



Education System for Children and Young Adults

Child Care

(For children aged from birth to 5)

- Child care centres normally operate from 7am to 6pm
- You can usually choose the days and hours your child attends.
- Fees vary but you may be able to claim some money back from the Government, depending on your income and visa status.

Pre-School

(For children aged 4)

- Children who turn 4 year old on or before 30 April on that year can go to pre-school.
- Most of the centres have shorter hours than child care centres.

Primary School

(Year 1-6)

- Children aged 5 year old or turning 5 on or before 30 April at the beginning of the year.
- In the ACT, the first year of primary school is called kindergarten.
- Children complete another six years of primary school.

High School (Year 7-10)

- In ACT, high schools are attended by students in Years 7 to 10.
- A Year 10 Certificate and High School Record are issued at the end of Year 10.
- Year 7 students have opportunities to sample many curriculum options to help them make informed choices in later year according to their interests.

Secondary College (Year 11-12)

- Year 10 students may proceed to secondary college.
- Enrolment commence in April of each year.
- Students receive guidance in arranging courses of study that will best prepare them for careers and further education.



The ACT Scaling Test (AST) (State-wide exams)

- All students enrolled in Year 12 and who wish to gain an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) must complete AST.
- A student's AST mark determines which courses they can apply for at Australian universities.

Introductory English Centres (IECs) (English language support for newly arrived students)

- IECs provide support to students with minimal English through intensive language teaching, prior to entering mainstream schooling.
- ICCs provide a safe and inviting place to introduce school life in Australia to students with little or no English.

Specialist Schools & Other Education Centres

- Students with **special needs or disability** can enrol in specialist schools.
- **Refugee Bridging Program** is a year 11 and 12 course designed to support young people from refugee background with interrupted education experience or settlement challenges to meet the ACT Senior Secondary Certificate requirements.

Public & Non-Government (Private) Schools

- Students enjoy **free** tuition at **public schools including kindergarten**. Parents still need to pay some fees such as for textbooks, uniform, excursions and special performances.
- **Private school** fees range from around AUD\$2,000 to over AUD\$30,000 a year. Contact individual schools for information on fees and facilities.