



A better, fairer school funding system

The Australian Government's National Plan for School Improvement will deliver a fairer way of funding every Australian school so they get to do their job and give every student the support they need.

Every school will be provided funding based on the needs of their students, consistent with the central recommendation of the Gonski review.

A Schooling Resource Standard

Commonwealth funding for schools will be calculated according to a new Schooling Resource Standard (SRS), comprising a base amount for every primary and secondary school student and loadings for school and student need.

These amounts will be \$9,271 per primary school student and \$12,193 per high school student.

There will also be extra money each year, through 'loadings' for schools and students that need more support.

- Low SES loading ranging from \$695 per primary student and \$914 per secondary student to \$4,635 per primary student and \$6,096 per secondary student.
- Indigenous loading ranging from \$1,854 per primary student and \$2,439 per secondary student to \$11,125 per primary student and \$14,631 per secondary student.
- Students with limited English skills loading—set at 10 per cent of the per student amounts.

- A location loading applied to each school's per student SRS amounts plus any school size amount. Ranging from 10 per cent of the loading amount for inner regional schools up to 80 per cent of the loading amount for some very remote schools.
- Size loading - ranging from \$150,000 for primary schools with up to 200 students, to \$240,000 for secondary schools with up to 500 students.

There will be loadings for students with disability in every school to be phased in from 2015 once a nationally consistent data collection on students with disability has been established and an appropriate funding loading developed.

In the meantime, an interim loading has been calculated by dividing the current estimate of students with disability expenditure by the total number of students with a disability for each government and non-government jurisdiction. Current funding under the More Support for Students with Disability National Partnership will also be extended by an extra \$100 million in 2014 until the loading begins to be phased in from 2015.

All loadings will be fully publicly funded in all schools Government and non-Government.

How this money will go to schools

The Australian Government will use the SRS settings to calculate all Commonwealth funding provided to education authorities, who will then distribute this money to schools.

We also want state governments to introduce their own needs-based school funding systems based on our model, with a per student amount and loadings for the same types of schools and students. This will be used to distribute all government funding Commonwealth, state and territory to the majority of schools.

Education authorities will have the flexibility to adjust the funding they allocate to schools according to local need, but these decisions will need to be transparent and accountable. The distribution of funding will be published on My School, so that parents and the wider community can see that public funding is being provided to schools based on the needs of the students attending that school.

Phasing in the new system

This new way of funding schools will be phased in, to give schools time to plan.

At the moment thousands of schools are currently below their SRS entitlement, based on the Commonwealth model. They will receive increased funding every year to reach the SRS. Then their funding will keep pace with the SRS as it grows over time.

Some schools are already at or above their SRS. These schools will receive their 2013 funding, which will grow in real terms each year by 3 per cent.

We have prioritised the majority of the extra funding to those schools the new arrangements tell us need it the most, while ensuring that schools already at their SRS entitlement are not missing out. This is the fairest way to implement the new system and distribute the extra funding according to the needs of students.

More information

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