

ACTION PLAN

DELIVERING A MODERN, WORLD-CLASS SELECTION SYSTEM FOR NSW SELECTIVE SCHOOLS

Selective schools offer valued choice and excellent outcomes for gifted students and their families but the existing selection system is no longer fit for purpose. Designed for 12 fully selective high schools in 1991, it has stretched to accommodate 48 selective high schools and 76 primary schools with opportunity classes.

F1

F2

F6

ENSURING THAT ENTRY TO SELECTIVE SCHOOLS IS BASED ON ABILITY, NOT BACKGROUND

OPTIMISING THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS TO ACCURATELY IDENTIFY STUDENTS' ABILITY

ADDRESSING THE GAPS IN A COMPLEX SYSTEM

WHY?

Students from disadvantaged groups face unintended barriers to entry

F3

Shortcomings in test design and inconsistencies in school assessment practices mean that the process may not identify all the students it is intended to

F4

As the selective education system has grown more complex over time, a number of gaps have emerged that constrain its effectiveness

F5

ACTIONS

ACTION 1: Encourage more gifted students from under-represented groups to apply

ACTION 2: Ensure appropriate provisions and adjustments for gifted students with disability

ACTION 3: Make the selection process more relevant for gifted students from rural and remote areas, and the selective schools that target them

ACTION 4: Minimise imprecision to increase confidence in the accuracy of measurement

ACTION 5: Align the difficulty of the tests to the ability levels of the gifted students sitting them

ACTION 6: Update the frameworks used to guide test design and incorporate state-of-the-art assessment strategies

ACTION 7: Ensure mathematical and English ability are correctly weighted

ACTION 8: Reduce predictability and coachability, and support schools in preparing their students to sit the selection tests

ACTION 9: Partner with schools, families and communities to revise the School Assessment Score process

ACTION 10: Close the gender gap in the selection system

ACTION 11: Consider adjustments to the process of nominating school preferences

ACTION 12: Partner with schools, families and communities to review post-Year 7 entry to selective education

ACTION 13: Strengthen the department's ability to link data across the NSW education system and its responsiveness to emerging trends in selective education

FINDINGS

F1 FINDING 1: Selective schools continue to offer valued choice for gifted students and their families

F2 FINDING 2: The existing selection process is no longer fit for purpose and needs updating for the coming decades

F3 FINDING 3: Students from disadvantaged groups face unintended barriers to entry in the selective education system

F4 FINDING 4: Shortcomings in the assessment process mean it is not capturing all students' true ability and so may not identify all the students it is intended to

F5 FINDING 5: A number of gaps in the selection system constrain its effectiveness

F6 FINDING 6: NSW selective schools need a world-class selection process