Distance Education application supplement
2.7 Vocationally Talented Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name:</th>
<th>Vocationally talented area:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current School:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

General Information

It is expected that students in this category will have exhausted all other departmental provisions before seeking enrolment in distance education.

NSW government schools can cater for talented students by making significant program adjustments to form a differentiated pattern of study. Principals may grant a school attendance exemption for periods totaling up to 100 days in a 12-month period. These exemptions must be applied for in advance. School exemptions’ for employment in the entertainment industry or participation in elite sporting events are outlined in the Exemption from school – procedures.

There are a number of selective high schools and programs that specifically cater for talented students who wish to participate in sport and the performing arts at elite levels. More information can be obtained from the following websites:

Arts: https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/contact


Who may be eligible to apply?

Students whose employment in the entertainment industry or elite participation in the performing arts and sport prevents their regular attendance at a school or other suitable local provision for more than 50 school days in a year, may be eligible for enrolment at a distance education school or centre.

Applications will be considered from students who can provide documented and certified evidence:

- of employment in the entertainment industry, or
- of participation in the performing arts at an elite level, or
- of participation in sport at an elite level, and
- that they are required to be available to meet the demands of this employment or participation in ways that make it impossible for them to attend a school or other suitable local provision on a daily basis in excess of 50 school days in the year.

The documentary evidence required to support this category of enrolment application is substantial and is outlined on the page following for each of the three areas – entertainment industry, performing arts and sport.
### The application process....

#### Step 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statutory Declaration to be provided by parent/carer</th>
<th>(see the blank form following)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For all students, the parent/carer must provide a statutory declaration including:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. details of the employment obligations or the participation that will prevent the student from attending a regular school, with a student résumé clearly outlining participation at an elite level</td>
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<td>2. the length of time for which it is expected that the student will need to access distance learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. an outline of arrangements that will be made for supervision of the student’s school work and regular liaison between the student and staff at the distance education school</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. a statement that the student is not enrolled in any other registered school or registered education/ training provider.</td>
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</tbody>
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#### Step 2:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Copies of acceptable evidence to attach to the application.</th>
<th>These must be certified by a Justice of the Peace.</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entertainment Industry</th>
<th>An employment contract</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performing Arts*</th>
<th>Parents/carers must provide evidence of the criteria used to assess the student’s elite participation in performing arts, such as:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• achievement records e.g. accredited examination results, certificates, photographs of awards</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• professional work logs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• testimonials, eg from industry based professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• any other evidence that clearly demonstrates that the student is participating at an elite level and that the student’s commitment is such that a regular school could not cater for such commitment through significant program adjustments including leave in excess of 50 school days per year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Please note additional information is required when participation involves attendance at a sporting or performing arts institution. See below.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport*</th>
<th>Parents/carers must provide evidence of the criteria used to assess the student’s elite participation in sport, such as:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• letters of offer or selection into an elite sporting team, squad or program and evidence of the student’s acceptance of the place</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• achievement records e.g. accredited and certified results, certificates, photographs of awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• professional work logs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• testimonials e.g. from industry based professionals.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The evidence must be supported in writing by a representative of the highest national governing body in connection with the student’s sporting commitment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Please note additional information is required when participation involves attendance at a sporting or performing arts institution. See below.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Additional information required when participation involves attendance at a sporting OR performing arts institution (from page 2).

When the student will be participating at an elite level at an institution, the organisation must provide evidence including:

- the organisation’s name and purposes
- how it meets requirements for child protection and other risk management procedures
- selection procedures
- the student’s program
- student accreditation procedures
- the criteria used to assess the student’s elite level of participation
- the ranking of the student within the organization (where relevant)
- any other material that demonstrates the nature of the organisation.
### Step 3: Principal's endorsement

The principal of the student’s current school must use the statutory declaration of the parent/carer, and associated evidence to provide a statement of support on the enrolment application. The statement must clearly articulate:

- **a)** any program adjustments that have been made to cater for the talented nature of the student
- **b)** that the student is operating at an elite level and the commitment is such that a regular school could not cater for this commitment through program adjustments including exemption from attendance at school up to 100 school days per year.

### Principal's endorsement (to be completed by the Principal of the student’s current school)

This section must be completed in accordance with the **NSW Department of Education and Communities Distance Education revised enrolment procedures 2013 publication** which outlines the Application -Step 3 process as follows.

I have read the Statutory Declaration made by the parent/carer and associated evidence. [ ] Yes [ ] No

Any **program adjustments** that have been made to cater for the talented nature of the student.

**Confirmation** of the student’s participation at an elite level and their commitment such that the school is not able to cater for these commitments through program adjustments including leave of 50 school days per year.

**Statement of support:**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal's Name:</th>
<th>Principal's Signature:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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Statutory Declaration
OATHS ACT 1900, NSW, EIGHTH SCHEDULE

I, .................................................................................................................., do solemnly and sincerely declare that
[name of declarant]
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and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions
of the Oaths Act 1900.

Declared at: ................................................................. on .................................................................
[place] [date]
............................................................................................. in the presence of an authorised witness, who states:
[signature of declarant]
I, ..................................................................................., a .................................................................,
[name of authorised witness] [qualification of authorised witness]
certify the following matters concerning the making of this statutory declaration by the person who made it:
[* please cross out any text that does not apply]*

1. *I saw the face of the person OR *I did not see the face of the person because the person was wearing a face
covering, but I am satisfied that the person had a special justification for not removing the covering, and

2. *I have known the person for at least 12 months OR *I have not known the person for at least 12 months,
but I have confirmed the person’s identity using an identification document and the document I relied on was
.............................................................................................................................[describe identification document relied on]

............................................................................................. [signature of authorised witness] [date]
List of authorised witnesses

There are a number of people who may be able to witness your statutory declaration. A Commonwealth statutory declaration under the Statutory Declarations Act 1959 will need to be witnessed by a person who is both:

- on the list of authorised witnesses (below)
- has a connection to Australia.

For example, a doctor who is registered to practise medicine in Australia can witness your declaration, but a doctor who is not registered in Australia cannot.

A statutory declaration may be made before:

A person who is currently licensed or registered under a law to practise in one of the following occupations:

- Chiropractor
- Dentist
- Legal practitioner
- Medical practitioner
- Nurse
- Optometrist
- Pharmacist
- Physiotherapist
- Psychologist
- Veterinary surgeon
- Agent of the Australian Postal Corporation who is in charge of an office supplying postal services to the public
- Bank officer/Credit Union Officer with 5 or more continuous years of service
- Clerk of a court
- Justice of the Peace
- Police officer
- Teacher employed on a full-time basis at a school or tertiary education institution