

**2016-2017 U.S. EMBASSY/CONSULATE  
SUMMARY SCHOOL INFORMATION**

**Foreign Service Post:** Canberra

**Date:** May 2016

**Frequently Asked Questions About Finding a School in the  
Australian Capital Territory (ACT)**

**Q: Where do I start?**

A: The best place to start is with the ACT Government Department of Education and Training website, <http://www.det.act.gov.au/home>. It will give you a list of Government (Public) and Non-Government (Independent and Catholic Schools) Schools in the ACT and their contact information. It also has information about curriculum, literacy, numeracy, and additional information that will be helpful in finding a school that meets your needs. Please keep in mind that schools in Australia run on a Southern Hemisphere educational calendar; often parents will need to work with the incoming school on the most appropriate year-level placement for their child.

If you are interested in a Catholic School, the best place to start is with the Office of Catholic Education, [www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au). The website has a list of schools and their contact information.

**Q: How do I know how schools compare to other schools?**

A: Go to [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au). This site enables you to search local schools in a specific area and compare statistically similar schools, and review NAPLAN\* results.

Please note that the data on My School is only a snapshot of the schools and the result of one standardized test. It does not reflect other important data about a school, such as sense of community, the support of the students from the teachers, parent rating, extra-curricular opportunities, parental involvement, etc. It is one piece of information and should not be replaced by a visit to the school.

\*Every year, all students in years 3, 5, 7, and 9 are assessed on the same day using national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar, and Punctuations), and Numeracy (Mathematics). The test is called the National Assessment Plan Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). For more information, their website is [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au).

**Q: Where can I find additional information?**

A: The Department of State Post Report has general information about Dependent Education at Post and can be found on the State Department website. CLO also has several documents about schooling in Canberra.

**Q: Can the Embassy recommend a school?**

A: The CLO cannot endorse any particular school. They can, however, provide information that will help you find what you need to make the best decision for your family. They can tell you which schools currently have American families enrolled; they can provide you with contact information for Government and Non-Government schools in Canberra, and they can answer general information about the schools system in Canberra. Everyone has different priorities and personal expectations in what they are looking for in the education of their child. There are some great schools in Canberra. With research and patience, you will find what school best fits your family.

**Q: If I find a school I like, what do I need to do to get my child enrolled in that school?**

A: If you find Government School that you are interested in, you must complete the online enrollment/transfer ([http://www.det.act.gov.au/school\\_education/enrolling\\_in\\_an\\_act\\_public\\_school](http://www.det.act.gov.au/school_education/enrolling_in_an_act_public_school)). Each ACT public school gives priority to the enrolment of children living in its Priority Enrolment Area (PEA). ACT public (Government) schools are non-selective. If a school has room available after accepting students from its PEA, it may offer places to students who live outside the area. Please keep in mind that children use designated city school buses; no buses are allocated to individuals schools.

If you find a Non-Government School that you are interested in, you need to apply directly to that school. Unfortunately, the American Embassy does not have any priority enrollment agreements. If there are no vacancies at the school, they might not be able to place your child, and you should have an alternative school in mind.

**A snapshot of the schools our children attend:**

Amaroo Primary School: <http://www.amaroos.act.edu.au/>  
Brindabella Christian College: <http://www.bcc.act.edu.au/>  
Burgmann Anglican School: <http://www.burgmann.act.edu.au/>  
Canberra Girls Grammar School: [Canberra Girls' Grammar School](http://www.canberragirlsgrammar.com.au/)  
Canberra Grammar School: [Canberra Grammar School - Home](http://www.canberragrammarschool.com.au/)  
Canberra Montessori: <http://www.canberramontessori.com/>  
Emmaus Christian: [www.emmaus.act.edu.au/](http://www.emmaus.act.edu.au/)  
Forrest Primary School: <http://www.forrestps.act.edu.au/>  
Franklin Early Childhood School: <http://www.fecs.act.edu.au/>  
Garran Primary: [www.garranps.act.edu.au/](http://www.garranps.act.edu.au/)  
Good Shepherd Primary School: [www.gslps.vic.edu.au/](http://www.gslps.vic.edu.au/)  
Harrison Primary: [www.harrison.act.edu.au/](http://www.harrison.act.edu.au/)  
Holy Spirit Primary: <http://www.holyspirit.act.edu.au/>  
Mawson Primary Spirit: <http://www.mawsonps.act.edu.au/>  
Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School: <http://www.motherteresa.act.edu.au/>  
Nguannawal Primary School: <http://www.nguannawalps.act.edu.au/>  
Orana Steiner School: <http://www.oranaschool.com/home>  
Palmerston Primary: <http://www.palmdps.act.edu.au/home>  
St. Edmund's College: <http://www.stedmunds.act.edu.au/>  
St. Michael's Primary School: <http://www.stmichaelsps.act.edu.au/>  
St. Monica's Primary School: <http://www.stmonicas.act.edu.au/>  
Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School: <http://www.stspeterandpaulcatholicschool.net/>  
Canberra College: <http://www.canberrac.act.edu.au/>  
Gungahlin College: <http://www.gungahlincollege.act.edu.au/>  
Yarralumla Primary School: <http://www.yarralumlaps.act.edu.au/>  
Malkara School: <http://www.malkara.act.edu.au/>  
Melrose High School: <http://www.melrosehs.act.edu.au/>  
Narrabundah College: [www.narrabundahc.act.edu.au/](http://www.narrabundahc.act.edu.au/)