



Education &
Communities

Distance Education

Enrolment Procedures – 2014



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1. Distance Education in NSW

The NSW Department of Education and Communities provides distance education for students living in NSW who are isolated or whose special circumstances prevent them from attending school on a regular basis. Distance Education also provides for those students unable to access an appropriate curriculum in their local school.

These revised enrolment procedures supersede the 2011 *Distance Education Guidelines*, and have been developed to provide principals and parents/carers with information and direction on accessing the Department's distance education provision.

Principals must use these enrolment procedures in conjunction with all current departmental policy statements including:

- **Enrolment of students in NSW government schools:**
A summary and consolidation of policy
- **Enhanced enrolment procedures** - Memorandum to school principals, regional directors and school education directors DN/06/00168
- **Implementation statement on enhanced enrolment procedures**
- **Guidelines for exemption from school: School attendance Policy PD20050259**
- **Protecting and supporting children and young people policy and procedures (2010)**
- **Aboriginal education and training policy**

Distance education is governed by the same policies that apply to all the government schools. This includes the requirement to follow the relevant Board of Studies, Teaching and Education Standards (BOSTES) approved syllabus and to maintain satisfactory attendance. Distance education schools will maintain a register of interactions that take place between the student and the teacher and use these interactions to assess satisfactory attendance.

Examples of interactions which may indicate satisfactory attendance will include, but are not limited to:

- The regular return of allocated work
- Engagement in:
 - real time remote teaching sessions such as phone lessons, satellite lessons, content sharing lessons such as Bridgit, videoconference lessons including virtual excursions
 - not in real time remote teaching techniques such as authenticated online learning, learning management systems (eg LAMS, Moodle) and virtual excursions
 - field services such as camps and workshops, home visits and excursions.

Distance education versus home schooling

In distance education the school and teacher are responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating student learning programs. A parent or other supervisor supports the child to complete the learning programs developed by the school. Parents/carers seeking to develop their own teaching and learning programs for their children are required to register with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Education Standards for home schooling. More information about home schooling can be found at the **BOSTES website**.

Full time enrolment in NSW distance education is provided for eligible students, either on a continuing basis or as a temporary provision to meet the particular needs of students or their family. Full time enrolment is provided for students from preschool to Year 12.

Principals of distance education schools determine the category under which a student will be admitted to distance education and the duration of the enrolment, acting on advice or recommendations from other departmental officers, relevant professionals, documentary evidence and their own enquiries. A student will be admitted to distance education only when it is established that this is the best course of action for that student after consideration of all known circumstances.

Post compulsory education and training of adults is delivered primarily by non-school provisions including Technical and Further Education (TAFE) and Adult and Community Education (ACE). Students over 18 should in the first instance, be directed to TAFE, or the Open Training and Education Network (OTEN) if a distance provision is required.

In some limited circumstances and based on consideration of the applicant's circumstances, the principal of a distance education school will determine whether a person aged 18 years or over can be admitted to a school-based distance education program.

Relevant considerations would be:

- 1.evidence that the applicant is seeking to undertake a course of study that will satisfy requirements for the award of a Higher School Certificate
- 2.evidence that the student has completed a preliminary course or part of an HSC course at a school
- 3.evidence that the student would be eligible for enrolment at a distance education school under one of the current full time enrolment categories (please refer to Section 2)
- 4.the applicant's age and the time that has elapsed since their last enrolment in a school
- 5.evidence that the applicant's educational needs could not be met through a TAFE or ACE provision.

Curriculum access provisions assist NSW government and non-government schools, the Department's special placement settings and education and training units in NSW juvenile justice or juvenile correction centres. The provision

enables students in these schools or settings to meet the Department's mandatory requirements and the Board of Studies minimum requirements in Stages 5 and 6 leading toward the award of the HSC. In all cases the principal of the distance education school must be satisfied that the students' needs cannot be met within their home school or setting, or by accessing other local resources.

Support and advice

Principals and designated staff of distance education schools can provide support and advice about distance education to schools, Educational Services teams and parents/carers. Contact details are provided in Section 6 of this document.

The current school with support from the local Educational Services team will provide support and guidance to parents in applying these procedures for students with significant support needs.

Once a student is formally enrolled in distance education, services provided by learning and engagement teams need to be provided by the local Educational Services team in the area where the student resides.

The Rural and Distance Education team provides policy support and advice to schools across NSW, state offices and parents/carers. For further information or assistance please contact the Rural and Distance Education team on telephone 02 6334 8072 or fax 02 6334 8069 or <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/rde>

2. Full Time Enrolment in Distance Education

Full time enrolment in distance education provides students who are isolated or whose special circumstances prevent them from attending a school or other appropriate local provision on a regular basis with equitable access to education.

Parents/carers may seek full time enrolment in distance education for a student who is eligible to enrol in a NSW government school and meets one of the enrolment categories listed in this section.

Periodic review

Enrolments are subject to periodic review to ensure that eligibility for distance education is maintained due to the specialist nature of that category. Where this is the case, it is detailed in the specific enrolment information in that category. If a student is deemed no longer eligible for distance education, the student's enrolment will cease and the parent/carer will be required to enrol the child at the local school or other approved education provision in order to meet the requirements of the *Education Act (1990)*.

Some full time enrolments target temporary student circumstances and have time limits.

Categories of students who may be eligible to seek full time enrolment in distance education

	Enrolment category	Details
2.1	Preschool Preschool students who meet geographic isolation and other criteria	Page 5
	Primary or Secondary	
2.2	Students who meet geographic isolation criteria	Page 5
2.3	Students travelling within Australia (>50 to 400 days)	Page 6
2.4	Students temporarily resident or travelling overseas (>50 to 400 days)	Page 6
2.5	Students with a medical condition that prevents their attendance at a regular school or other local provision (>100 to 400 days)	Page 7
2.6	Pregnant students/young parents for whom no appropriate local provision is available (up to one year after birth of child)	Page 7
2.7	Vocationally talented students employed in the entertainment industry and students participating at elite levels in the performing arts or sport	Page 8
2.8	Students with additional learning and support needs	Page 10
2.9	Students with significant support needs – transition (up to 200 days)	Page 11
2.10	Students in extraordinary circumstances	Page 12
2.11	National school for travelling show children	Page 12
2.12	Students where an enrolment direction has been made by the NSW Department of Education and Communities Secretary or delegate	Page 13

The five common requirements for enrolment

In addition to adhering to the Department's **Enhanced Enrolment Procedures**, applications for full time enrolment in a distance education school must include the following:

1. A completed application to enrol in a NSW Government school
2. Parent confirmation that the home learning environment is safe and suitable for effective distance education provision
3. A declaration by the parent/carer that they recognise and accept their roles and responsibilities in the student's education
4. An undertaking by the parent/carer to provide and maintain an agreed mode of communication between themselves and the distance education school for the duration of the enrolment
5. Nomination by the parent/carer of a person who will perform the role of supervisor during the period of enrolment, and acceptance by that person of the following responsibilities:
 - a) liaising with the school about the program of learning that will be provided for the student and the scheduling of the student's and supervisor's time for engaging in schoolwork and the completion of set tasks
 - b) supervising the student during schoolwork activities
 - c) supporting and encouraging the student through assistance with locating materials and resources needed for lessons, development of a timetable for work, provision of a suitable workplace and basic equipment
 - d) ensuring that the student follows the course developed by the school and addresses, with diligence and sustained effort, the set tasks and experiences provided by the school
 - e) interacting with the student as required by the learning materials
 - f) interpreting and explaining to the student the spirit and intention of instructions or comments included in lesson materials or in messages from the distance education teacher
 - g) providing feedback to the distance education teacher on the student's responses to the lesson activities and on the student's performance and interest, including advice about illnesses or absences which have affected the student's ability to complete activities
 - h) monitoring the student's participation in satellite, computer-based or teleconference lessons and field services as appropriate
 - i) providing appropriate conditions for the student and supervising all their examinations and assessment tasks, as requested.

Conditions that are specific to certain enrolment categories require further information. These conditions usually require

additional documentation to be provided. In some cases a statutory declaration under the NSW *Oaths Act 1900* is required.

For some enrolment categories, there are specified processes of referral and recommendation to be followed prior to consideration by the distance education school or centre. The following information sets out the conditions, in addition to the common requirements of enrolment, for each category of full time enrolment.

2.1 Preschool students who meet geographic isolation and other criteria

These enrolment procedures should be read in conjunction with the policy statement **Procedures and eligibility for enrolment in government preschools**.

The Department operates a limited number of preschools that complement preschool provision in the broader children's services sector in NSW. Distance education preschool targets children who, because of geographic isolation, are unable to access any other children's services.

Geographically isolated children who would meet the distance criteria which applies to children of primary school age may be eligible to enrol in a distance education preschool.

In assessing a preschool child's eligibility for enrolment in distance education, principals will take into account the distance from the applicant's home to any local children's services, including community based preschools, mobile children's services and/or long day care.

The designation of distance education sites that will provide preschool services is determined each three years on a needs basis. Currently, provision is available through Dubbo School of Distance Education and Broken Hill School of the Air.

Children generally attend departmental preschool classes for 15 hours per week for one year only. Children are eligible for enrolment at the distance education preschool from the beginning of the school year, if they turn four years of age on or before 31 July in that year. In exceptional circumstances, an additional year of enrolment may be considered, provided that the child is not within the compulsory years of schooling. Applications for enrolment extension under this provision must be referred to the Leader, Rural and Distance Education at PO Box 717, Bathurst, 2795 or rde@det.nsw.edu.au.

In addition to the five common requirements for enrolment on page 4, the following is required:

1. Relevant supporting documentation to establish the distance from the student's home to the nearest primary school and to any local children's services, such as community based preschools, mobile children's services or long day care.

Submit completed documents to:

The Principal of the appropriate distance education school (see "Where to apply" at the end of Section 2).

2.2 Students who meet geographic isolation criteria

Students who meet the geographic isolation criteria will be expected to enrol at their local distance education centre.

In applying the following enrolment procedures, the intention is to ensure that students enrolling under this category are genuinely geographically isolated.

Primary full time students

Students who are isolated from a NSW government school and who make application under this category must provide evidence of their isolation to the principal of the enrolling school. A distance of three kilometres from the student's home to the nearest bus route is the minimum prerequisite distance, but will not be sufficient reason to justify enrolment. When making this decision, the principal of the enrolling school will determine isolation in this context and will assess all relevant information including access to school and community resources, travel time, and road and geographic conditions.

Secondary full time students

Students who are isolated from a NSW government school and who make application under this category must provide evidence of their isolation to the principal of the enrolling school. A distance of five kilometres from the student's home to the nearest bus route is the minimum prerequisite distance but will not be sufficient reason to justify enrolment. When making this decision, the principal of the enrolling school will determine isolation in this context and will assess all relevant information including access to school and community resources, travel time, and road and geographic conditions.

Sydney Distance Education High School does not accept students in this category. Any application received will be forwarded to an appropriate distance education centre.

In addition to the five common requirements for enrolment on page 4, the following are required:

1. Supporting documentation such as road conditions, distance from the local school and distance from the student's home to the nearest bus pickup point or school.
2. Other relevant information and supporting documentation about the student's circumstances that contribute to geographic isolation.

Submit completed documents to:

The Principal of the appropriate distance education school (see "Where to apply" at the end of Section 2).

2.3 Students travelling within Australia

Students who are unable to attend a regular school because they are travelling with their family in Australia for a period of at least 50 school days, may be eligible to enrol in a distance education school or centre.

Initially, placement in distance education will be for a period of up to 200 school days. This may be extended on application by the parent/carer outlining the case for an extension. Extensions must not exceed an additional 200 days and will only be approved if the principal of the distance education school considers that the return of work and engagement with the teaching programs during the initial period of enrolment is satisfactory.

The family must also intend to continue the student's schooling at a NSW school at the completion of the travel.

A comprehensive itinerary must be submitted with the application. Addresses for a minimum of six weeks in advance are required to ensure continuity of the learning program.

Travellers who take up residence in one place for six weeks or more will be expected to enrol at the local school. A decision to waive this requirement will be at the discretion of the principal of the distance education school, with advice from the principal of the local school, and taking into consideration the school's capacity to provide continuity for the travelling student.

When commencement of travel is delayed by more than 30 school days, the student is no longer eligible to be enrolled in distance education and is required to seek enrolment at the local school.

In addition to the five common requirements for enrolment on page 4, the following are required:

1. A statutory declaration stating the family's intention to travel, the anticipated duration of this travel, the student's NSW home address before the travel, and their expected home address after the travel.
2. A comprehensive itinerary showing addresses for at least six weeks in advance.

Submit completed documents to:

The Principal of the appropriate distance education school (see "Where to apply" at the end of Section 2).

2.4 Students temporarily resident or travelling overseas

Students who are travelling overseas or are temporary overseas residents for a period of at least 50 school days may be eligible to enrol in a distance education school or centre.

Initial placement in distance education will be for a period of up to 200 school days but may be extended, on application by the parent outlining their case for an extension. Extensions must not exceed an additional 200 days and will only be approved if the principal of the distance education school considers that the return of work and engagement with the teaching programs during the initial period of enrolment is satisfactory.

The family must intend to continue the student's schooling at a NSW school, at the completion of the travel or temporary relocation.

A comprehensive itinerary must be submitted with the application. Addresses for a minimum of six weeks in advance are required to ensure the continuity of the student's learning program.

Parents are required to purchase all necessary textbooks and equipment. They will also be required to pay a charge for airmail postage of lesson materials. The postage charge for overseas students must be paid in advance to ensure the continuity of the student's learning program. All lesson materials must be mailed direct to the student and cannot be sent via a local address. Any alternative arrangement, such as the use of the diplomatic courier bag or a large company's courier service must be authorised by the principal of the distance education school or centre.

When commencement of travel and departure from NSW is delayed by more than 30 school days, the student is no longer eligible to be enrolled in distance education and should seek enrolment at the local school.

In addition to the five common requirements for enrolment on page 4, the following are required:

1. A statutory declaration stating the family's intention to travel, the anticipated duration of this travel, the student's NSW home address before the travel and their expected home address after the travel.
2. A comprehensive itinerary showing addresses for at least six weeks in advance.

Submit completed documents to:

The Principal of the appropriate distance education school (see "Where to apply" at the end of Section 2). Secondary students in the Sydney metropolitan area should contact Karabar High School Distance Education Centre.

2.5 Students with a medical condition that prevents their attendance at a regular school or other local provision: short term provision

This provision is designed to cover students requiring education while they are undergoing medical assessment or treatment. The enrolment period is for a minimum of 100 school days and must not exceed 400 school days. The principal of the distance education school may require the provision of annual certification of the continued need for distance education based on the circumstances of the student.

The principal of the distance education school may seek advice from the learning and engagement coordinators or their delegate from the local Educational Services team where the student lives, to investigate alternative local provision or to determine whether further assessment is needed prior to enrolment.

The principal of the distance education centre may seek background information about a student's medical condition from the student's previous school, by submitting a request for student background information and documents which can be accessed through the **Enhanced Enrolment Procedures** web page.

If the student's medical condition persists beyond the maximum period, their continued enrolment should be sought under Category 2.8 or 2.10 in order to access the support and resources available in local Educational Services teams.

2.6 Pregnant students/young parents for whom no appropriate local provision is available

Pregnant students or students seeking to re-engage in education as a school-aged parent may be eligible for enrolment at a distance education school or centre. Enrolment can be maintained for a period of up to 200 days or, after the development of a comprehensive case management plan, extended to the completion of the next stage of learning.

The principal of the distance education school may seek advice from learning and engagement coordinators or their delegate from the local Educational Services team where the student lives, to investigate alternative local education provisions prior to enrolment and to help the student to transition from distance education at the end of the enrolment period.

In addition to the five common requirements for enrolment on page 4, the following is required:

1. A medical certificate confirming the pregnancy or the child's birth certificate.

Submit completed documents to:

The Principal of the appropriate distance education school (see "Where to apply" at the end of Section 2).

In addition to the five common requirements for enrolment on page 4, the following are required:

1. A letter from the student's specialist, outlining the student's medical condition and how it impacts on their ability to attend their school or other local education provision. This letter should include an assessment of the length of time it is expected that the student will be unable to attend a regular school or other local education provision.
2. Independent advice may be sought by the Department to confirm that distance education is and continues to be the most appropriate provision for the student.

Submit completed documents to:

The Principal of the appropriate distance education school (see "Where to apply" at the end of Section 2).

2.7 Vocationally talented students employed in the entertainment industry and students participating at elite levels in the performing arts or sport

It is expected that students in this category will have exhausted all other departmental provisions before seeking enrolment in distance education.

NSW government schools can cater for talented students by making significant program adjustments to form a differentiated pattern of study including the use of school attendance exemptions. Exemptions for employment in the entertainment industry or participation in elite sporting events are outlined in the **Exemption from school – procedures website**.

There are a number of selective high schools and programs that specifically cater for talented students who wish to participate in sport and the performing arts at elite levels. More information can be obtained from the following websites:

Arts: <https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/contact>

Sports: <http://www.sports.det.nsw.edu.au/aboutus/index.htm>

Students whose employment in the entertainment industry or elite participation in the performing arts and sport prevents their regular attendance at a school or other suitable local provision for more than 50 school days in a year, may be eligible for enrolment at a distance education school or centre.

Applications will be considered from students who can provide documented and certified evidence:

- of employment in the entertainment industry, or
- of participation in the performing arts at an elite level, or
- of participation in sport at an elite level, and
- that they are required to be available to meet the demands of this employment or participation in ways that make it impossible for them to attend a school or other suitable local provision on a daily basis in excess of 50 school days in the year.

In addition to the five common requirements for enrolment on page 4, the following is required:

Application - Step 1 Statutory Declaration

For all students, the parent must provide a statutory declaration including:

- details of the employment obligations or the participation that will prevent the student from attending a regular school, with a student résumé clearly outlining participation at an elite level
- the length of time for which it is expected that the student will need to access distance learning
- an outline of arrangements that will be made for supervision of the student's school work and regular liaison between the student and staff at the distance education school
- a statement that the student is not enrolled in any other registered school or registered education/training provider.

Application – Step 2 Copies of acceptable evidence to attach with the application must be certified by a Justice of the Peace.

Entertainment Industry

- employment contract

Performing Arts

Parents must provide evidence of the criteria used to assess the student's elite participation in performing arts, such as:

- achievement records e.g. accredited examination results, certificates, photographs of awards
- professional work logs
- testimonials, eg from industry based professionals
- any other evidence that clearly demonstrates that the student is participating at an elite level and that the student's commitment is such that a regular school could not cater for such commitment through significant program adjustments including leave in excess of 50 school days per year.

Sport

Parents/carers must provide evidence of the criteria used to assess the student's elite participation in sport, such as:

- letters of offer or selection into an elite sporting team, squad or program and evidence of the student's acceptance of the place
- achievement records eg accredited and certified results, certificates, photographs of awards
- professional work logs
- testimonials eg from industry based professionals.
- The evidence must be supported in writing by a representative of the highest national governing body in connection with the student's sporting commitment.

Additional information when participation involves attendance at a sporting or performing arts institution

When the student will be participating at an elite level at an institution, the organisation must provide evidence including:

- the organisation's name and purposes
- how it meets requirements for child protection and other risk management procedures
- selection procedures
- the student's program
- student accreditation procedures
- the criteria used to assess the student's elite level of participation
- the ranking of the student within the organisation (where relevant)
- any other material that demonstrates the nature of the organisation.

Application – Step 3 Principal endorsement

1. The principal of the student's current school must use the statutory declaration and associated evidence to provide a statement of support on the enrolment application. The statement must clearly articulate:

- a. any program adjustments that have been made to cater for the talented nature of the student

- b. that the student is operating at an elite level and the commitment is such that a regular school could not cater for this commitment through program adjustments including exemption from attendance at school up to 100 school days per year.

Submit completed documents to:

The Principal of the appropriate distance education school (see "Where to apply" at the end of Section 2).

2.8 Students with additional learning and support needs

Students with additional learning and support needs may be eligible for enrolment at a distance education school if it is determined that they cannot attend school on a regular basis or there is no local provision to meet their learning needs.

Educational Services teams in the home location are responsible for processing access to the range of student services support provisions, for students with additional learning needs. Learning and engagement personnel are available to provide advice and support to schools to help them meet their students' learning and support needs.

In consultation with the parent/carer, an Access Request will be initiated by the learning and support team where the student is currently enrolled. Before this request can be assessed **"Appendix A" on page 22** must be completed by the principal and attached to the Access Request. When this cannot be endorsed, a managed environment, drawing on resources from the home school and community, must be established locally for an enrolment to proceed.

If the student is not currently enrolled in a departmental school, the learning and engagement coordinator responsible for the location where the student lives should support the development of the Access Request. This will require the exchange of detailed information from the student's previous school to assess the appropriateness of support through distance education, or enrolment in a local school before distance education.

Where appropriate, the local learning and engagement coordinator may invite a representative from the distance education school to participate in this process.

A distance education enrolment may be recommended when **ALL** of the following apply:

- Consideration has been given to the support preference based on effective communication with the parent/carer.
- The student has a disability confirmation
- The student's educational needs cannot be met by the local school with access to the available school, community and state resources. These must be documented in terms of:
 - effective collaboration between the school and the parent/carer regarding the child's needs
 - assessment of additional need
 - intervention strategies implemented at the school
 - impact assessment of these interventions
- The distance education school is the most appropriate enrolment
- Appendix A has been attached to the Access Request

The local learning and engagement coordinator will then consult with the parents and start an application to enrol.

The local learning and engagement coordinator is responsible for the ongoing assessment and support of the student's needs. Consultation with the distance education school is required to support students who transition back to school, or to post-school options.

The distance education school must conduct a review of each student in this category at least every 12 months. The purpose of this review is to assess and monitor individual student needs and review the appropriateness of continued support through the distance education school.

The distance education school will provide feedback to the learning and engagement coordinator where the student lives about recommendations for continued access to distance education support. In cases where the review identifies that distance education is no longer appropriate, the local learning and engagement coordinator will facilitate enrolment at a suitable local setting.

The purpose of this ongoing collaboration between the learning and engagement coordinator and the distance education school is to:

- support teaching and learning and report student progress to parents/carers
- assess and monitor students individual needs
- review where necessary the appropriateness of continued enrolment through a distance education school
- ensure effective use of school home area and state resources and address transition planning issues.

The principal of the distance education school may apply **Enhanced Enrolment Procedures** where they require further information to verify the safety of the student in the distance learning environment.

On completion and approval of the specified procedure:

The local learning and engagement coordinator will invite parents/carers to apply to enrol the student at the distance education school or centre and notify both the home school and distance education school.

Distance Education Support Unit:

The Sir Eric Woodward Memorial School - Distance Education Support Unit, provides a highly specialised targeted distance mode support and enrolls students who have a confirmed moderate to severe intellectual disability. Parents seeking to enrol students into the Distance Education Support Unit should discuss this with their local school principal or staff from the local Educational Services team as access to this Unit is only by a placement panel process. Preference is given to students located in geographically isolated locations which limit their access to appropriate specialist services.

On completion of the enrolment application process:

The learning and engagement coordinator will advise parents/carers when the specified procedures are complete and the application outcome and notify both the home school and distance education school.

2.9 Students with significant support needs – transition

Students, for whom a risk assessment indicates that they cannot attend their local government school on a regular basis, may be eligible for temporary enrolment at a distance education school. This provision can only be accessed as part of a managed transition strategy that aims to return them to a face-to-face school or to facilitate their participation in further education or employment.

A plan from the home school to manage the transition, drawing on resources available from them and the distance education school attached to the Access Request as a condition of enrolment. A sample transition management plan has been included in “**Appendix B - Sample Transition Management Plan**” on page 23.

While the student attends distance education, strong links will be maintained with the learning and support team from their home school. It is desirable that the transition period for this enrolment not exceed 200 school days.

In consultation with the parent/carers, an Access Request will be initiated by the learning and support team where the student is enrolled. Before this request can be assessed “**Appendix A**” on page 22 must be completed by the principal and attached to the Access Request. When this cannot be endorsed, a managed environment, drawing on resources from the home school and community, must be established locally for an enrolment to proceed.

The learning and support team and learning and engagement coordinator from the area in which the student lives, will each semester, review the enrolment and level of support required for the student to ensure the ongoing appropriateness in this category with reference to the criteria listed below.

Where appropriate, the local learning and engagement coordinator can invite a representative from the distance education school to participate in this process.

A distance education enrolment may be recommended when **ALL** of the following criteria apply.

- Consideration has been given to the support preference based on effective communication with the parent/carers
- The student’s educational needs cannot be met by the local school with access to the available school, community and state resources. These must be documented in terms of:
 - effective collaboration between the school and the parent/carers regarding the child’s needs
 - assessment of additional need
 - intervention strategies implemented at the school
 - impact assessment of these interventions
- A plan has been developed to manage the transition drawing on resources available from the home school and

the distance education school and attached to the Access Request

- The distance education school is the most appropriate enrolment
- Appendix A has been attached to the Access Request.

Learning and engagement officers from the local Educational Services team where the student lives are responsible for the ongoing assessment and support of the student’s needs. This is done in consultation with the home school and distance education school so that they can support students who transition back to school, or to post-school options. The distance education school will provide feedback to the student’s home school in relation to progress regarding the transition plan.

The principal of the distance education school may apply **Enhanced Enrolment Procedures** where they require further information to verify the safety of the student in the distance learning environment.

On completion and approval of the specified procedure:

The local learning and engagement coordinator will invite parents/carers to apply to enrol the student at the distance education school or centre and notify both the home school and distance education school.

2.10 Students in extraordinary circumstances

This category is designed to meet unforeseen and extraordinary circumstances not identified elsewhere in this document.

In addition to the five common requirements for enrolment on page 4, the following are required:

1. The Director Public Schools NSW may require a statutory declaration from a parent, stating the reasons for requesting full time distance education enrolment.
2. The Director Public Schools NSW for the school where the student is currently enrolled must support the application. When a student is not enrolled in a government school, the Director Public Schools NSW for the student's designated local school must assess and support the application.

The Director Public Schools NSW should consider the circumstances provided by the parent/carer and may seek advice from the principal of the student's current school and/or an officer from the local Educational Services team or their delegates. The Director should clearly indicate the length of time the student can remain in distance education.

The Director Public Schools NSW will verify that:

- policies and procedures have been followed
- the student's educational and/or welfare needs cannot be met by a regular school with access to school, local and state resources
- the distance education school is the most appropriate option
- a risk assessment/management plan has been developed that takes into account the specific circumstances of the isolated learning and verifies the safety and suitability of the home or other location in which learning will take place.

If the Director, Public Schools NSW supports the enrolment in distance education they will provide a letter to the distance education school outlining the conditions of enrolment. A copy of this letter will be provided to the parent.

During Term 4 each school year, enrolments under the **Extraordinary Circumstances Provision** must be reviewed. This review will be informed by a report from the distance education school to the referring director, outlining the student's progress with reference to the criteria listed above. The director will then advise the school if the distance education enrolment will be continued beyond the initial period.

2.11 National school for travelling show children

The Department has established a K to 6 distance education enrolment category to help meet the educational needs of children from families that were formerly served by the Queensland School for Travelling Show Children under an arrangement between the State and Territory Governments and the Commonwealth Government.

Dubbo School of Distance Education will provide enrolment into this full time, K to 6 provision specifically for families that are affiliated with the National School for Travelling Show Children.

In addition to the five common requirements for enrolment on page 4, the following is required:

1. A letter of support from the National School for Travelling Show Children indicating the student has access to their show school infrastructure, support and coordination process.

2.12 Students where an enrolment direction has been made by the NSW Department of Education and Communities Secretary or delegate

When a direction has been made to enrol a student at a distance education school the student will be enrolled in accordance with the enrolment direction.

2.13 Where to apply

The distance education schools and centres have designated intake areas. Further details are available at the **Rural and Distance Education website**. Applications for enrolment must be made to the designated distance education school or centre. If parents/carers seek to enrol a student at a school other than the designated school, the application will be considered in accordance with the document *Enrolment of students in NSW government schools: A summary and consolidation of policy* under the criteria for non-local enrolment. If a non-local enrolment is made, the full range of distance education services may not be available. Particularly, opportunities related to face-to-face programs may be restricted due to the impact of greater distance.

Exceptions to the non-local enrolment rules are currently made for the following students:

Students eligible for distance education	Distance education school or centre
Preschool children	Dubbo School of Distance Education, Broken Hill School of the Air
Primary students resident in the ACT	Queanbeyan Primary School Distance Education Centre
Secondary students resident in the ACT	Karabar High School Distance Education Centre
Secondary students resident on Norfolk Island	Southern Cross K-12 School Distance Education Centre
Secondary students resident in Metropolitan Sydney who are temporarily resident or travelling overseas or within Australia	Karabar High School Distance Education Centre
Preschool, primary and secondary students with an intellectual disability who choose not to enrol at the local distance education school	Distance Education Support Unit

Enrolment interview

Before enrolling it is a good idea for the potential student and supervisor to visit the school. This allows the student to meet the teachers, an assessment of the student's needs can be

undertaken, and the supervisor can discuss his/her role and responsibilities.

Return of work and enrolment reviews

As a condition of continued enrolment, all students enrolled in distance education must meet standards of engagement and participation set by the distance education school to satisfy the compulsory attendance requirements of the *Education Act 1990*.

All enrolments will be reviewed at least every 12 months to ensure that the student's circumstances have not changed. When students are not meeting their engagement and participation obligations, a review can be undertaken at any time.

School contributions

When applying to enrol, all students will be advised of the voluntary school contribution and the cost for items such as the purchase of course kits, materials and equipment. Parents/carers who because of financial hardship are unable to pay for elective subjects may be eligible for assistance.

Further information on voluntary school contributions can be found at:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/contributions.php>

https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/administrative/financial/fin_pol3/PD20050233.shtml

3. Years 9-12 Curriculum Access

Single Course Provision

Categories and Conditions

Single course provision is available as a service to schools that cannot provide the necessary breadth and flexibility of curriculum and where a local solution such as a connected classroom with another local school is not available.

The home school is requesting the distance education school to augment their curriculum pattern to allow their student to meet the minimum requirements to attain Higher School Certification. In providing single course access, the relationship is strictly between the home school and the distance education school providing the curriculum requested. All aspects of the request must be assessed and managed by the home school, not the parent/carer.

The home school works in partnership with the distance education school. The home school remains responsible for the student's attendance, communication with parents/carers, welfare and the resources necessary to maintain a quality learning environment.

The principal of the distance education school approves the provision of single courses.

Schools may request single course provision in the specific circumstances outlined in this section.

Single course applications are limited by a quota based on the size and capacity of the school to deliver a broad curriculum from its own resources.

Common requirements for single course provision

Single course provision will be considered only when the home school principal certifies that:

1. the student meets all eligibility conditions of the selected course
2. the student is capable of working independently
3. a member of the teaching staff at the home school has been nominated to supervise the study arrangements of the single-course student, including assignments, formal examinations and assessment tasks
4. the student will be allocated the prescribed time to study single courses, including daily study/work periods and times when distance education teachers can contact students
5. procedures will be in place to ensure that the student will regularly return work and complete all tasks including assignments, formal examinations and assessments
6. the student is informed that they are required to return work each week or to meet alternative minimum standards set by the distance education school or centre
7. the student will be provided with resources where required, such as printing, textbooks, reference materials, access to a telephone, computer, Internet access, video conferencing and audio equipment, that meet the Department's current specifications

8. the student has access to and use of supervised specialist rooms as required
9. procedures will be in place to ensure that parental/carer permission is obtained for the student to attend activities arranged by the distance education school and that the home school will carry out risk assessments related to these activities.
10. a suitable and safe work placement for any vocational education and training course is possible
11. access to a suitable venue and supervision for Board of Studies examinations is available.

Annual quota applying to new applications

Schools have maximum flexibility within the parameters of the annual quota. For example, students can be included in more than one course, or schools can fill their annual quota in a single course.

Schools other than schools for specific purposes (SSPs) or educational training units seeking single course provision for students, can forward a maximum number of new applications per annum according to the following schedule:

Total Secondary School Enrolment	New applications per annum
300 or fewer	15
301 to 500	9
more than 500	6

Specialist settings attached to other schools, such as tutorial centres and support classes, should make their requests for curriculum support to their host school. If the host school cannot provide the necessary levels of support, the principal can apply for single course provision on behalf of the specialist setting within the existing quota.

Applications where the quota applies

Schools requiring access to an elective course in Years 9 and 10

When a school requests access to an elective course for a student in Year 9 or 10, it replaces a school delivered elective course. Courses studied by a student should not exceed the equivalent of seven 200-hour courses.

Schools accessing courses to meet Board of Studies minimum requirements for the HSC

The maximum number of units studied by a student including the distance education course, must not exceed 13 units in the preliminary course and 11 units for the HSC course.

Students completing study of a course at the end of Stage 5 (Year 10) are not considered to be continuing their study of the same course for Year 11. Therefore these students count as part of each school's annual quota for new applications.

Schools accessing courses to meet the needs of students with special circumstances

When the principal can establish that a student's special circumstances require access to distance education, the principal can apply for single course provision with accompanying documentary evidence to substantiate their application.

Applications not subject to quota

School principals who seek distance education single course provision for students in the following circumstances must provide a statement justifying the application.

Applications not subject to quota **may not** include a course offered at that year level by the home school.

Students whose study has been interrupted by transfer to another school

Students who are committed to the study of a course in Stage 5 or Stage 6 whose study has been interrupted by transfer to another school, may have an application made on their behalf by the principal of the new school. Applications for single course provision for these students should be made as soon as possible after the student arrives at the new school. This may include students who are temporarily attending a NSW secondary school while on a recognised exchange program.

Specific single course languages for small cohorts

Consideration for out of quota placements will only be considered for small numbers of students. The principal of the home school must provide evidence to the distance education school that they cannot provide access to language courses in any other way than distance education. Consideration for provision in this category must be received by the application closing date.

Vocational education and training in remote schools

Students in remote schools with a current Aria+ ranking greater than or equal to 2.4 who wish to study a vocational education and training course that contributes towards the HSC can have the principal of their school make an application for single course provision on their behalf. Aria+ rankings for schools are published on the **Rural and Distance Education website** and updated after each census.

Schools requiring access for students with confirmed disabilities

Students unable to undertake a course of study at their school because their disability restricts their access to specialist teaching areas or facilities can have the principal of their school make an application for single course provision on their behalf.

Full-fee-paying overseas students currently enrolled in NSW government or non-government schools

NSW government or non-government schools that have enrolled full-fee-paying overseas students can apply for single course provision to meet the needs of these students.

The application should explain why the home school cannot provide for the student.

Students in exceptional circumstances

This category is designed to meet unforeseen and extraordinary circumstances not identified elsewhere in this document.

Schools should provide their request for consideration to their Director Public Schools NSW. Non-government schools should provide their request for consideration to the Director Secondary Education.

The relevant Director will consider if:

- policies or procedures have been followed
- the educational and/or welfare needs of the student can be met by the home school
- there are other ways the home school can provide the subject requested (eg through a connected classroom arrangement)
- the distance education school is the most appropriate option.

Application closing dates

Applications for both government and non-government schools should be received at the distance education school by 28 November for the following year and must be finalised by Wednesday 18 February 2015. Applications after this date can only be considered if endorsed by the Director Public Schools NSW for the requesting school or in the case of non-government schools the Director Secondary Education.

Applications for students beginning an HSC course should be made by the end of Term 3.

Where to apply

The distance education schools and centres including the Open High School, have designated intake areas. Details of these areas are available at <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/rde/>. Non-government schools seeking single course enrolment are advised to contact the closest secondary distance education school or centre, listed in Section 6 of this document, to seek advice about their designated intake areas.

Applications for single course provision must be made to the designated distance education school or centre. If principals seek single course provision for a student at a school other than the designated school, the application will be considered in accordance with **Enrolment of students in NSW government schools: A summary and consolidation of policy**, under the criteria for non-local enrolment. The full range of distance education services may not be available if this is effected. Particularly, opportunities related to face-to-face programs may be restricted due to the impact of greater distance.

Course fees

A student's course fees are to be paid by their home school.

On application for single course provision, a student's home school will provide a cheque or direct deposit for the course costs as outlined in the schedules published by the relevant distance education school or centre.

Additional course costs may be required during the year for some courses, particularly for courses that have practical work as a course component.

If a government school decides to pass onto a parent/carer the course cost rather than meet it from the school budget, the cost is to be treated as a voluntary contribution in line with the Department's **Voluntary School Contribution Policy**.

Non-government schools fees for access to single course distance education will be set annually. These are not voluntary contributions and reflect the staffing reduction incurred by a government school when a student accesses a course through distance education. The Department does not determine whether non-government schools meet the course costs or pass them on to the parents/carers.

4. Curriculum Access Provision for Special Placement Settings: Categories, Conditions and Procedures

Special placement settings in departmental schools such as schools for specific purposes (SSPs) or educational training units may be considered for curriculum access provision by a distance education school, if the setting is unable to provide curriculum access for students to a key learning area at an appropriate stage level through any other means.

The provision of curriculum access through distance education gives special placement settings the opportunity to meet the Department's mandatory requirements and the Board of Studies minimum requirements in Stage 5 and 6 leading toward the award of the HSC.

The principal of the special placement setting can apply for curriculum access to a distance education school or centre.

Specified processes of referral and recommendation must be followed prior to consideration by the principal of the distance education school or centre.

The principal of the special placement setting will certify that they cannot provide curriculum access for the nominated student to a subject at an appropriate stage level through any arrangement other than distance education. Details of the student's learning and support needs in the key learning area must be submitted. The principal should also provide any additional documentation deemed necessary to develop an appropriate learning program.

The principal of the special placement setting must certify that:

- as far as practical the setting will meet the common requirements for single course enrolment as listed in Section 3.

Applications for curriculum access to support these settings must specify:

- the name of the individual student who will be supported through the curriculum access arrangement
- details of any other state or school resources allocated to the support of the student.

This information will assist in ensuring effective use of resources and will support transition planning.

The distance education school will work in partnership with the learning and engagement officer, or delegate from the Educational Services team where the setting is located, on the recommendations for continued access to distance education support. The purpose of this ongoing collaboration is to:

- support teaching and learning and assist settings to report student progress to parents/carers
- assess and monitor the individual needs of settings
- review where necessary the appropriateness of continued support through the distance education school or centre.

Education and training units within juvenile justice or juvenile correction centres

Education units within juvenile justice or juvenile correction centres may be considered for curriculum access provision by a distance education school, if the setting is unable to provide curriculum access at an appropriate stage level through any other means.

Curriculum access arrangements for students in these specialist settings must comply with safety and security requirements and other conditions determined by Juvenile Justice and Corrective Services. These requirements place restrictions on students' access to the Internet and electronic communications.

Students in these settings must not be provided with an email address or given departmental network access. All communication with students is to be managed through the principal of the education and training unit or their nominated delegate.

The principal of the distance education school and the principal of the education and training unit are responsible for resolving any issues about the student's enrolment.

Access under this category should be reviewed by the principal of the distance education school and the staff of the education and training unit every six months.

Specified processes of referral and recommendation must be followed prior to consideration by the principal of the distance education school or centre. The principal of the education and training unit can apply for curriculum access to a distance education school or centre.

The principal of the education unit must certify that the setting cannot provide the student with curriculum access to a subject at an appropriate stage level through any arrangement other than distance education. Details of the student's learning support needs for the subject must be submitted. The principal should also provide any additional documentation deemed necessary to develop an appropriate learning program.

The principal of the special placement setting must certify that:

- as far as practical the setting will meet the common requirements for single course enrolment as listed in Section 3
- as far as practical the setting will manage the transition to another educational setting or detention centre.

5. Resolution and Appeal Procedures

Parent/carers may appeal any decision relating to access to distance education in accordance with the Department's **Complaints Handling Guidelines**. Further information on these guidelines is available on the **how we handle complaints website**.

6. Distance Education Schools and Centres

School	Address	Telephone	Fax
Bourke Walgett School of Distance Education			
Bourke Campus http://www.bourkewalg-d.schools.nsw.edu.au/	Green St Bourke 2840	02 6872 2424	02 6872 3109
Walgett Campus http://www.bourkewalg-d.schools.nsw.edu.au/	Warrena St Walgett 2832	02 6828 1374	02 6828 1936
School of the Air			
Broken Hill Campus http://www.schoolair-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/	Lane St Broken Hill 2880	08 8087 3565	08 8088 5998
Hay Campus http://www.hayp-d.schools.nsw.edu.au/	Lachlan St Hay 2711	02 6993 1882	2 6993 3069
North East Public School of Distance Education			
Port Macquarie Campus http://www.northeast.dec.education.nsw.gov.au/	School St Port Macquarie 2444	02 6584 1118	02 6584 1210
Casino Campus http://www.northeast.dec.education.nsw.gov.au/	103 Walker St Casino 2470	02 6662 6414	02 6662 3283
Queanbeyan PS (DE)			
http://www.queanbeyn-d.schools.nsw.edu.au/	Isabella St Queanbeyan 2620	02 6299 2966	02 6299 2863
Sydney Distance Education Primary School			
http://www.sdeps.nsw.edu.au/	Private Bag 2 Newtown 2042	02 9207 6300	02 9707 6303

P-12 Distance Education Schools and Centres

School	Address	Telephone	Fax
Dubbo School of Distance Education			
http://www.dubbo-d.schools.nsw.edu.au/	Myall St Dubbo 2830	02 5804 7000	02 6884 0777
Sir Eric Woodward Memorial School – Distance Education Support Unit			
http://desu.com.au/	Locked Bag 1516 Pymble BC 2073	02 9988 0677	02 9988 0966

Secondary Distance Education Schools and Centres

School	Address	Telephone	Fax
Karabar Distance Education Centre			
http://karabardec.com.au/	Donald Rd Queanbeyan 2620	02 6210 5200	02 6299 2529
Open High School			
http://www.theopenhs-d.schools.nsw.edu.au/	Locked Bag 88 Strawberry Hills 2012	02 9381 4801	02 9381 4950
Camden Haven HS			
http://www.camdenhave-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/	Valley View Rd Laurieton 2439	02 6556 8200	02 6556 8205
Southern Cross K-12 School			
http://www.sthcross-c.schools.nsw.edu.au/	Chickiba Drive East Ballina 2478	02 6681 0300	02 6681 0499
Sydney Distance Education High School			
http://www.sydneyh-d.schools.nsw.edu.au/	Locked Bag 5000 Potts Point 1335	02 9383 0200	02 9383 0222

7. Appendices

Appendix A

This appendix must be signed by the principal and uploaded as an attachment to the Access Request for distance education in categories 2.8 and 2.9 in order to assess the specific circumstances of the isolated learner.

In completing this declaration the Principal is encouraged to use the **decision trees** available as part of the **Mandatory Reporter Guide** to guide their decision making.

If the student is seeking access to distance education from outside the NSW Department of Education and Communities in 2.8 this appendix will require support from the local Learning and Engagement Team to facilitate the appropriate enrolment processes and may require use of Chapter 16A under the Child Wellbeing and Child Protection - NSW Interagency Guidelines to obtain the required information to support the welfare of the child.

Principal's declaration

I have no knowledge of child protection concerns under the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection Act) 1998 for **(student name)**.

Principal name:

Signature:

Date:

Upload this declaration to the ACCESS REQUEST for distance education.

When this assessment indicates that the home environment lacks the capacity to suitably support the student, a managed environment, drawing on resources from the home school and community, must be established locally in order to proceed or be assessed by the local Director, Public Schools NSW as an Extraordinary Circumstances Enrolment in category 2.10.

Appendix B - Sample Transition Management Plan

Student Details

Name :

Academic year:

Distance education school contact

Name and title:

Contact phone:

Contact email address:

Referring school contact

Name and title:

Contact phone:

Contact email address:

Learning and Engagement Team

Contact name and title:

Contact phone:

Contact email address:

Transition Information

Please comment briefly on the reason for referral to distance education:

Please provide details of initial plan(s) to support the student during their enrolment in distance education at the referring school (this could include planned school visits/Counsellor access/LaST/other):

Recommended first review date:

Principal name:

Signature:

Date:

Upload this plan to the ACCESS REQUEST for distance education.

The referring school understands that this is a short term enrolment with the distance education school. The referring school agrees to maintain strong links with the distance education school to facilitate the student's return at the end of this transition period.

For more information go to:
www.schools.nsw.edu.au/rde

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Learning and Leadership
PO Box 717
BATHURST NSW 2795

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Website: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/rde



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