

New South Wales government schools

2012 jurisdiction-specific comments

The figures reported for NSW government schools are based on budgeted expenditure provided through the state budget process, as well as school-generated income, which derives the total income available to each school.

Government funding is not distributed on an exact per student or per school amount. The NSW Department of Education and Communities provides a base level of funding, largely driven by enrolments and staff, to every school and then allocates additional funds according to grant requirements and need.

Australian Government funding

Funding from the Australian Government has been allocated based on the benefits to schools and students provided by each program:

- The majority of the Australian Government funds is provided through Specific Purpose Payments to the state and benefit all students. These have been applied to each school based on enrolments.
- National Partnership Funding is primarily targeted directly to schools based on need. The specific funding provided to schools for these programs has been used, including the Building the Education Revolution, which provided a boost to schools' income in 2011.

State Government funding

Recurrent funding from the state government is based on estimated recurrent expenditures obtained from a variety of sources. The majority of funding has been allocated to schools based on information from payroll data, school annual financial statements, as well as school cleaning and school maintenance database systems.

Many activities are funded and managed centrally on behalf of schools, including teacher salary payments, school support services and regional and central office costs. For those central funds that could not be tracked directly to a school, but are managed centrally on behalf of all schools, an apportionment methodology has been used. This is based on school floor area, for elements of cleaning and maintenance and on each school's student enrolment figures for other funds.

Other income

School generated income data are sourced from each school's local finance system using each school's annual financial statements.

Other factors to consider when reviewing financial details

For those schools which incorporate a pre-school, the pre-school enrolments, staff and costs have been eliminated from 2010, 2011 and 2012 school data. This was not possible for the 2009 data and needs to be considered when comparing data for the three years for those schools.

School funding will include the funds associated with any specialist units attached to the host school, such as Intensive English and Distance Education Centres. Distance education funding incorporates those funds that the school/centres utilise, including funding that may support non-government students using the centre for individual courses. These funds cannot be separated from overall school funding. The full-time distance education numbers have been adjusted to reflect the non-government and part-time students undertaking courses through distance education.

In instances where a school region has provided funds directly to one school to support education services over a group of schools in the region, these funds have been captured under the school that received the income. This may impact on the recurrent income figure per student for schools in the region.

In 2012, the Australian Government capital expenditure has been reviewed and adjusted in some cases, at an individual school level for 2012, to better reflect the timing of the delivery of Building the Education Revolution (BER) Program capital works projects. The data have also been adjusted for 2009, 2010 and 2011 calendar years.