

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) provides the curriculum for Kindergarten to Year 12 in accordance with the [NSW Education Act 1990](#). NESA supports student needs and interests with a variety of courses in a range of learning areas. NSW 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 31 July 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 NSW 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

The NSW Temporary Residents Program provides advice and support for the enrolment of temporary residents in NSW government schools. The program accepts enrolment in primary school and high school from Kindergarten to Year 12. [More Info](#) for fees and eligibility and enrolment requirements.

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.

APPLICATION FEE

A non-refundable application fee of \$150 is payable on new applications lodged in 2025.

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 school year Annual tuition fee (40 school weeks)
Primary school (years KG-6)	\$6,200
Junior high school (years 7-10)	\$6,200
Senior high school (years 11-12)	\$7,400

INVOICE ARRANGMENTS

- Temporary resident students are invoiced according to the NSW school term.
- Temporary resident students are not charged for the NSW school holiday periods.
- Weekly, fortnightly, or monthly invoice options are not available.

2025 School Term Dates	From	To
Term 1	31 January	11 April
Term 2	28 April	4 July
Term 3	21 July	26 September
Term 4	13 October	19 December

CHILDCARE (PRE SCHOOL SYSTEM)

The NSW Department of Education regulates early childhood education and care. It assesses providers against the [National Quality Standard](#) and gives them a [quality rating](#). The department also offers help on what to look for when [choosing a quality service provider](#).

The NSW Government's [Parenting young children](#) guide provides information, support services and guides for parents and carers in NSW to help their child get the best start in life. 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
\$200	Baby under 2 years
\$175	2 to 3 year old
\$160	3 to 5 year old

PRIVATE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Private schools in Sydney 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
\$26,000 to \$33,000	\$39,00 to \$42,000

In most instances Catholic Schools have lesser fees than the above, mostly between \$8,000 and \$10,000 per child, per annum.

In addition to yearly fees there may also be fees such as:

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