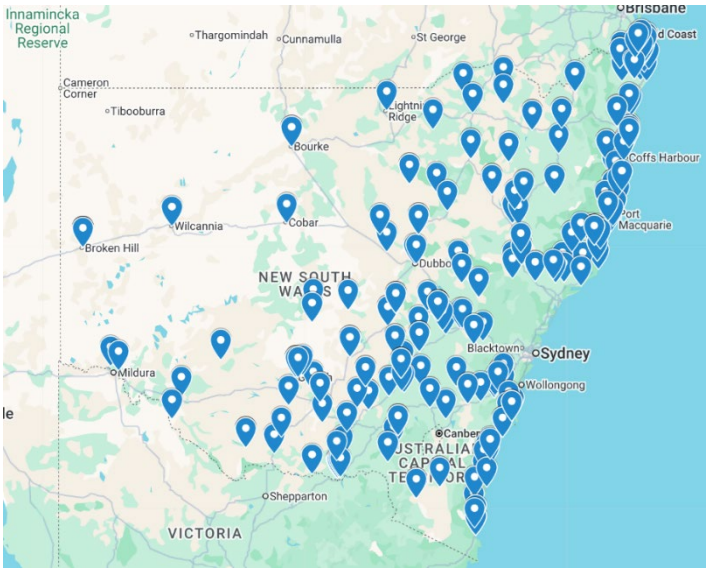
Igniting new ways of learning

Information at a glance

- Aurora College, the NSW Department of Education's virtual school, commenced classes on Monday 2 February 2015. The school was a key deliverable of the Rural and Remote Education – a Blueprint for Action. It is a gazetted 'stand-alone' school.
- Aurora is providing innovative, flexible learning in a whole new context, by allowing students to connect locally and learn globally. To be eligible for enrolment in Aurora College in Stages 3, 4 and 5, students must also be enrolled in a NSW Government school which is classified as a rural and remote.
- Aurora provides a mix of online and residential school classes. Students connect with their teachers and classmates in live timetabled lessons through a virtual learning environment, which comprises web conferencing software, a learning management system, and a range of cutting-edge online communication and collaboration tools. The school also operates one of the state's only fully digital school libraries.



- In 2026, Aurora College shared students (blue markers) with more than 240 rural and remote schools
- Aurora College teachers are selected on the basis of their subject expertise and their capacity to deliver engaging and innovative lessons in a virtual learning environment
- All Aurora College teachers and executive staff have completed the GERRIC mini-Certificate in Gifted Education course, as a base qualification, and continue their professional learning in ICT, HPGE and pedagogy while with Aurora College.

- Aurora's coordinating office is located at Lindfield College and is staffed with a Principal, Deputy Principal, and a small number of teachers and administration and technology support staff.

Stage 3 curriculum

- Aurora College offers an Opportunity Class for high potential and gifted students in Years 5 and 6. Students study Mathematics, Science and Technology with Aurora College and study the balance of the curriculum in their home school.
- Entry to Aurora College for Years 5–6 is managed by the Department's Selective Education Team.
- For enrolment information, visit the Primary enrolment information page on our website.

Stages 4 & 5 curriculum

- Aurora offers selective classes in English, Mathematics and Science to high potential and gifted Year 7-10 students. Students study the balance of the curriculum in their home school.
- Entry to Aurora College for Years 7–10 is managed by the Department's Selective Education Team.
- Students who did not qualify and/or did not apply for entry in Year 7 have the opportunity to apply for the selective stream in Years 8, 9 and 10, providing there are vacancies available.
- For enrolment information, visit the Secondary enrolment information page on our website.

Stage 6 curriculum

- Stage 6 government high school students in rural and remote communities may apply to study one or more subjects with Aurora College.
- In 2027, students may choose to study the following courses: Aboriginal Studies, Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Science, Economics, English Advanced, English Extension 1, English Extension 2, Legal Studies, Mathematics Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1, Mathematics Extension 2, Modern History, History Extension, Physics, Science Extension and Software Engineering.
- The range of courses offered over time is determined in consultation with principals and communities in rural and remote areas.
- Beginning with Year 11 2027, students from metropolitan Sydney and students in large regional centres (including, Wollongong, Newcastle, Tweed Heads, Queanbeyan) are eligible to apply for enrolment in some senior subjects with Aurora College.
- For enrolment information, visit the Senior school pages on our website.

Young and Deadly Mob Initiative

- Working in consultation with the Department's Aboriginal Education and Communities Directorate, Aurora College delivers an ongoing provision for high potential and gifted Aboriginal students in rural and remote government schools across NSW.
- For further information, visit the Young and Deadly Mob Program page on our website.

Residential school program

- Aurora College holds two residential schools per year. In 2027, the residential schools will be held in Sydney in Term 2 (Week 3) and in Term 4 (Week 3). Subsidised and supervised travel to and from residential schools is provided by the college.
- The program includes lessons, tutorials, master classes, mentoring sessions, excursions and programs with partners, including the Australian Business Community Network.

Masterclass and Mentor programs

- Aurora College offers students expanded career options through innovative partnerships with businesses and with scientific, cultural and tertiary education institutions.
- Mentoring opportunities and master classes are key features of both the online and residential school programs. These initiatives provide students with access to people who are leaders in their chosen field.
- Public school students from all over NSW join Aurora students for Aurora's online HSC Study Day series. A range of experts, experienced teachers and HSC markers present HSC examination advice and up to date information on course content.

Other key information

- As a gazetted school, Aurora must meet all policy and legislative requirements for government schools and work within a fixed, approved budget.
- Students enrolled with Aurora College need to be accommodated in their home school. This includes aligning their school timetable matrix with that of Aurora College. Further information can be found on our Resources for partner schools webpage.
- Students applying for entry in Stage 6 must do so with the approval of their principal. The Aurora College Enrolment Principles document outlines the principles and processes that will be applied when rural and remote students apply for one or more Stage 6 courses with Aurora College.
- Students are supported in their home school by an Aurora College Coordinator. Aurora's budget also includes an allocation for assistance to families in need, including assistance with the cost of residential schools.
- Aurora teachers receive ongoing support and targeted professional learning to establish best practice teaching and learning in a virtual learning environment. Aurora College values opportunities to share expertise and experiences with all schools. Public school colleagues from across the state join Aurora teachers online for high-quality registered professional learning presentations.