NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Temporary Residents Program

FACT SHEET – NEW ARRIVALS FROM GAZA

Welcome to New South Wales (NSW), Australia. We understand these are difficult times, and we thank you for choosing the NSW Department of Education to deliver a welcoming and quality education program for your child during your stay in Australia.

Temporary Residents Program

The Temporary Residents Program gives advice and support to enrol temporary residents into NSW government schools. The program accepts enrolment in primary school and high school from Kindergarten to Year 12 in consultation with the accepting school.

Visa requirements for your child

Children from the Palestinian Authority or Israel who have travelled from Gaza must hold a current valid visa to reside in Australia and meet specific travel, entry and residency conditions determined by the Australian Department of Home Affairs.

If your child holds visa subclass 600

The NSW Department of Education will waive the tuition fee for newly arrived children from Gaza who hold visa subclass 600. The tuition fee waiver is in recognition of the current situation in Gaza and will apply for a twelve (12) month period. The tuition fee waiver will be extended if a child transitions to a humanitarian visa offered by the Australian Department of Home Affairs.

If your child holds a refugee or humanitarian visa

The NSW Department of Education will waive the tuition fee for children from Gaza who hold a refugee or humanitarian visa (visa subclasses 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 449, 785, 786, 790, 866). The tuition fee waiver is in recognition of the refugee/humanitarian situation of the child. The tuition fee waiver will apply for the duration of the visa issued by the Australian Department of Home Affairs.

English support for your child

The NSW Department of Education provides English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) support to develop English language competence so your child can fully participate in schooling and independently pursue further education and training. The department provides EAL/D support in primary schools, high schools, Intensive English Centres and the Central Sydney Intensive English High School. The availability of EAL/D support in primary schools and high schools will vary between schools, and will depend on the number of EAL/D students enrolled, and the resources available. For more information on EAL/D support for your child, speak to your school principal, or visit: https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/multicultural-education/english-as-an-additional-language-or-dialect/eald-education

Access to EAL/D if your child holds visa subclass 600

English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) support is generally not available for students who hold visa subclass 600. The NSW Department of Education will waive this access restriction for newly arrived children from Gaza who hold visa subclass 600. The access restriction waiver is in recognition of the current situation in Gaza.

Community language programs

Some primary schools provide community language programs in over 60 languages spoken in the Australian community. These community language programs vary between schools, and the availability of particular languages will depend on the number of students who wish to study them. For more information, speak to your school principal, or visit: https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/community-languages-schools/about-community-languages-schools

Additional support for your child

NSW government schools provide trauma and wellbeing support for students who need it, including additional support for students from refugee backgrounds. For information on the support available for your child, speak to your school principal. For more information, see: https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/multicultural-education/refugee-students-in-schools

How to apply to enrol your child in a NSW government school

This fact sheet explains the process of how to enrol your child into a NSW government school.

Step 1:
Apply online

All temporary residents seeking to enrol in a NSW government school must lodge their application online with the Temporary Residents Program. The application process can commence once your child arrives in Australia and has an Australian residential address.

Please visit deiparent.det.nsw.edu.au/#/login to lodge your application through the NSW Government Schools - Online Application Portal. If you require technical support with the online application, call 1300 615 199. Support is available from 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday (Sydney time) and is not accessible from outside of Australia.

Step 2:
Assessment

After you lodge your application online, the Temporary Residents Program will assess your application and validate your child's visa. Check your email regularly for communication about the status of your application.

Step 3:
School placement

After the assessment stage is completed, you will be sent a school placement request via the Online Application Portal. The school placement provides you with the opportunity to select a school from your in-area catchment. If your in-area school is at capacity and has no available place for your child, you will be offered an option to select schools outside your catchment. Please note, temporary residents are not eligible to enrol in selective high schools including agricultural high schools, the selective component of comprehensive high schools and Opportunity Classes (OC) in primary schools.

Step 4:
Arrange a meeting with the school

After you submit your placement request via the Online Application Portal, contact the school and make an appointment for a meeting. On the day of the meeting, take the passport for each family member and the visa for each family member. The school may also ask you to bring evidence of your residential address and evidence of your child's immunisation status.

Step 5:
School accepts the placement offer

After the school accepts the placement request, the Temporary Residents Program will issue an Authority to Enrol to the school. The Authority to Enrol provides the NSW government school with your child's enrolment start date. Your child cannot enrol in any NSW government school for any period unless an Authority to Enrol has been issued to the school by the Temporary Residents Program. Check your Online Application Portal regularly for communication about the status of your application and the next steps for enrolment.

Support in times of crisis

The NSW Department of Education provides resources, support services, advice, and updated information about newly arrived students from Gaza. To find out more, please visit: https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/multicultural-education/support-in-times-of-crisis.

Need more information about the school enrolment process

To find out more about the Temporary Residents Program, please visit deinternational.nsw.edu.au/trp or call our Customer Service Team on 1300 300 229 (then option 1). To find out more about going to a NSW government school, please visit education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school.

Need help to talk to your school in English?

Parents/carers who do not speak or understand English well may use the telephone interpreter service to help them in talking to their school. This service is free for parents, carers or community members needing to communicate with NSW government schools. Information about how to access this service is available in translation at https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/translateddocuments/audio-message and https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/translated-documents/telephone-interpreter-service

On site and online interpreters are also used in NSW government schools to facilitate communication with parents and carers who do not speak or understand English well, or who are Deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment.

Important translated information about NSW government schools is provided at: https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/translated-documents

Need more information about your visa

Contact the Australian Department of Home Affairs if you have questions about your visa, visa conditions, or the visa application process.

Website: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au
Telephone: 131 881

Need assistance from other support organisations

Contact these organisations for further assistance or for mental health support.

Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors
Website: http://www.startts.org.au

Settlement Services International
Website: http://www.ssi.org.au
Telephone: 02 9685 0100

Lifeline
Telephone: 13 11 14

Kids Help Line
Telephone: 1800 551 800

Beyond Blue
Telephone: 1300 224 636

Mental Health Line
Telephone: 1800 011 511

Headspace
Telephone: 1800 650 890

MensLine
Telephone: 1300 78 99 78

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