

Selective High School and Opportunity Class Entry Changes for 2023

Frequently asked questions

What report will I receive?

- Parents will receive a [Performance report](#) that provides a better understanding of their child's performance in comparison to other students who sat the test in the same year.
- For each of the test components, the report shows where your child performed in one of four bands:
 - top 10% of candidates
 - next 15% of candidates
 - next 25% of candidates
 - lowest 50% of candidates
- The Performance report does not show the percentage of correct answers a child has achieved for any of the test components. It shows how many other students performed within the same range. The Performance report is consistent with how test results are reported for the Victorian selective high schools test and the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN).
- The department conducted consultations across the state with different community members to gather input regarding the new report, including those with different socio-economic backgrounds. Community members who participated in the consultations were satisfied with the new report as it provided a better visualisation and indication of how their child performed in the test.

Why can't I receive my child's test score?

- Parents, students and schools have raised student wellbeing and privacy concerns with how scores have been reported and used beyond their intended purpose, including unhealthy competition between students.
- The placement tests are designed for one specific purpose. To identify students who will benefit from placement in an opportunity class or selective high school.
- The questions do not measure knowledge of the school curriculum, but rather problem solving and critical thinking ability, and therefore cannot be used as a diagnostic tool to identify curriculum areas where children can improve.

Why doesn't the department publish minimum entry scores?

- There are no minimum entry scores for opportunity classes or selective high schools. The scores required to receive an offer change year to year.
- The level of test performance required to receive an offer is determined by the number of applications for each school, the performance of those students who applied for that school and the number of families that decline an offer for that school.
- All of these factors change on an annual basis so referring to past scores is not a reliable or suggested method of making school choices.

How can I appeal my child's outcome?

- There are limited grounds for an appeal or for requesting a results enquiry. For further information please visit [Result enquiry and appeals](#).

What is the Equity Placement Model?

- Under our new Equity Placement Model a maximum of 20 per cent of student places at each selective high school and opportunity class will be held for students from the four under-represented equity groups (students from low socio-educational communities, Aboriginal students, students from rural and regional areas and students with a disability).
- All students entering under the Equity Placement Model are still required to sit the selection test and are required to meet a similar academic standard (generally within 10 per cent of other successful entrants).
- Other school systems and all Australian Universities (including the University of Sydney, University of New South Wales and public selective high schools in Victoria) also operate equity access schemes.
- In the current selective high school process, 369 places out of over 4,200 have been offered to equity group students.
- Please visit the department's website for further information on the [Equity Placement Model](#), the [Review of Selective Education Access](#) and the placement [Outcome](#) information.

Telephone interpreter service

If you need more information please contact the High Performing Students Team on 1300 880 367. If you need an interpreter to assist with your enquiry please call the telephone interpreter service on 131 450, tell the operator the language you need and the phone number you want to call. The operator will call the number and get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.