

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

The Department of Education WA provides the curriculum for Kindergarten to Year 12. The Department of Education WA is responsible for the provision of public education.

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority is an independent statutory authority that regulates school curriculum and assessment for all Western Australian children from Kindergarten to Year 12.

The school year begins late-January/early-February. Children can be enrolled in 4-year-old kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if they turn 4 on or before 30 June of that year. This is a non-compulsory school year.

Children can be enrolled in Pre-primary at the beginning of the school year if they turn 5 on or before 30 June of that year. This is a compulsory school year. Year One schooling commences the year the child turns 6 on or before 30 June of that year. Public schools are free to attend for Australian citizens and permanent residents.

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 WA 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.

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

In Western Australia, [TAFE International Western Australia](#) manages the visa 457 and 482 fee collection on behalf of the Department of Education. Local enrolment in primary school and high school from Kindergarten to Year 12 may take place at the local intake school, provided the address of their residence is in the school's local intake area.

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. You are required to pay for the number of weeks your children attend a public school up to and including the week if your visa status changes.

TUITION FEE

Generally, there is a yearly tuition fee of AUD\$4,000, regardless of how many children a family have enrolled (Pre-primary to Year 12).

Please note: The status of Tuition Fees payable will be reviewed in early 2025.

The visa holder must keep their visa details up to date at each school their dependent children attend.

INVOICE ARRANGMENTS

When the fee was in place the family received a Fee Advice for \$4,000 from TAFE International Western Australia, the State Government agency responsible for overseas fee-paying students attending Western Australian public schools. The Fee Advice was sent as an email or in the post. The family could elect to pay the tuition fee upfront or in instalments (weekly, fortnightly or monthly) via direct debit.

Full payment had to be received before the end of the school calendar year in which the invoice was issued. If payments are made by instalments then the final instalment had to be completed by the end of the last week of the school year.

SCHOOL TERMS

2025 School Term Dates	From	To
Term 1	5 February	11 April
Term 2	28 April	4 July
Term 3	21 July	26 September
Term 4	13 October	18 December

CHILDCARE (PRE SCHOOL SYSTEM)

The Department of Communities approves and monitors education and care services through the Education and Care Regulatory Unit (ECRU) in WA.

The National Body is [Australian Childcare Education and Care Quality Authority](#).

The WA government provides information, [support services and guides](#) for parents and carers in WA.

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
\$163	Baby under 2 years
\$165	2 to 3 year old
\$166	3 to 5 year old

PRIVATE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Private schools in Perth 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

Kindergarten to Year 6	Year 7 to Year 12
\$18,000 to \$23,000	\$27,000 to \$35,000

In most instances Catholic Schools have lesser fees than the above, mostly between \$7,000 and \$22,000 per child, per annum. In addition to yearly fees there may also be fees such as:

- A non-refundable Application Fee - around \$300
- A non-refundable Enrolment Fee - around \$4,000
- Facilities & Maintenance Levy – around \$1000 per annum per family