

## Appeal Form – Foundation (Prep) for 2025 school year

### Privacy Notice

1. The Department of Education (the department) and Victorian government schools require the information requested for this process to appropriately assess your appeal of the non-placement or non-enrolment decision (the Appeal) and to contact you as required in relation to this process.
2. The information necessary for this process includes your child's given name, family name, date of birth, gender, permanent residential address and (when appropriate) evidence of extenuating circumstances. Providing this personal information ensures accurate and fair assessment for the Appeal process.
3. Your Appeal will be considered by the placement or enrolment committee and/or Principal.
4. The placement or enrolment committee and/or Principal may contact your child's current school or kindergarten/other early years setting, if relevant, to obtain further information that is necessary to assess your Appeal. Please ensure all personal information you have provided to the current school or kindergarten/other early years setting, if relevant, is current and up to date, including:
  - a) contact phone numbers and email addresses
  - b) permanent residential address
  - c) emergency contact details, and
  - d) copies of court orders and/or parenting plans including all Parenting Orders, Intervention Orders, Child Protection Orders and/or an Informal Carer Statutory Declaration.
5. The department may make reasonable enquiries to verify information that you have provided, for example, by contacting third parties such as any authorities or individuals that can verify the information regarding your child's circumstances.
6. If complete information is not provided in the Appeal Form, the outcome of your Appeal may be delayed or the placement or enrolment committee and/or Principal may be unable to properly assess your Appeal.
7. If you are currently enrolled in a Victorian government school, when a different Victorian government school has made a placement or enrolment offer, which you have accepted, personal and health information about your child will be sent to that school. Transferring information about a student to their next Victorian government school is in the best interests of students because it assists that next school to provide optimal education and support to each student. Refer to:  
<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/enrolment/guidance/student-transfers-between-schools>
8. All information received by the department for the Appeal process will be securely stored and handled in accordance with the [department's Privacy Policies](#):  
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/privacy.aspx> Only staff involved with the processing of the Appeal will have access to the information provided as part of this process.
9. If you have queries regarding the Appeal Form or the Appeal process, or wish to update any information you have provided, please speak with the primary school or contact a Community Liaison Officer or a Senior Transition Officer in your relevant regional office. You can find the regional office contact details and locations on the department's website, here: <https://www.vic.gov.au/office-locations-department-education>

## Appeals information for parents and carers – Foundation for 2025 school year

If a school decides not to offer your child a place, you can appeal.

There are many reasons why a school may not be able to accept enrolments from students who live outside their school zone. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Capacity constraints** – they may not have enough capacity to offer enrolment to out-of-zone students.
- **Increased local enrolments** – they might be experiencing, or forecast to experience, an increase in enrolments from within the school zone. This means they may have to leave some capacity for future students living in-zone.
- **Staffing constraints** – schools may only have enough staff to take a certain number of enrolments.

### Appeals on compassionate grounds

Schools will consider appeals on compassionate grounds in exceptional circumstances. Families must be able to clearly demonstrate the exceptional circumstances which they believe make an enrolment at their designated neighbourhood school unsuitable for their child or children. This may include:

- family violence
- wellbeing and safety concerns
- physical and/or mental health concerns.

Importantly, this is not a comprehensive list of exceptional circumstances whereby a family may seek an enrolment on compassionate grounds; each appeal will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

It is important to provide schools and regional offices with supporting evidence of your claim. This may include:

- legal documentation
- reports from allied health and/or medical professionals, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) practitioners, Victoria Police and/or family violence services
- court orders.

The following examples do not necessarily meet exceptional circumstances on compassionate grounds:

- **Ease of transportation** – having a school, that is not your local school, be more convenient for you to access via car, foot, public transport or carpool, or is closer to your workplace, family member's house (that is not the child's permanent address) and/or the school of your child's sibling/s, may not be appropriate grounds for appeal.
- **Individual needs of a student with a disability** – under the Disability Standards for Education 2005, education providers are legally required to make reasonable adjustments for students with disability. On that basis, grounds for exceptional circumstances do not include concerns related to a student's disability where those concerns can be addressed by making reasonable adjustments.

The reasonable adjustments webpage has further information:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/learningneeds/Pages/reasonable-adjustments.aspx>

- **Curriculum** – preference for the school's curriculum program is unlikely to meet the grounds for exceptional circumstances, as Victorian government primary schools deliver school-based curriculum programs that align with the Victorian Curriculum F-10 provided by Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

For further information, please see: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/enrolment/guidance/placement-policy>

## Appeals on permanent residence

When assessing enrolment applications, schools may request that parents and carers provide supporting documentation, such as original or certified copies of rental agreements or unconditional contracts of sale, to assist them in verifying a student's permanent residence.

Please note, the following example does not necessarily meet the requirements under permanent residence:

- Anticipated move** – if you are planning to move into a different address after the beginning of the school year, this does not mean you are guaranteed entry into the local school of the new address. This includes situations where families are building or buying a new home, or starting a new lease agreement. The school may not be able to offer your child a place until after you have taken possession of the property and can provide proof that it is your new permanent residence.

If you are unable to provide sufficient proof of your permanent residence, schools may not accept your enrolment. For further information, please see:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/enrolment/guidance/determining-permanent-residence>

## Appeal timelines

Date	Description
<b>Monday 29 July 2024 to Friday 23 August 2024</b>	If your enrolment application was not successful, and you believe you have appropriate grounds to appeal the decision, parents and carers can lodge a written appeal with the primary school. Please use the Appeal Form.
<b>Friday 23 August 2024</b>	Closing date for written appeal to be lodged with the <u>primary</u> school.
<b>Friday 6 September 2024</b>	Your child's appeal will be considered by the school's placement or enrolment committee and/or Principal and you will receive written notification of the outcome by this date.
<b>Friday 6 September 2024 to Friday 20 September 2024</b>	If your appeal to the primary school is unsuccessful and you believe that your grounds have not been adequately considered, you may lodge a further written appeal to the relevant Department of Education Regional Director.  Appeals to the Regional Director will not be considered if you have not appealed to the primary school in the first instance.
<b>Friday 20 September 2024</b>	Closing date for parents and carers to lodge a written appeal with the applicable Regional Director, where they have been unsuccessful with their school appeal.  Appeals are considered by a panel of senior regional staff that assess the appeal against the Placement Policy. This panel provides a recommendation to the relevant Regional Director who makes the final decision.  Parents are not required to meet with the panel. The panel will make a recommendation to the Regional Director based on evidence outlined in the appeal and Department of Education's Placement Policy.
<b>Any appeals received after this date will only be considered if the relevant Regional Director considers there to be exceptional circumstances. If you wish to lodge an appeal after the closing date, you should contact your regional office for advice.</b>	
<b>By Friday 1 November 2024</b>	Regions will notify all parents and carers in writing of the outcome of Regional Director appeals by this date.  This only applies to appeals received by the closing date of Friday 20 September 2024.

### Section 1: Early childhood education details

<b>Student's Current Kindergarten or Early Childhood Service</b> <i>(N/A if not enrolled)</i>	
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### Section 2: Student Details

<b>Family Name</b>			
<b>First Given Name</b>		<b>Date of Birth</b> <i>(dd-mm-yyyy)</i>	__ / __ / ____
<b>Second Given Name</b>		<b>Gender</b>	
<b>Name used by student</b> <i>(if applicable)</i>			
<b>Current Permanent Residential Address</b>			
<b>Apartment/Unit Number</b> <i>(if applicable)</i>			
<b>Street Number and Name</b>			
<b>Suburb</b>		<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>Current Mailing Address</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as residential <input type="checkbox"/> Different <i>(complete below)</i>		
<b>Street Number and Name</b>			
<b>Suburb</b>		<b>Postcode</b>	

**Section 3: Parent or carer details**

Adult A		Adult B	
Relationship to Child (Parent, Carer, Step-parent, Grandparent, etc.)		Relationship to Child (Parent, Carer, Step-parent, Grandparent, etc.)	
Title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, etc)		Title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, etc)	
Given Name		Given Name	
Family Name		Family Name	
Mobile Number		Mobile Number	
Phone Number ( <i>home</i> )		Phone Number ( <i>home</i> )	
Email Address		Email Address	
On <u>weekdays</u> , student lives with <b>Adult A</b> ( <i>tick one</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Time or Mostly <input type="checkbox"/> Equal Time (equal spilt with <b>Adult B</b> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes or never	On <u>weekdays</u> , student lives with <b>Adult B</b> ( <i>tick one</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Time or Mostly <input type="checkbox"/> Equal Time (equal split with <b>Adult A</b> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes or never
Permanent Residential Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as Section 2 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Different</b> to Section 2, please complete:	Permanent Residential Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as Section 2 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Different</b> to Section 2, please complete:

### Section 3: Parent or carer details cont'd

<b>Is the student at risk?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>(complete the below questions and attach a copy of any relevant orders)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Please describe risk</b>		
<b>Relevant orders attached</b> <i>(please highlight)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Intervention Order <input type="checkbox"/> Protection Order	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(please specify)</i>

### Section 4: Government school preference

<b>School at which applicant has been unsuccessful</b> <i>(include campus if applicable)</i>	
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### Section 5A: Grounds for appeal

Please select **one** of the reasons below as grounds for your appeal and complete **section 5B**.

The below options align with the [Placement Policy](#).

Students for whom the school is the designated neighbourhood school (local school) – appeal on permanent residence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Students with a sibling at the same permanent address who are attending the school at the same time	<input type="checkbox"/>
All other students in order of closeness of their home to the school	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overarching consideration – compassionate grounds (due to exceptional circumstances)	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Section 5B: Rationale for appeal**

Dear placement or enrolment committee and/or Principal of preferred school


**Section 6: Signature of parents or carers**

**Privacy Notice Summary:** To assist with the consideration of your appeal, the placement or enrolment committee and/or Principal may seek information about you and your child. The full Privacy Notice is attached to this form.

- I declare that all the information provided in this appeal is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct and I have read the attached Privacy Notice.
- If applicable: I have attached documents in support of my appeal.

<b>Adult A Signature</b>		<b>Adult B Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	/ / 2024	<b>Date</b>	/ / 2024