Education

Leaving school before the HSC

1. Leaving school before the HSC

Students must complete Year 10 (or its equivalent), then remain in approved education or training or a combination of education or training and paid work until the age of 17. See NSW Department of Education information on attendance.

NSW Record of School Achievement

If you leave school before completing your Higher School Certificate (HSC) you may be eligible for the Record of School Achievement (RoSA). Once your school has informed the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) that you are eligible for a RoSA, you will be able to download it as a free PDF from Results Services on NSW Students Online in My Details. For more information go to the NESA website.

Literacy and numeracy test results

You can also choose to sit voluntary literacy and numeracy tests. Your literacy and numeracy test and diagnostic report will be delivered to My Messages in your NSW Students Online account shortly after completing your test.

Links to Learning

Support for students at risk of disengaging from learning and/or at risk of leaving school early. The department funds NSW based not for profit, non-government organisations and community-based organisations to deliver targeted projects to students at risk (Year 6 – Year 11) of disengaging from learning and/or at risk of leaving school early.

Not all schools in NSW are involved in Links to Learning, and the target group for projects also varies, for example some schools may be involved in a project targeting Year 7 and 8 students, other schools may be involved in a project targeting Year 9 and 10 students.

The learning support team is the referral point for students seeking involvement in a project. The list of schools currently involved in Links to Learning projects is available at the Links to Learning website.

Distance education

Distance education is an equity program for NSW students who are geographically isolated or whose individual circumstances prevent them from regularly attending school.

Complete your studies in vocational education and training

Registered training organisations (RTOs) are training providers registered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) to deliver nationally recognised vocational education and training (VET) services and qualifications.

Smart and Skilled, reform of the NSW Vocational Education and Training (VET) system has a find a course function and lists which RTO delivers it. See also TAFE NSW.

Fee-free pre-apprenticeships and pre-traineeships

If you are thinking about taking an apprenticeship or traineeship but not sure if it is right for you, then enrol in a fee-free pre-apprenticeship or pre-traineeship course.

Smart and Skilled

Smart and Skilled provides eligible students with:

- an entitlement to government-subsidised training up to and including Certificate III level qualifications, and select traineeships and apprenticeships
- training in higher-level courses (Certificate IV and above) in targeted priority areas.

For more information phone:

- Training Services NSW - 13 28 11
- Smart and Skilled NSW - 1300 772 104

Department of Employment

The Australian Government through the Department of Employment is delivering a range of initiatives to give young job seekers the employability skills and real work experience they need to get a job. The initiatives include:

- Youth Jobs PaTH which is a flexible program designed to prepare young people for work. It also encourages employers to trial a young person for a job by offering interns and financial incentives to reduce the cost of recruitment. Youth Jobs PaTH has three elements: Prepare – Trial – Hire.
- Youth Advisory Sessions help young people aged 15-24, in online and digital employment services to maintain their work readiness and/or motivation and to find employment. Young people can get up to three, free, one-hour advisory sessions with a specialist youth consultant.
- The Encouraging Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment Initiative to support young Australians who wish to start their own business.
- The youth Transition to Work program assists young people to get intensive pre-employment support to help them set and achieve their employment and education goals.
- Engaging Early School Leavers has been designed to strengthen the chances of early school leavers finding and keeping a job.
- ParentsNext helps eligible parents to plan and prepare for employment by the time their children are at school.
- Job Jumpstart has tips and ideas about jobs and careers. Also get tips on workplace rights and responsibilities, safety, networking and personal presentation.

Income support for students and trainees

- ABSTUDY helps with costs for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australians who are studying or undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship
- Youth Allowance for students and Australian Apprentices offers financial help for people aged 24 or younger and a student or Australian Apprentice. Watch this video which explains Youth Allowance eligibility.
- Education Entry Payment helps people on income support to study
- Fares Allowance helps with travel costs between your permanent home and your place of tertiary study in Australia
- Low Income Health Care Card gives you cheaper health care and some concessions if you're on a low income
- Child care fee assistance helps with the cost of approved child care for eligible parents doing an approved activity

For more income support options refer to **fact sheet 14** – **Youth assistance**. For all the latest information and rates visit the Services Australia website.

Youth assistance

For links to help with health issues, safety issues, legal rights visit youth.nsw.gov.au

Homeless youth:

- Youth Off The Streets, phone 1800 06 22 88
- Yfoundations, phone 1800 152 152
- Salvation Army, phone 13 72 58
- Youth Solutions, phone (02) 4628 2319
- Youth health resources and contacts for young people, phone (02) 9391 9000

Pathways and Transitions
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