



## Balgowlah North Public School Opportunity Classes Procedure

### **Aim**

Opportunity classes located in government primary schools cater for academically gifted Year 5 and Year 6 students with high potential. These classes help students to learn by grouping them with students of similar ability, using specialised teaching methods and educational materials at the appropriate level.

The High Performing Students Team administers the opportunity class placement process.

### **Application Process**

Parents normally apply for opportunity classes when students are in Year 4. Students who are placed then attend the opportunity class full time in Years 5 and 6 at a primary school with an opportunity class. It is a two-year placement program. In the majority of cases, students who accept a place in an opportunity class will leave their current school to attend the school with an opportunity class.

There is no provision to apply for Year 6 placement only.

*Important – the school cannot apply on your behalf.*

### **Selection process**

The High Performing Students Team selects students based on academic merit demonstrated by a calculated placement score. This score is calculated using the scaled results of the Opportunity Class Placement Test.

The principal of the school with an opportunity class, in conjunction with an executive officer of the Team, will consider all candidates for that school. The candidates are listed in order of merit based on calculated placement scores.

Principals of opportunity classes and executive officers consider:

- students to be listed for offers and reserve places according to the number of vacancies at the school
- the likely impact of any disability
- reasons for students outside the usual age range or school year
- students who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- students who have been educated in English for less than 48 months
- students from interstate and overseas with alternative evidence of academic merit
- any other relevant factors brought to their attention and
- other evidence of academic merit, if necessary.

The scaling of the test marks is done on a state-wide basis regardless of the schools attended by the students. Each test component is adjusted so they are weighted equally.

Different maximum marks apply to the various test components:

- English – 20
- Mathematics – 20
- General ability – 30

Each component of the Opportunity Class Placement Test is scaled to a mean of 60 and a standard deviation of 12.

## Calculated placement score

The calculated placement score is a mark out of 300. For most students it is provided at the bottom of the email advising the application outcome.

## Score details for parents

Outcome emails and letters advise parents of their child's calculated placement score. A further letter or attachment is provided with the breakdown of the raw test marks. In a few cases the score cannot be published. If parents do not receive their child's score they can write to the Team for an explanation.

During the selection process, a child's score may be adjusted based on criteria such as a student's Aboriginality, length of time doing all school work in English, and a number of other factors. This is why a student may appear higher on a reserve list than another student with a higher calculated placement score.

## Balgowlah North Public School

Once the school has been advised about the interest to apply for an Opportunity Class by a parent, we then begin the process of data collection and collation. We collect and collate data from at least three sources of evidence. These may include:

- Year 3 NAPLAN (The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) results. NAPLAN is administered in Term 2, in approximately Week 3.
- PAT (Progressive Achievement Test) results. PAT test is administered in both in Term 1 and Term 4, in approximately Week 4.
- Check-In Assessment results. Check-In Assessment is administered in Term 2, in approximately Week 2.
- Ongoing school-based assessments in maths and English.

*Note: Due to the 2020 Pandemic, there will not be any data from the Year 3 NAPLAN, so another source of evidence will be required.*

## Testing and assessment

Students who wish to be considered for opportunity class placement will sit the OpportunityClass Placement Test on **Wednesday 21 July 2021**.

## How to apply

If you would like to have your child considered for Year 5 opportunity class entry in 2021, you need to apply between **Tuesday 20 April 2021** and **Friday 7 May 2021**. You will need to access the online application at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5> . You must **not** use your child's email address.

If you do not have internet access, you could apply at a public library. If you have a disability that prevents you from using a computer, you can contact the Team for assistance after **Tuesday 20 April 2021**.

You must submit only **ONE application** for each student.

**Important – the school cannot apply on your behalf.**

