

General information for parents on enrolment

In the Northern Territory (NT), all children and young people of compulsory school age must be enrolled in a school and attend every day – this is the law. When your child becomes 6 years of age on or before the 30 June of the school year, your child reaches the compulsory school age. As a parent who has daily care and control of your child, you have a legal responsibility to ensure your child is enrolled in an NT Government school or a registered non-government school until they reach 17. Children of compulsory school age who are living independently must ensure they meet this requirement. Compulsory enrolment requirements also apply to interstate and international children and young people whose usual place of residence is in the NT.

The NT Department of Education and Training (department), including school principals and staff, actively promote and work in partnerships with children and young people and their families to ensure enrolment. Where all efforts have been exhausted to meet compulsory enrolment requirements, you may be subject to enforcement measures and may also face legal consequences.

To give your child a great start in life and prepare them for school and social life you are encouraged to enrol your child in school or an early learning program before they reach compulsory school age, including:

- preschool – children who turn 4 years of age on or before 30 June can begin preschool at the start of the school year. Children who turn 4 after 30 June are eligible to enrol in a preschool program after their birthday if places are available and with the understanding the child will access more than 12 months of preschool. All children have access to a preschool program for at least 600 hours equivalent to 15 hours a week in the 12 months prior to full-time schooling.
- transition – children who turn 5 years of age on or before 30 June of the school year can begin transition at the start of the school year.

For enrolment in early learning, go to the department's Early childhood education and care webpage.

What you should do

Parents of children and children living independently need to fill out some paperwork and get all required supporting documentation ready. Specifically, you need to:

1. complete the enrolment form. You can do it online or print it out
2. gather all supporting documentation as required. For the list of supporting documents and examples of each type of document, go to the NT Government's Enrol your child at school webpage or read the Enrolment procedures
3. take the completed enrolment form and copies of all required supporting documentation to the school where your child is to be enrolled
4. sign the enrolment form in front of a school staff member.

You can apply to enrol your child in a school of your choice, but priority is given to those living in the school's priority enrolment area. For more information about priority enrolment, go to the department's Enrol your child at school webpage.

Enrolment with diverse needs

The department recognises the diverse needs of our children and young people and provides different options to meet individuals' specific needs, including:

- enrolment in a distance education centre, read the Distance education enrolment procedures
- enrolment in a special school or a special centre, read the Enrolment in special schools and special centres guidelines
- concurrent enrolment in 2 or more schools, read about dual enrolment in the Enrolment procedures and Distance education enrolment procedures
- home education, read information on the Home education webpage
- enrolment as an international student, read information on the International education webpage
- enrolment as a mature age student, read the Mature age student enrolment procedures
- when your child has completed year 10 and is not yet 17 years of age, they can choose to participate in an eligible option. Eligible option is an alternative to mainstream schooling, involving approved education, training, or paid employment. For more information about eligible options, read the Eligible options guidelines.

Useful information

Legislation

- *Education Act 2015* – <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/EDUCATION-ACT-2015>

Procedures, information and forms

- Distance education enrolment procedures – <https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/student-enrolment/enrolment>
- Early learning – <https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/early-childhood-education-and-care>
- Eligible options – <https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/student-enrolment/enrolment>
- Enrol your child at school – information and forms – <https://nt.gov.au/learning/primary-and-secondary-students/enrol-your-child-at-school>
- Enrolment management priority enrolment guidelines – <https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/student-enrolment/enrolment/priority-enrolment-area>
- Enrolment procedures – <https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/student-enrolment/enrolment>
- Home education – <https://nt.gov.au/learning/primary-and-secondary-students/home-education>
- International students – <https://nt.gov.au/learning/international-education>
- Mature age student enrolment procedures – <https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/student-enrolment/enrolment>
- Enrolment in special schools and special centres – <https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/student-enrolment/enrolment>