2.2 Students who meet geographic isolation criteria

Students who meet the geographic isolation criteria will be expected to enrol at their local distance education centre.

In applying the following enrolment procedures, the intention is to ensure that students enrolling under this category are genuinely geographically isolated.

Primary full time students

Students who are isolated from a NSW government school and who make application under this category must provide evidence of their isolation to the principal of the enrolling school. A distance of three kilometres from the student’s home to the nearest bus route is the minimum prerequisite distance, but will not be sufficient reason to justify enrolment. When making this decision, the principal of the enrolling school will determine isolation in this context and will assess all relevant information including access to school and community resources, travel time, and road and geographic conditions.

Secondary full time students

Students who are isolated from a NSW government school and who make application under this category must provide evidence of their isolation to the principal of the enrolling school. A distance of five kilometres from the student’s home to the nearest bus route is the minimum prerequisite distance but will not be sufficient reason to justify enrolment. When making this decision, the principal of the enrolling school will determine isolation in this context and will assess all relevant information including access to school and community resources, travel time, and road and geographic conditions.

Sydney Distance Education High School does not accept students in this category. Any application received will be forwarded to an appropriate distance education centre.

2.3 Students travelling within Australia

Students who are unable to attend a regular school because they are travelling with their family in Australia for a period of at least 50 school days, may be eligible to enrol in a distance education school or centre.

Initially, placement in distance education will be for a period of up to 200 school days. This may be extended on application by the parent/carer outlining the case for an extension. Extensions must not exceed an additional 200 days and will only be approved if the principal of the distance education school considers that the return of work and engagement with the teaching programs during the initial period of enrolment is satisfactory.

The family must also intend to continue the student’s schooling at a NSW school at the completion of the travel.

A comprehensive itinerary must be submitted with the application. Addresses for a minimum of six weeks in advance are required to ensure continuity of the learning program.

Travellers who take up residence in one place for six weeks or more will be expected to enrol at the local school. A decision to waive this requirement will be at the discretion of the principal of the distance education school, with advice from the principal of the local school, and taking into consideration the school’s capacity to provide continuity for the travelling student.

When commencement of travel is delayed by more than 30 school days, the student is no longer eligible to be enrolled in distance education and is required to seek enrolment at the local school.

Families seeking to travel for fewer than 50 school days should discuss an exemption from schooling with their local school principal, who has the capacity to grant a student an exemption from school attendance for periods totalling up to 100 days in a 12-month period.

In addition to the five common requirements for enrolment on page 4, the following are required:

1. Supporting documentation such as road conditions, distance from the local school and distance from the student’s home to the nearest bus pickup point or school.

2. Other relevant information and supporting documentation about the student’s circumstances that contribute to geographic isolation.

Submit completed documents to:
The Principal of the appropriate distance education school (see “Where to apply” at the end of Section 2).

In addition to the five common requirements for enrolment on page 4, the following are required:

1. A statutory declaration stating the family’s intention to travel, the anticipated duration of this travel, the student’s NSW home address before the travel, and their expected home address after the travel.

2. A comprehensive itinerary showing addresses for at least six weeks in advance.

Submit completed documents to:
The Principal of the appropriate distance education school (see “Where to apply” at the end of Section 2).