

# Review of Government Primary and Combined (District) School Intake Areas

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why did we review intake areas?

We are required, under the Education Act 2016, to review intake areas at least once every five years. This ensures that intake areas remain current as the Tasmanian population changes. By keeping our intake areas up-to-date, we make it easier for all Tasmanian children to access a quality government school close to home. Attending a local school can be a great way for children to experience a supportive local community close to home.

The last time we reviewed intake areas in a systematic way was in 2005.

### When will the updated intake areas take effect?

The updated intake areas will take effect from Term 1, 2021.

### Who do the updated intake areas apply to?

The updated intake areas will apply to you if you are enrolling your first child in a Government school for the first time and they will be commencing school from 2021.

If you fall into this category, the updated maps still apply even if you submit your enrolment application before the end of 2020.

Even if your school's intake area has changed:

- if you already have a child at a government primary or district school, the updated maps will not affect you
- you can still apply to your school of choice, if the school has capacity
- if your child has a sibling already attending a school outside their intake area, their siblings can attend the same school

- the updated maps do not change the way schools enrol students who live outside their intake area.

### What considerations did we apply when updating intake areas?

We updated intake areas based on feedback received from our schools and other stakeholders. We obtained this feedback in a two-stage consultation process. In the first consultation stage we asked what factors we should take into account in reviewing the previous maps.

We used the feedback to help determine a set of policy considerations. You can see these policy considerations in the table below

The policy considerations are aimed at making it easier for our students to learn. We tested the policy considerations with our school principals to make sure they support them.

We then used the policy considerations to assess all the suggestions we received for the Tasmanian community for improving the maps.

<b>Intake Area Policy Considerations</b>	
The school has capacity to accept additional enrolments	Highest
Make sure school viability is protected	High
Avoid splitting a community	High
Alignment with bus routes Facilitates walking to school	High
Avoid travel through other school intake area	High
Zone students to closest government school	Moderate
Align with parents' travel direction to work	Moderate

Support current practice regarding enrolment patterns	Moderate
Schools need certain territory or land marks to support their identity	Low

#### Who did we consult with as part of this review?

We consulted with many groups and individuals in the Tasmanian community. These included current and future parents of students and young children, school principals and school associations, other government departments, the early education and care sector, local councils and the general public.

We wanted to ensure as many people as possible could have their say on what changes to intake areas might best support the needs of current and future students. We provided a range of mechanisms for submitting feedback, such as surveys and a dedicated email address.

During the two-stage consultation process, we received over 1000 submissions from schools, student families and community members across the state.

#### I already have a child attending school, do my younger children need to go to a different school?

No.

If you already have a child enrolled at a government primary or district school, then your other children are automatically entitled to enrol at the same school.

This applies even if the school is outside your intake area.

#### My intake area has changed, will my child still be able to catch public transport to school?

Yes.

One of the main policy considerations we applied in updating the maps was to ensure that any changes would align with existing bus routes. The Department of Education worked closely with the Department of State Growth to achieve this.

#### I want to send my child to a school outside of my intake area, is this still possible?

You can apply to enrol your child in any other government school if that school has capacity to enrol additional 'out-of-area' students.

However, just as is currently the case, we cannot guarantee that their enrolment will be accepted.

We encourage you to enrol your child at their intake area school. This would give them a great opportunity to become part of a strong, diverse and supportive local community near their home.

We use the [Out-of-Area Enrolment Procedure](#) to apply a fair, consistent, and transparent approach to assess out-of-area enrolment requests.

If you would like to enrol your child at another government school, and the school has capacity, they will provide you with an Expression of Interest form.

[I have already enrolled in a different school because I thought it was my intake area school, what happens now?](#)

If you already have a child enrolled in a government school, you will not be affected by any of these changes.

[Do these updated intake areas change which high school my child can attend?](#)

No.

At this time, high schools do not have geographic intake areas. Instead they have intake primary schools that they accept enrolments from. This system is currently managed by school principals (for example: Huonville Primary School is an intake area school for Huonville High School). When your child finishes primary school they are automatically entitled to enrol at their school's intake area high school.

[Will schools be closing as a result of this review?](#)

No.

A key policy consideration we used to make intake area decisions was safeguarding the viability of all government schools. The Department of Education continues to support all government schools to provide strong learning opportunities for all Tasmanian students.

[I used to have access to a shared intake area, why has this been changed?](#)

To make sure all Tasmanian students have the same entitlement to attend a government school, we no longer use shared intake areas. This also allows schools to better plan for expected student enrolments and make sure they have the facilities and staff to best support their students' learning.

[I am just outside the area for my preferred school, can I still enrol?](#)

You can still apply to enrol at a school of your choice.

However your enrolment would be an application for out-of-area enrolment.

The distance of your home from the boundary of your preferred school is one of the criteria schools use to prioritise out-of-area enrolments under the [Out-of-Area Enrolment Procedure](#). Even if your home is very close to the boundary this does not guarantee your enrolment will be accepted.

If I enrol my child now for the 2021 school year, do the updated maps apply?

Yes, if your family is enrolling a child to attend a government primary or district school for the first time from Term 1, 2021 the updated maps apply. It doesn't matter if you submit your enrolment before 2021.

If your child already commenced their schooling before Term 1 2021 your family will not be affected.

If your child has a sibling already attending a government primary or district school outside their intake area, then you can enrol your other children at the same school.

My child currently attends the *Launching into Learning* program at a school that is not my intake area school. Can I enrol my child at that school for Kinder?

You can apply to enrol at the school, but it would be an out-of-area enrolment. Although we try and accept out-of-area enrolments when we can, we cannot guarantee this.

Will you publish the submissions from the consultation process?

No.

We will not publish individual submissions. This is necessary to protect those involved from being publicly identified. We have however published the [Intake Area Review Consultation Report](#) where we describe the main themes and concerns from the first round of public consultation.

Which maps have changed?

All of the maps reflect improved mapping techniques, such as the alignment of intake area boundaries with property boundaries. This makes it clearer to determine which intake area every property address falls within.

Apart from these technical changes most of the government primary and combined school intake areas remain quite similar to the previous maps.

Some maps do show more substantive changes. We based these types of changes on feedback we received through the consultation period and assessed against the [policy considerations](#)

My suburb boundary has changed, does this impact my school intake area?

No.

Intake areas boundaries don't necessarily align with suburb boundaries. This was not one of the key policy considerations we used to update the maps. We based our policy considerations on what was best for learners. The size of suburbs doesn't always match up with the capacity of schools.

Does this review impact Catholic and Independent schools in Tasmania?

No.

This review only applies to Tasmanian government primary and combined district school intake areas. The Catholic and Independent school sectors make their own arrangements regarding enrolments.

When will the intake areas next be reviewed?

Under the *Education Act 2016* we are required to determine intake areas for government schools at least once every 5 years. We can also review individual intake areas sooner than that if needed.

My map doesn't show any street names, how do I know if I am in area or not?

You probably won't see many street names on the PDF version of the map. It is best to use the PDF map as a first reference point only. If you want to see a more detailed map that allows you to search addresses, you can:

- follow the link provided on your PDF map; or
- visit the [LISTmap](#)

I am having trouble using LISTMap?

Try using our [Instructions for using LIST map](#)

LISTMap doesn't work, what can I do?

If LISTmap is affected by technical difficulties, we recommend you try again at a different time.

You can also:

- contact your school directly
- try our [Intake Area Web app](#)

- contact Learning Services in your region.

Learning Services Southern Region: phone 6165 6466 or [Learning.Services.S@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:Learning.Services.S@education.tas.gov.au)

Learning Services Northern Region: phone 6777 2440 or email [Learning.Services.NR@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:Learning.Services.NR@education.tas.gov.au)

[I can't find a map for my intake area high school?](#)

High schools do not currently have geographic intake areas. Instead they have intake primary schools from which they accept enrolments.

This system is currently managed by school principals (for example: Huonville Primary School is an intake area school for Huonville High School). When your child finishes primary school they are automatically entitled to enrol at their school's intake area high school.

If you have questions please contact Learning Services in your region:

Learning Services Southern Region: phone 6165 6466 or email

[Learning.Services.S@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:Learning.Services.S@education.tas.gov.au) or Learning Services Northern Region: phone 6777 2440 or email [Learning.Services.NR@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:Learning.Services.NR@education.tas.gov.au)).

[Is there an intake area for Legana Primary School?](#)

No, not yet.

We will determine an intake area for Legana Primary as part of a broader consultation process for planning the school. We will do this when a site for the school has been confirmed.

[Is there an intake area for Brighton High School?](#)

No

High schools do not currently have geographic intake areas. Instead they have intake primary schools from which they accept enrolments. The intake primary schools for Brighton High School will be determined as part of the broader consultation process for the school.

[I can't see any practical change to my intake area.](#)

Some of the maps don't show any noticeable changes. They do all reflect improved mapping techniques to make it easier for people to determine which intake area they belong to.

Why does my intake area now include a lot of unpopulated areas such as national parks?

As part of the intake area review we introduced improved mapping techniques. These included aligning intake areas with property boundaries. We did this so it was clear which address was in which intake area. To be consistent, we applied the same approach to all properties, even very large ones like national parks.

Will bus routes be changing as a result of the changed intake areas?

No.

We worked closely with the Department of State Growth throughout the review process to ensure that our intake areas aligned with existing transport routes to the greatest extent possible. We did not make changes to intake areas if they would require changes to a student bus service.

Have intake area changes be influenced by COVID-19?

No, the consultation rounds were held well before the COVID-19 pandemic, and our policy considerations have not changed as a result.

I provided input into both consultation rounds but my feedback hasn't been listened to.

We would like to thank everyone who provided feedback as part of the intake area consultation process. We received over 1000 submissions on how the intake areas should be decided.

Unfortunately, we could not reflect everyone's feedback, especially when there were different views about the same intake area or street.

We can confirm, however, that we considered all feedback, from both consultation rounds, and assessed it against the [policy considerations](#)

If you have any concerns about how the updated intake area affects you please contact Learning Services in your region:

If you have questions please contact Learning Services in your region:

Learning Services Southern Region: phone 6165 6466 or email

[Learning.Services.S@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:Learning.Services.S@education.tas.gov.au) or Learning Services Northern Region: phone 6777 2440 or email [Learning.Services.NR@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:Learning.Services.NR@education.tas.gov.au)).

I didn't get a chance to provide feedback to this review.

We tried to hear the views of as many people as possible. We invited feedback in the following ways:

- a letter to the families of all students attending a Tasmanian government school (round 1 consultation process)
- letters to all Early Childhood Education and Care Providers
- letters to all local councils
- letter to other government agencies and school sectors
- tailored surveys for members of the public and various stakeholder groups
- social media posts
- public notices in three local newspapers
- creation of a specialised Web app for viewing earlier draft maps
- intake area electronic mail box was provided, and
- postal address for receiving feedback was provided.

We would, however, like to know how to improve this process for next time. Please provide any suggestions to [intake.areas@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:intake.areas@education.tas.gov.au).

I am unhappy about the changes made to my local school's intake area. Can I meet with the principal to discuss this further?

We suggest that you provide your views to the Intake Area Review Team by contacting [intake.areas@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:intake.areas@education.tas.gov.au).

You are also welcome to arrange a meeting with your school principal. To do this, we recommend contacting your local school directly.