

Selective high schools entry in Year 7 2021 – minimum scores

Selective high schools provide an educationally enriched environment for high achieving, academically high potential and gifted students.

General information

Entry into these schools in Year 7 is determined by the students' results in the Selective High School Placement Test¹ in English (including reading and writing), mathematics and general ability, together with their primary school's assessment of their performance in English and mathematics. Other evidence of academic merit may also be considered.

There are 17 fully selective high schools, 25 high schools with selective classes (partially selective), 4 agricultural high schools² and a virtual selective class provision offering selective placement in Year 7 for entry in 2021.

The Department of Education publishes minimum entry scores³ for selective high schools annually at the end of Term 1. This information has been updated for 2021 entry, as at the end of Term 1 2021.

Selective high school vacancies for 2021 entry

Number of vacancies: 4,226

Number of applicants: 15,355

¹ Examples of selective high school tests can be found on the Department's website.

² Agricultural high schools are selective high schools which emphasise the study of agriculture, with the residential sections giving some priority to isolated students.

³ These scores are expressed as whole numbers. The exact entry score of the last person placed at each school is normally calculated to a number of decimal places. If the minimum entry score is 224.39 there will be students below that score (for example 224.19) who will be unsuccessful.

Minimum entry scores for selective high schools

Minimum entry scores vary from school to school and from year to year.

The minimum entry score for a selective high school is the score of the lowest scoring student to accept a place there. The filling of all selective high school vacancies tends to continue until the end of the first term in the year of enrolment.

The minimum entry score is determined by the geographical location of the schools and the academic merit of the students applying for entry. Where parents decline offers after the school term ends, it may become necessary to go much further down a reserve list than may have happened in previous years.

The minimum entry score is not an indicator of the relative performance of the selective high schools.

Parents should not use minimum entry scores as the only criterion on which to base their choice of selective high schools. They should also consider factors such as the curriculum offered at each school and travelling times and transport.

Since isolation factors as well as school and test scores are considered for entry to Hurlstone Agricultural High School - Boarder, Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School and Yanco Agricultural High School, the minimum entry scores are not published.