

SYDNEY

NSW GUIDE

NEW FAMILIES

AIRBOTIX FAMILY GUIDES

New immigrant parents in Sydney

School and subsidy application quick check

First check the NSW school district and school application, and then check the temporary resident enrollment and preschool fee relief according to your visa status; the federal subsidy will be processed through Services Australia.

Verified July 2026 edition

New immigrant parents of children aged 3–12 in Sydney



01

First distinguish the 4 entrances

- **NSW Department of Education:** Official portal for public school admissions, School Finder, zone, EAL and selective/OC.
- **DE International / Temporary Residents Program:** Authority to Enrol, Tuition and Waiver Check for select temporary resident students.
- **NSW Start Strong:** Preschool/long day care fee relief for participating programs, where services pass on fee relief to families.
- **Services Australia:** Commonwealth payments such as CCS, FTB, PPL, etc., not NSW Department applications.

Don't call all subsidies "NSW welfare" just because your children are in Sydney. Check with the responsible agency first and then start applying.

02

First use School Finder to check the school corresponding to your address.

NSW Public School Finder asks for your home address to view local public schools and nearby schools. It is an inquiry portal before admission, not an automatic admission commitment.

Processing order:

- Enter your complete address and save the query date and results;
- Record local primary/high school, school contact information and admission page;
- Open the school's official website to check the current enrollment process, materials and whether online application is required;
- If you are considering a non-local school, ask the school directly if it has capacity and a separate application path;
- Double-check the proof of address requirements before submitting your application.

NSW officials remind that non-local enrollment availability may be updated termly, and parents still need to contact the school to confirm.

Official entry point: [NSW Public School Finder](#) ↗ · [NSW enrolment information](#) ↗

03

Prepare the public school application materials first

NSW public school applications usually require identity, address, child information and other relevant evidence based on family circumstances. New immigrant families are advised to prepare:

- Passport/travel document for parents and children;
- Current visa grant or residency status;
- Proof of address;
- The child's birth certificate or identity document;
- Previous school or preschool information;
- Immunization records;
- EAL, learning support, medical or care information;
- If there are family law orders or special arrangements, organize relevant documents in advance.

Material lists will vary based on your child's grade, school, and status. Don't take someone else's checklist and apply it directly.

04

Temporary residents: Ask the Authority to Enrol and fees first

Description of the temporary resident program from the NSW Department of Education: Most temporary resident students need to check their application and tuition fees through the Temporary Residents Program, but different visa categories may have different conditions or exemptions.

If the child is a temporary resident, it is recommended to follow this order:

- Use the official page to confirm whether the visa category belongs to the Temporary Residents Program;
- First find the school corresponding to your residence and contact the school;
- Submit identity, visa and residency documents as required by the school/DE International;
- Check whether Authority to Enrol is required;
- Written confirmation of application fee, tuition fee, possible exemption or low-income appeal;
- Arrange long-term study plans only after receiving formal placement/enrolment information.

Don't judge your own fees based on "friends' experiences with 482/500/spouse visas". Visa subcategories, family circumstances and school processes may differ.

Official entry point: [Enrolment of temporary residents procedures](#) ↗

05

What to do about Preschool's Start Strong fee relief?

Start Strong is not a cash benefit that parents apply for directly from Services Australia. NSW officials state that when an eligible preschool or long day care service participates in the program, fee relief will be passed on to families through the service.

What parents actually do:

- First ask if the target preschool/long day care participates in Start Strong;
- Ask whether the child's age and project type comply with the current year's rules;
- Obtain and complete the fee relief declaration form from the service;
- If choosing between multiple services, confirm which service fee relief should be assigned to;
- Check whether the reduction has been reflected in the invoice, statement or service notice;
- Continue to pay the remaining unreduced fees and possible levies.

The official page for 2026 lists the fee relief upper limit for different projects and family categories, but the specific amount, number of hours, and service types must be confirmed based on the official page and services for that year and cannot be fixedly extrapolated from this guide.

Official entry point: [Start Strong for families](#) ↗

06

Don't mix CCS and Start Strong into one

- **CCS:** Commonwealth Services Australia program, related to factors such as family, children, care activities and approved services.
- **Start Strong:** NSW preschool fee relief, delivered by participating services in accordance with state program rules.
- **School Admission Fee:** Handled by the school, NSW Department or Temporary Residents Program according to status and regulations.

The same child may be involved in different systems at the same time, but the application action is not a form. When asking childcare/preschool, use the English name of the project directly to avoid referring to "subsidy" as a vague word.

Official entry point: [Services Australia Child Care Subsidy ↗](#) · [Service NSW child care support ↗](#)

07

EAL / How to ask for support for new students

When your child's English is insufficient, don't assume that he or she must pay for tutoring at your own expense. When applying for admission or communicating with the school for the first time, ask directly:

- How schools assess English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) needs;
- Whether the school has EAL/D teachers or newcomer support;
- Whether Intensive English Center / Intensive English High School assessment is required;
- Whether parents can obtain a translator or interpreter;
- What previous learning records and language materials does the school need?
- Whether the support is on-campus or regional service, you need to apply separately.

School support does not equate to automatic admission to a place and is ultimately confirmed by the school and the NSW Education System on a case-by-case basis.

08

OC / selective is not the first step for admission

New immigrant families often ask about OC or selective as soon as they land, but the order should be:

- Complete the enrollment arrangements for your child's current grade and local school first;
- Find out whether the child is in the corresponding grade in NSW;
- Check again the OC / selective registration window, examination and school list for the current year;
- Do not regard selective application as enrollment in ordinary public schools;
- Do not equate taking an exam or registering with admission.

Current policies, enrollment times and school lists should be checked from the NSW Department of Education selective high schools and opportunity classes page.

09

A checklist

- Confirm your child's age, target grade level, and expected year of enrollment.
- Use School Finder to enter your address and save local school results.
- Contact the school to confirm enrollment, materials, EAL and if additional processes are required.
- If temporary resident, check Temporary Residents Program, Authority to Enrol and Fees/Waivers.
- If it is a preschool, ask the provider if it participates in Start Strong and ask for the declaration form.
- If it is childcare, check CCS, enrollment, session and bill with Services Australia and provider respectively.
- Put the child's identity, address, birth, immunization and study information into the application folder.
- Record submission date, contact person, make-up items and next verification date.

10

Sources, Editions and Disclaimers

This edition was created on **11 July 2026 (AEST)** from the official NSW Department of Education, Service NSW and Services Australia pages. School capacity, fee relief, visa tuition, application window, examination time and welfare qualifications will change. You must return to the official page to verify again before submitting.

This information only organizes the application path and does not provide immigration, welfare, taxation, education admission or legal advice, nor does it guarantee the success of the application.



About Airbotix Family Guides

Airbotix Family Guides organizes the practical steps parents need to complete and official entry points into saveable guides. Airbotix is not a school, the NSW Department of Education, Services Australia or an immigration agency; government and school applications should always be completed through official channels.

NEXT STEP

Choose the entrance you need now

For government and school applications, return to the official portal; to view Airbotix Family Guides and course resources, please visit the official website; for course enquiries, please contact Rain.

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SOURCE

NSW School Finder

Enter your address to view local school and admission information, and contact the school for confirmation before submitting your application.



[NSW Public School Finder](#) ↗