young people will be enrolled in the following priority order:
- Students for whom the school is the designated neighbourhood government school.
- Students with a sibling at the same permanent residence who are attending the school at the same time.

Are all enrolment applications to government secondary schools accepted?
All applications for Year 7 enrolment at a government secondary school are subject to the following principles:
- to provide each child with the right to a place in the designated neighbourhood school (see FAQ below);
- wherever practical, to provide parents/guardians with the opportunity to enrol their child at the same school as that being attended by an older sibling who resides at the same permanent residential address;
- to allow parents/guardians not wishing to send their child to the designated neighbourhood school to select any other school in which space is available; and
- to contain enrolments in each secondary school within the limits of resources as determined by the Regional Director.

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- Students seeking enrolment on specific curriculum grounds, where it is not provided by the student’s nearest government school. (N.B. This criterion applies to senior secondary programs including VCE, VET and VCAL, language continuity, SEAL programs, and Select Entry Schools only).
- All other students in order of closeness of their permanent residence to the school.
- In exceptional circumstances, compassionate grounds.

**How do I apply for a government secondary school where an older sibling is enrolled?**
If you wish for your child to attend the same government secondary school as an older sibling who resides at the same permanent residential address and who will be attending the secondary school in 2016, please ensure the “Sibling Claim” information is included in Section 4 of the Application for Year 7 Placement form.

**What should I do if I want to enrol my child in a government secondary school with multiple campuses?**
There are several multi-campus government secondary schools in the South Western Victoria Region with Year 7 enrolments at more than one campus. If you wish your child to attend a particular campus, you will need to indicate your preference in Section 4 of the Application for Year 7 Placement form.

**What is the process for a parent lodging an appeal against an enrolment allocation decision?**
Any appeal by parents/guardians against a government secondary school’s decision not to provide a Year 7 placement must be lodged with the preferred secondary school by Friday August 28 where it will be considered by the principal. Any further appeal should be lodged in writing outlining the grounds for appeal, to the DET Regional Director by Friday September 11. Appeals are considered based on the priority order of placement.

**My child has a disability. How can I ensure their additional needs are met?**
There are a range of options available to assist young people with disabilities to access quality education that meets their needs. Should your child meet the criteria for entry into a special school or special developmental school, information about these schools will be provided by your primary school.
For more information, please see [http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/needs/Pages/default.asp](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/needs/Pages/default.asp)

**Is there any assistance with travelling to school?**
A range of transportation options are available to eligible young people, including the School Bus Program, travel to specialist schools, Students with Disabilities Transport Program and conveyance allowance. For more information, please see [http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/secondary/Pages/schooltavel.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/secondary/Pages/schooltavel.aspx)

**What should I do if my child will be attending a non-government school for Year 7?**
- **Confirmed Placement:** If you are sure that you already have a place for your child in a non-government secondary school for Year 7, you do not have to complete Section 4 the Application for Year 7 Placement form.
- **Unconfirmed Placement:** If you have applied for a place in a non-government secondary school but have not yet had this placement confirmed, you should safeguard your child’s interests by also applying for a place in a government secondary school by completing Section 4 of the Application for Year 7 Placement form.
- **Late Confirmation of Placement:** If your child is granted a place in a non-government secondary school after being allocated a place in a government secondary school, you are asked to notify your primary school immediately.

**Where can I find information about enrolment for international students?**
For more information, please see [http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/secondary/Pages/international.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/secondary/Pages/international.aspx)