More places for state’s brightest kids

Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth has wished the 13,000 students sitting the selective schools entrance exam today the best of luck.

Ms Firth said 630 additional places will be provided next year at 14 new partially selective high schools in Western Sydney and regional NSW.

“This will bring the number of places offered state-wide to 4,152,” said Ms Firth.

“The depth of the selective school system in NSW is impressive.

“We now have 17 fully and 23 partially selective schools in NSW.

“This is on top of places available at our hugely successful specialist schools in areas like the performing arts, sport, agriculture and technology.

“Developing our gifted and talented kids is a long-term commitment aimed at cementing NSW as a research powerhouse.

“Investing now in opportunities during the crucial high school stage in both academic and vocation education, will give a whole generation the ability meet the high-skill demands of the 21st century workforce.

“The virtual selective high school initiative is particularly exciting,” said Ms Firth.

“Thirty new virtual places will be available, giving rural and regional students access to selective school level classes using advanced technology.

“While selective schools are an important part of our approach to schooling in NSW, we are more committed than ever to resourcing secondary schools that cater for all students, including those with other talents or special needs.

Ms Firth said students will be sitting the selective schools test at about 150 government high schools across the state.

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