



# Aurora School

## ENROLMENT POLICY

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## Early Education and Early Intervention Enrolment Policy

### BACKGROUND

Aurora School provides Programs for students who are Deaf and Deafblind. Aurora School specialises in tailoring programs for Deaf and Deafblind children in a bilingual environment designed to promote the development of communication, language and literacy. Literacy is broadly defined to speaking, reading and writing skills and includes visual, picture and symbol recognition and is not limited

The Early Education Program at Aurora School is designed for Deaf and Deafblind children aged 3—6 years of age, living across Victoria. The Early Education Program is delivered at Aurora School in Blackburn South. Residential facilities for families exist on site and support is also available for families.

Aurora School also provides Early Intervention Outreach and a Community Kinder program. More details about Aurora School's programs and services can be found on our website at <https://www.auroraschool.vic.edu.au/>

By law in Victoria all children from the age of 6 up until they turn 17 years must be enrolled at a registered school or registered for home schooling unless they have a reasonable excuse. School participation maximises life opportunities for children and young people by providing them with a comprehensive educational program and access to support networks. It also helps to develop important skills, knowledge and values that set them up for further learning and active participation in their local community.

Specialist schools, including Aurora School, have been established to cater for the specific educational needs of students with a disability or with additional needs. Under State and Federal discrimination law, specialist schools are permitted to set specific enrolment criteria and to not enrol students who do not meet these criteria.

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to specify the enrolment criteria for students seeking enrolment in the Early Education and Early Intervention Programs at Aurora School and the evidence required to support applications for enrolment.

It is intended to provide clarity for the local community on the enrolment criteria for these Programs to ensure a smooth and supported transition for enrolling students.

### Scope

Enrolment in the Early Education and Early Intervention Program at Aurora School is based on a child's hearing loss or a combined hearing and vision loss, subject to capacity, and providing the child is of appropriate age and satisfies the eligibility criteria.

All applications for enrolment in the Early Education Program at Aurora School require regional approval.



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### ENROLMENT CRITERIA

#### Early Intervention

The enrolment criteria has been determined based on the identified education needs of infants and children in the community. The Early Intervention program is a state-wide outreach service for families of eligible children living in Victoria.

Children seeking to enrol must have:

#### *Hearing Impairment*

A bilateral loss. This includes children with a diagnosis of Auditory Neuropathy.

#### School specific enrolment criteria

Be between the ages of birth until school age or until they transfer to another educational service

#### Early Education

The following enrolment criteria have been specified and approved by the Regional Director, North Eastern Victoria Region (as the Minister's delegate) under section 2.2.16(b) of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Vic).

The enrolment criteria have been determined based on the identified education needs of children/students in the community. A child/student's enrolment will be reviewed periodically in line with their needs.

Children/ Students seeking to enrol must have:

#### *Hearing Impairment*

- A. A bilateral sensori-neural hearing loss that is moderate/severe/profound and
- B. The student requires intervention or assistance to communicate.

#### School specific enrolment criteria

In addition, students must meet the following enrolment criteria of Aurora School's Early Education Program to enrol:

- a) A sensori-neural, bilateral hearing loss /chronic bilateral conductive hearing loss of 40 decibels or greater across three frequencies (500, 1000, 2000) confirmed by an audiologist and are eligible for provision of hearing aids and/or an assistive hearing device.
- Or
- b) a sensori-neural, bilateral hearing loss / permanent bilateral conductive hearing loss confirmed by an audiologist and be eligible for provision of hearing aids and/or an assistive hearing device



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and

a diagnosed and documented vision impairment supported by a report from an ophthalmologist.

Applications from students who do not meet the above criteria will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the region, in consultation with the Principal, in consideration of the student's education and support needs. The Regional Director, North Eastern Victoria Region must approve enrolments for students who do not meet the eligibility criteria.

### PRIORITY ORDER OF PLACEMENT

Aurora School Early Education Program has limited enrolment capacity and where the school may not have sufficient accommodation to accept all applications from eligible students for the this Program, the school will manage enrolment applications in accordance with the following priority order of placement:

- primary impact on a child's learning is Deafness and committed to a Bilingual program (Auslan and English)@MsT123456
- children who have participated in the Aurora School Early Intervention Program

#### Enrolment on compassionate grounds

In exceptional circumstances, a student seeking enrolment in the Early Education Program at Aurora School who does not meet the enrolment criteria may be approved by the Regional Director, North Eastern Victoria Region outside of the priority order of placement, based on compassionate grounds. This is an overarching consideration and does not form part of the priority order of placement. Further advice and support when considering applications on compassionate grounds is available on the [Policy and Advisory Library](#) and from regional staff.

### EVIDENCE AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

To support a student's application for enrolment, the following evidence and supporting information should be provided:

- a) An audiogram with a written statement is required from a qualified audiologist

Or

- b) An audiogram with a written statement is required from a qualified audiologist and a report from a qualified ophthalmologist.



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The Department provides assessment services to support specialist schools in determining whether the student meets their enrolment criteria. Department regional offices also play a role in supporting specialist schools with enrolment processes.

**NOTE: Enrolment applications may not be successful if the requested documentation is not provided or invalid.**

### APPEAL PROCESS

Parents/carers can appeal against the decision not to approve an enrolment. This can occur in relation to enrolments at any age level. Parents or carers seeking to appeal a specialist school's enrolment decision should lodge a written appeal with the school. The Department will contact parents/carers with further information after an appeal is lodged.

### COMMUNICATIONS

The Aurora School enrolment policy will be made available to the school community on the school's website.

### POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy approved by	Principal October 2022
Next scheduled review date	October 2025