

# ENROLMENT 2020

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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This document will continue to be updated.

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### WHAT DO THESE CHANGES MEAN?

#### **Is the Department of Education and Training/the Government changing its enrolment rules for parents wanting to send their children to public schools?**

No. There are no changes to the Department's Placement Policy. The Department always seeks to ensure the policy is applied consistently.

Under the Placement Policy, schools are required to prioritise enrolment for students living in that school zone. This has not changed.

Parents wanting to send their children to schools located outside of their school zone, still have this choice. However, students enrolling at the school from within the school zone will have first priority. This is also current policy.

#### **How is Victoria's population growth impacting on the ability of Victoria's public school sector to respond to it?**

Victoria's population and economic growth is faster than anywhere else in Australia. That's why the Victorian Government is preparing for the future by delivering the biggest pipeline of major projects in our state's history.

The Government is already planning now for this growth in the school system by delivering one of the biggest ever school infrastructure programs Victoria has ever seen – including delivering 100 new schools over the next eight years.

At the same time, the Department is constantly working with all schools to assess school capacity, local demand and projected enrolment numbers.

Every Victorian school is a part of a State-wide network that provides education and a community to Victorian children and their families.

The goal is to always ensure parents can be confident that there will be a place for their child in their designated neighbourhood school.

## ENROLMENT ZONES/DETERMINING DESIGNATED SCHOOL

### How did the Department decide this was my child's designated school?

Your designated neighbourhood school was calculated as the nearest school by straight line distance in metropolitan areas (including Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo), or the nearest school by shortest practical route (in regional areas).

Designated neighbourhood schools are generally the public school within closest proximity to the student's permanent residential address, unless the Minister or Regional Director has restricted the zone of the school.

### What is a Designated Neighbourhood School (DNS)?

In Victoria, all children are entitled to be enrolled at their designated neighbourhood school. Designated neighbourhood schools are generally the public school within closest proximity to the student's permanent residential address, unless the Minister or Regional Director has restricted the zone of the school.

For children residing in metropolitan areas, Ballarat, Bendigo or Geelong, the designated neighbourhood school is usually the nearest public school in a straight line from your child's permanent residential address. In any other area of Victoria, it is the nearest school by the shortest practicable route.

When a new school is established, zones for neighbouring schools are adjusted to accommodate the new school. DET will work closely with schools in the area to address the changing demographics of the local population, and will revise designated neighbourhood zones for schools as needed.

### Which schools have zone maps?

All public primary and secondary schools, including Prep/Foundation to Year 9 and multi-campus schools. This does not include schools with specific enrolment criteria including English Language Schools and Select Entry Schools. Special schools also do not have zones.

### What are the zones for special schools?

Special schools are an important part of Victoria's education landscape but do not have zones as they are not designated neighbourhood schools.

### What is the legislation that gives my children the right to enrol in their designated neighbourhood school?

Your child or children are guaranteed the right to enrol in their local school by the [Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#), specifically S 2.2.13 (1), "A child of compulsory school age is entitled to be enrolled at his or her designated neighbourhood Government school."

### **Can I enrol my child at a school that is not the designated school?**

Children of school age have the right to be enrolled at their designated neighbourhood public school. They can attend an alternative public school of their choosing if that school has the capacity.

Section 2.2.14 of the Act, (Admission to other Government school), says: “A child of compulsory school age may be enrolled at a Government school which is not the child's designated neighbourhood Government school if there is sufficient accommodation for the child at that school.”

### **My child already attends a school that is not their designated neighbourhood school? Do I need to do anything?**

If your child is already enrolled at that school, you do not need to do anything further.

### **Can I still choose which school my child attends, or does my child have to attend their designated neighbourhood school?**

You can still request enrolment at a school that is not your designated neighbourhood school.

That school can only accept your enrolment if there is sufficient capacity at the school.

If a school has some capacity, but not enough to fit everyone from outside its zone, the school uses the Placement Policy. For more information, see: [Placement Policy](#)

### **Why am I in a different zone to my neighbours?**

In some instances a school zone will cross two properties. School zones are determined based on proximity. That means that you and your neighbour could be closest to different schools.

In Victoria, all children are entitled to be enrolled at their designated neighbourhood school, or to enrol at another school if there is sufficient accommodation.

## **ZONES**

### **How are school zones defined?**

For children residing in metropolitan areas, and in Ballarat, Bendigo or Geelong, the designated neighbourhood school is usually the nearest public secondary school in a straight line from your child's permanent residential address. In any other area of Victoria, it is the nearest school by the shortest practical transport route.

When a new school is established, zones for neighbouring schools are adjusted to accommodate the new school. The Department will work closely with schools in the area to address the changing demographics of the local population, and will revise zones for schools as needed.

There are some exceptions to this for schools that have restricted zones in place - where the zone may be smaller than a standard school zone, mainly to manage enrolment growth.

In some limited instances, zones are also aligned to significant geographical barriers such as major rivers.

### **What is the difference between a school boundary and a zone?**

The Department uses school zone for consistency. All schools have a zone.

### **Why have these zones been changed?**

Most zone changes relate to the application of the standard methodology for developing zones and resolving legacy issues and non-standard school zones.

These changes relate to:

- opening of new schools
- retirement of outdated zones
- removal of zone overlaps
- ensuring any orphaned areas are allocated to a zone
- consistency of methodology applies to Prep to Year 9 and senior secondary zones
- consistency of methodology applied to multi-campus schools
- applying a consistent methodology to the design of all zones.

### **Why are these changes happening now?**

Ensuring that schools and the general public have clarity about their school zones now ensures that public schools will remain thriving and diverse communities where students thrive in the years to come.

### **Will my school's zone move again?**

Most school zones will not change, however school zones that abut a new school or that experience increased population demand may be adjusted.

### **How often are zones going to be updated?**

It is intended that any zone changes will happen once a year during Term 1, ready for the Year 6 to 7 transition period.

### **Where school zones are changing now, are they going to come into effect immediately?**

All zones will be operational from the 2020 school year.

### **Where school zones change in the future, are they going to come into effect immediately?**

No, changes will always come into effect the following school year.

### **Which point have you measured from to determine zones?**

The location point for all public schools is taken from the Victorian Registrations and Qualifications Authority State Register, which can be accessed on their website. Visit: [Search for an education provider on the State Register](#)

### **How have you defined which schools are ‘metropolitan’ and which are ‘regional’?**

For the majority of schools Local Government Area (LGA) boundaries have been used to define which are metropolitan and which are regional. In a small number of cases schools have been classified differently to the LGA to reflect localised ongoing or planned development in those areas.

### **How do you measure ‘shortest path’?**

‘Shortest path’ is used to determine zones for rural schools. This uses the shortest practical route by road to account for school accessibility.

### **Why are there two methods of defining school zones?**

In metropolitan areas your designated neighbourhood school is generally defined on a straight-line measurement from your house to the closest public school. This accounts for the fact that accessibility is generally better in Metropolitan areas with schools closer in distance, and better transport options. In rural areas, the measure is shortest path. This uses the shortest practical route by road, reflecting that your closest school may be more difficult to access due to the nature of the road network in your area.

### **My child will have to cross a significant road to attend their designated neighbourhood school, why has its zone not been stopped at the main road?**

The Department recognises that some zones need to be aligned with natural geographical and structural barriers such as rivers and freeways, however, a main road is not usually considered to be a barrier to accessing a school. In metropolitan areas it is difficult to align school zones to main roads. In rural areas, shortest possible route has been used to define school zones because in these areas the Department has recognised that the road network does affect whether a child can access their local school.

### **What is a parcel of land?**

The Victorian Government’s definition of a parcel of land is “an individual piece of land for which a land title has been issued.” This is captured by VicMap.

### **My property sits across two / multiple school zones, which is my designated neighbourhood school?**

Zones are created based on proximity to closest school. In some cases, a zone may intersect or cross through parcels of land or properties. If your house sits across two or more school zones, then you have a right to attend any of those schools if they are your designated neighbourhood school.

### **Why do I have a lake or an airport in my zone? Does this mean some children are being excluded?**

Every part of Victorian geography is allocated to a zone – this includes places where people do not live, such as lakes. This does not change which school is a child's designated neighbourhood school. Removing these natural and other features of the landscape would not allow more students to go to a particular school. The purpose of a school zone is to designate every student to their closest school (their designated neighbourhood school).

### **Why have some schools been given restricted zones?**

Some schools face particularly high enrolment demand. If this is the case, it may be necessary to put in place a 'restricted' zone to help it continue to meet the needs of its local community. This sometimes reduces the area for which it is a designated neighbourhood school. Restricted zones can only be created by the Regional Director or the Minister for Education.

If a restricted zone is in place then the zones from surrounding schools are adjusted to ensure that all children have a designated neighbourhood school.

### **My school is under enrolment pressure, should it have received a restricted zone?**

Both schools and the Department have a range of ways to support schools facing enrolment pressure. Restricted zones are only used in exceptional cases to ensure that the majority of Victorian children have access to their closest school.

### **Why has my school's restricted zone been removed?**

For a small number of schools facing particularly high demand it may be necessary to use a restricted zone to help it continue to meet the needs of its local community. In some cases where this demand has reduced, or additional accommodation has been provided, it may be appropriate to revert to a standard school zone.

### **I want my child to attend a particular school but it has a restricted zone, can they still attend?**

If it is your designated neighbourhood school, then your child has a right to attend it, and is guaranteed a place.

You may choose to apply for your child to attend another school. The school can make an assessment based on student capacity, as per the Placement Policy.

### **Why was the community not consulted on changes to school zones?**

The large majority of school zones have not changed. In a small number of cases the Department has retired restricted zones where schools are no longer facing enrolment pressures; opening these schools up to a wider community. Any school that had a change to their zone was contacted prior to the announcement of the new zone.

### **Do single-sex schools have zones?**

Yes. However, these are not determined in the same way as co-educational schools as they do not represent a local school for all children – but only a single sex.

### **How have zones for bilingual schools been determined?**

There are currently 12 bilingual schools in Melbourne. These are treated as designated neighbourhood schools and have a standard zone.

### **My child's locally designated school is bilingual, and half of the school curriculum is in a language other than English – does my child have to attend this school?**

Your child does not have to attend this school. If it is your designated neighbourhood school, then your child has a right to attend it, and is guaranteed a place. If you do not wish to attend this school, you can apply to other schools and they can accept enrolment based on capacity.

### **How have zones for stand-alone senior schools been determined?**

The zone is produced as per the standard methodology. This zone is then overlaid on the surrounding mainstream secondary schools that offer Years 7 to 12.

Students of applicable age living within the zone of a senior-secondary school have the choice to attend either their senior secondary college, or their local Year 7 to 12 secondary school.

### **My child attends a Prep/Foundation to Year 9 school. Can they still attend the related 'feeder' secondary school?**

Most Prep/Foundation to Year 9 schools have a 'feeder' arrangement with an associated senior secondary school and this is where most students would transition at the end of Year 9.

### **My designated neighbourhood school is showing as a Prep/Foundation to Year 9, but I want my child to attend a standard primary / secondary, does this mean my child has to move in Year 10?**

Many Prep/Foundation to Year 9 schools have a related secondary school that most children attend. However, you can enrol your child at any public school that has sufficient accommodation.

### **My child attends a Prep/Foundation to Year 9 school. Do they have to move schools when they reach Year 7 to attend their designated neighbourhood secondary school to Year 12?**

No. Senior secondary school zones cover the full extent of all their feeder Prep/Foundation to Year 9 schools. If you still live within the senior secondary school's zone, you will have the choice to enrol your child at your local senior secondary school, or in your designated standard secondary school.

### **Why are the zones for my designated neighbourhood Prep/Foundation to Year 9 school different from those of my designated neighbourhood secondary school?**

There are three possible reasons for this.

1. If your designated neighbourhood senior secondary school has a provision (feeder) arrangement, then their zone is determined by the zones for all the junior (feeder) secondary schools having been brought together as one big zone.
2. If your designated neighbourhood senior secondary school is the senior secondary campus of a particular school, then the zone is determined by combining the zones of all the junior campuses of that one school.
3. If your designated neighbourhood senior secondary school is a stand-alone senior secondary school, then a new zone will be generated using the standard methodology. It will appear as an option for a locally designated school if the search criteria is met.

### **Do local community schools have a zone?**

No, community schools are an important part of Victoria's education landscape, however, they provide an alternative offering to students and do not just draw from their local area.

### **Do select entry schools have a zone?**

No, select entry schools are an important part of Victoria's education landscape, however, they do not have a zone because they are open to all students across the State.

### **Multi-campus schools; which campus do I attend?**

Where a school has more than one campus, contact the school directly and they will be able to direct you to the right campus for your child.

### **What are the new schools opening in 2020?**

The interim names of the 11 new schools opening in 2020 are:

- Armstrong Creek West Primary School
- Beveridge West Primary School
- Botanic Ridge Primary School
- Casey Fields (Five Ways) Primary School
- Clyde North East Primary School
- Craigieburn South Secondary School
- Davis Creek Primary School
- Keysborough South Primary School
- Lucas Primary School
- Point Cook South Senior Secondary School
- Wyndham South (Riverwalk) Primary School

### **What is a 'voronoi'?**

A [voronoi diagram](#) is the concept used to determine the minimal distance needed to reach a school.

A mathematical formula allows us to divide the map of Victoria into polygons or 'voronoi', with each voronoi covering the region closest to a particular school.

A 'voronoi' is an area that defines your local neighbourhood school in relation to its surrounding schools.

## ENROLMENT PROCESS

### How do I enrol my child in school?

Everything you need to know about enrolling in a school can be found on the Department's website at: [How to choose a school and enrol](#)

If you require further information, please contact your local school.

### I provided proof that my child's residence is within the school's zone, but the school is asking me for extra evidence – why is this, and what evidence is permissible?

Multiple forms of identification may be required to ensure that your child lives within the school zone, such as original or certified copies of rental agreements or unconditional contracts of sale, electoral roll confirmation, council rates notices or other official documentation that demonstrates permanent residence at that address.

Further information about determining permanent residence can be obtained from your local school, or through the [Placement Policy](#) on the Department website.

## CAPACITY

### What is capacity?

#### Built capacity

A school's current built capacity is the number of students that can be accommodated in the school's existing learning spaces (permanent and relocatable buildings) according to the Department's School Facilities Schedule.

The schedules are tables that set out the number and type of learning spaces and/or square metres of space that are required for a school of a certain size to deliver the curriculum based on a certain number of enrolled students. The schedules include the requirement for both general learning spaces and specialist learning spaces; for example, art rooms. They enable a consistent indication of the facilities requirements of schools.

#### Site capacity

A school's site capacity is the maximum number of teaching spaces that can be accommodated on a school site, whilst considering other relevant site factors, including physical characteristics of individual sites and the needs of the school community. More specifically, the key factors in considering the capacity of a site are:

- Safety
- Physical constraints
- Curriculum
- Health and wellbeing

- The effect on, and capacity at, surrounding schools

### **Why is this change/policy being introduced?**

This is not a change in policy, rather this is about ensuring that schools and the Department of Education have a shared understanding of the capacity of each school site across Victoria.

It is important for principals, school councils, parents and the broader school community to understand what the capacity of their school site. This is so students receive the best educational outcomes in a safe environment.

To ensure Victoria remains the Education State, school infrastructure needs to keep pace with the number of children entering the school system each year. By understanding the current built capacity of every school, the Department can better plan for the increase in enrolment numbers in the coming years.

### **What does the school built capacity mean for my school?**

By knowing the current built capacity of your school site, principals and school councils will be able to plan for future enrolments. The Victorian School Building Authority will also be able to plan for potential capital works projects, or new relocatable buildings, which may be needed at a school.

### **How is built capacity of a school determined?**

The Victorian School Building Authority measures the current built capacity of each school based on the information available in its asset management system. This information is updated when Victorian School Building Authority is involved in projects that change the built form of a school. In addition, when schools make changes to their buildings or room use, they should provide updated school asset drawings to the Victorian School Building Authority.

The Victorian School Building Authority calculates the site capacity of schools on a case-by-case basis, especially if school clusters (groups of surrounding schools) have current or future growth pressures. In some circumstances, to accommodate strong local growth, the built capacity of a site may be increased beyond what was previously envisaged.

If a school is advised of a current built capacity number that is not expected, they can contact 1800 896 950 or email [vsba@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:vsba@edumail.vic.gov.au)

### **What are the facilities schedules?**

Facilities schedules are tables that set out the number and type of learning spaces and/or square metres of space that are required for a school of a certain size to deliver the curriculum based on a certain number of enrolled students. The schedules include the requirement for both general learning spaces and specialist learning spaces; for example, art rooms. They enable a consistent indication of the facilities requirements of schools.

### **How does the school built capacity affect future enrolments? Can my child still attend my preferred school?**

Children of school age have the right to be enrolled at their designated neighbourhood school. They can attend an alternative public school of their choosing if that school has the capacity to admit them

By ensuring each school and the Victorian School Building Authority have a shared understanding of each school's capacity future, enrolments can be planned for and managed.

### **Can't the school just get a relocatable to increase its capacity?**

Relocatable buildings can be an efficient way to address capacity constraints on a school site. However it may not always be an appropriate solution. For example, an additional relocatable building should not be put on a site if it:

- encroaches on the school's only or main oval or a reasonable amount of open and play space;
- results in excessive removal of vegetation (although some tree removals may be required in isolated cases)
- impedes safe egress from the site in the case of emergencies
- would unreasonably impede the provision of and access to site services such as water and electrical infrastructure
- is not able to be accommodated by the physical constraints of a site, such as slopes or curves
- without also considering the need for provision in a school network

### **Why does there need to be a limit on capacity at some schools?**

The Department is committed to ensuring that every school in Victoria is a great school. This means ensuring that schools have the facilities they need to deliver the full curriculum to every student within the space available. For some schools, particularly on smaller sites, understanding their capacity enables them to plan for the future, and continue to meet the needs of their community in the long term.

### **How does capacity link to choice in public schools?**

Victorian students will always have a place at their designated neighbourhood school. Students can also choose to attend any other Victorian public school outside their zone if the school has capacity.

### **The Placement Policy says that it's subject to facility limitations, how do I know what this is?**

'Facility limitations' refers to the capacity of a school. In the first instance this is the current built capacity of a school. The capacity of a school can not necessarily be increased for all schools all the time.

In Victoria, students have the right to attend their designated neighbourhood school. This means the Department and the Government make every effort to increase the built capacity of a school where that is required to accommodate students from within the school's zone.

Different methods are available to increase the built capacity of a school; however, sometimes there is a limit to how much the capacity of a school can be increased.

A school's site capacity is the maximum number of teaching spaces that can be accommodated on a school site, whilst considering other relevant site factors, including physical characteristics of individual sites and the needs of the school community. More specifically, the key factors in considering the capacity of a site are:

- Safety
- Physical constraints
- Curriculum
- Health and wellbeing
- The effect on, and capacity at, surrounding schools

Relocatable buildings can be an efficient way to address capacity constraints on a school site. However it may not always be an appropriate solution. For example, an additional relocatable building should not be put on a site if it:

- encroaches on the school's only or main oval or a reasonable amount of open and play space;
- results in excessive removal of vegetation (although some tree removals may be required in isolated cases)
- impedes safe egress from the site in the case of emergencies
- would unreasonably impede the provision of and access to site services such as water and electrical infrastructure
- is not able to be accommodated by the physical constraints of a site, such as slopes or curves
- has not also considered the need for provision in a school network.

Every school should be a great school. It is important to consider all schools when assessing whether the built capacity of one school needs to increase.

Where the built capacity of a school cannot be increased, the school's zone may need to be reassessed.

## PLACEMENT POLICY

### What is the Placement Policy?

The Department's Placement Policy outlines the process by which places are offered at Victorian public schools. The policy embeds the legal entitlement for students to enrol at their designated neighbourhood school, and to enrol at another school if there is sufficient accommodation.

For more information, see: [Placement Policy](#)

### What is the Priority Order of Placement?

The Department's Placement Policy indicates that where there are insufficient places at a school for all students who seek entry, students are enrolled in the following priority order:

1. Students for whom the school is the designated neighbourhood school.
2. Students with a sibling at the same permanent address who are attending the school at the same time.

3. Where the Regional Director has restricted the enrolment, students who reside nearest the school.
4. Students seeking enrolment on specific curriculum grounds.
5. All other students in order of closeness of their home to the school.
6. In exceptional circumstances, compassionate grounds.

### **What changes have been made to the Department's Placement Policy?**

There are no changes to the Department's Placement Policy. The Department always seeks to ensure the policy is applied consistently.

Under the Placement Policy, schools are required to prioritise enrolment for students living in that school zone. This has not changed.

Parents who want to send their children to schools located outside of their school zone, still have this choice. However, students enrolling at the school from within the school zone will have first priority. This is also current policy.

### **What are 'compassionate grounds' and how are they assessed?**

The Placement Policy recognises there are exceptional circumstances where a student may be unable to attend their designated neighbourhood school, or where on compassionate grounds, the student should be offered a place at another public school.

Applications for enrolment on compassionate grounds are considered by the enrolling school, as per the Placement Policy.

For more information, see: [Placement Policy](#)

### **Why was my child not permitted to their chosen school under 'compassionate grounds'?**

The Placement Policy recognises there are exceptional circumstances where a student may be unable to attend their designated neighbourhood school, or where on compassionate grounds, the student should be offered a place at another public school.

Applications for enrolment on compassionate grounds are considered by the enrolling school, as per the Placement Policy.

For more information, see: [Placement Policy](#)

### **My child has studied a specific subject, and wants to attend a specific school, which offers this curriculum speciality– why have they not been permitted to under 'curriculum grounds', which is listed in the Placement Policy?**

Students seeking enrolment on curriculum grounds are considered only after the school has first ensured that all students eligible under the first three criteria of the Placement Policy have been accommodated.

For more information, see: [Placement Policy](#)

## **How do I make an appeal about my child's school placement?**

In the first instance, parents or carers should lodge an appeal with the school at which the student has been unsuccessful in seeking a placement. If this appeal is unsuccessful and parents or carers are not satisfied that their appeal has been adequately considered, they are able to escalate the appeal to the relevant Regional Director.

For more information on the appeals process, see: [Placement Policy](#)

## **What if I'm an International student?**

An international student is an overseas national who comes to Australia on a visa that allows them to study in Australia.

For more information visit [International Student Program](#)

## **SIBLINGS/COUSINS/FRIENDS**

### **Can my younger child attend the school their older sibling attends even though we are no longer in the zone?**

Under the Placement Policy, students with a sibling at the same permanent address who are attending the school at the same time are given high-level preference, after students who live within the school zone.

### **My child's cousin or friend wants to attend the same school. What can I do?**

If your child's cousin or a friend lives within the same school zone as your child, then they can attend as it is also their closest school. All students have a right to attend their designated neighbourhood school.

If your child's cousin or friend, lives outside the zone of their preferred school then they can apply to enrol at that school. Students are placed according to the priority order of placement and subject to the school having sufficient capacity.

### **My child/children live some of the time with their other parent, does this mean they have two designated neighbourhood schools?**

If your child resides at multiple addresses, their 'permanent residence' is the address at which they spend the majority of their weekdays. If they spend an equal amount of time at two addresses, both addresses will be considered as their permanent address and they will be entitled to enrol in the designated neighbourhood school for either address (or any other Victorian public school subject to entry criteria and capacity). The final choice of which school they ultimately attend rests with the parents/carers (or with the student if they are an adult or mature minor for the purpose of making enrolment decisions).

### **Can my step-children attend the same school as my children?**

For the purposes of the Placement Policy a sibling can include step-siblings who live at the same permanent address. Under the Placement Policy, students with a sibling at the same permanent address who are attending the school at the same time are given high-level preference, after students who live within the school zone.

### **Why is my child not allowed to attend the school their sibling attends?**

This is not likely to occur. Under the Placement Policy, students with a sibling at the same permanent address who are attending the school at the same time are given high-level preference, after students who live within the school zone.

For more information, see: [Placement Policy](#)

### **Will siblings be separated?**

This is not likely to occur. Under the Placement Policy, students with a sibling at the same permanent address who are attending the school at the same time are given high-level preference, after students who live within the school zone.

For more information, see: [Placement Policy](#)

## **GENERAL PROCESS**

### **My child wasn't able to get into a particular school in 2019, but now they could have because of this zone change – what can I do? Isn't this unfair?**

The Department continually assesses capacity, enrolment demand and population growth for all schools in Victoria. School zones are updated on a yearly basis to reflect the opening of new schools and changes in demand.

If your child missed out on a place at your preferred school last year, there are options available to you. The first step is to speak to the school about enrolment.

### **My child's primary school said that it was a feeder to the secondary school, and now my child is not able to attend. What can I do?**

The Department's Placement Policy outlines the priority order in which students are placed in a school. 'Feeder Schools' are not included as a criteria in the Placement Policy.

For more information, see: [Placement Policy](#)

### **Why can't my child attend any school they want?**

Children of school age have the right to be enrolled at their designated neighbourhood public school. They can attend a school of their choosing, but only if that school has the capacity to admit them.

## BUSES

### Why doesn't my school zone include an assessment of public transport?

In metropolitan areas your designated neighbourhood school is generally defined on a straight-line measurement, from your house to the closest public school. This accounts for the fact that accessibility is generally better in Metropolitan areas with schools closer in distance, and better transport options. In rural areas, the measure is shortest path. This uses the shortest practical route by road, reflecting that your closest school may be more difficult to access due to the nature of the road network in your area.

For more information about transport, see:

- [Student transport](#)
- [School bus program for rural and regional Victoria](#)
- [School Bus Program](#)
- [Victorian Student Pass](#)
- [Travelling to school](#)

### Is there any assistance with travelling to school?

A range of transportation options are available to eligible young people, including the School Bus Program, travel to specialist schools, Students with Disabilities Transport Program and conveyance allowance.

For more information, please see <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/going-to-school/Pages/travel-school.aspx>

### Will my child still be able to catch the bus to school if zones are changing?

Yes. Where the confirmation/change of a school's enrolment zone would potentially alter a student's eligibility for transport assistance through the Department's transport programs, they will be granted an exemption to continue with their existing travel arrangements.

Any child – and their siblings – who currently catches a school bus will still be able to catch a school bus.

While school zones will continue to be reviewed annually, the Department will work with schools to identify active travel opportunities.

### How do I find out my nearest kinder and/or TAFE?

To locate kindergartens, see: [Find a service](#)

To locate TAFE courses or campuses, see: [TAFE and training](#)