

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

The ACT Department of Education provides the curriculum for Kindergarten to Year 12 in accordance with the [Education Act 2004](#) supporting student needs and interests with a variety of courses in a range of learning areas. ACT joined with the Australian Government and all other states and territories to develop an [Australian Curriculum](#).

The school year begins late-January/early-February. Children can be enrolled in kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if they turn 5 on or before 30th April of that year. They must be enrolled by their sixth birthday. Public schools are free to attend for Australian citizens and permanent residents, a fee is levied for others (see below).

Public school enrollments are based on the suburb of residence, often referred to as the 'catchment'. So the enrolment process for public school can be commenced only after securing a property, according to eligibility criteria. Most ACT Government schools have specific local enrolment catchment areas. These schools ensure that there are enough places for students who reside in their local enrolment area. School enrolment can be arranged throughout the year. Visit [Education](#) For more information

TEMPORARY RESIDENTS PROGRAM – FOR TEMPORARY VISA HOLDERS ENROLLING WITH A STATE SCHOOL

The ACT Temporary Residents Program provides advice and support for the enrolment of temporary residents in ACT Government schools. The program accepts enrolment in pre-school, primary school and high school from Kindergarten to Year 12. for fees and eligibility and enrolment requirements. Visit [International students](#) for more information.

Documents generally required (additional documents may also be required):

- ✓ The child's birth certificate or identity documents
- ✓ Parent/carer's details
- ✓ Residency status or visa number (if applicable)
- ✓ Passport, travel documents, or current visa (if applicable)
- ✓ Australian childhood immunization register or immunization history statement
- ✓ Personal details
- ✓ Proof of residential address, a 12 month lease (or council rates if a homeowner), utility bill
- ✓ Medicare number if available
- ✓ Medical details and health conditions
- ✓ Doctor's details
- ✓ Emergency contact details
- ✓ Family law or court orders (if applicable)
- ✓ Documents associated with any disability or other support needs, including any learning and support plans (if applicable)

TEMPORARY RESIDENT STUDENT FEE STRUCTURE

The tuition fee for a temporary resident student is determined by the visa subclass held by the student. The tuition fee is charged on a whole week basis. If for any reason a student only attends school for a part week, the whole week rate is charged. Visit [Fees - International students](#) for more information

APPLICATION FEE

A non-refundable application fee of \$265 is payable on new applications lodged in 2025 - These fees may change.

TUITION FEE

Refer to Table 1 for the 2025 tuition fee for a guide on one-year enrolment of a temporary resident student (excludes visitor visa and a dependent of an international student). All fees are in Australian dollars.

Table 1

School Year 2025	Annual tuition fee (40 school weeks) fees may change
Pre School	\$ 4,200.00
Primary school (years KG-6)	\$11,100.00
Junior high school (years 7-10)	\$14,500.00
Senior high school (years 11-12)	\$16,200.00

INVOICE ARRANGMENTS

- Temporary resident students are invoiced and must be paid in advance **unless fee exempt**

SCHOOL TERMS

2025 School Term Dates	From	To
Term 1	4 February	11 April
Term 2	29 April	3 July
Term 3	22 July	25 September
Term 4	14 October	18 December

CHILDCARE (PRE SCHOOL SYSTEM)

If you are looking for [Early Childhood Education](#) and care, we can help you find a provider near your home, workplace or other location

If you are looking for early childhood education and care, we can help you [find a provider](#) near your home, workplace or other location.

Average Cost Per Day	Age
\$150	Baby under 2 years
\$140	2 to 3 year old
\$135	3 to 5 year old

PRIVATE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Private schools in Canberra include Catholic schools, independent schools, non-denominational (no religious affiliation) and other religion-based and operated schools. The cost of private schooling varies considerably depending on the curriculum and facilities offered. School recommendations can be offered based on academic and curriculum criteria. There is generally strict admittance criteria.

Fees will vary from school to school, the fees below are an average, per child, per year
Most private and catholic schools will charge international student fees depending on visa status. Each school can provide fees on application. Some private schools are not registered for international Students.

In addition to yearly fees there may also be fees such as: **fees vary for each school**

- A non-refundable Application Fee of \$300
- A non-refundable Enrolment Fee of \$4,000