Funding for non-government schools in NSW 2019-2029

The NSW Government is implementing the ‘Gonski’ needs-based, sector-blind funding model for all NSW schools, including non-government schools. All non-government schools will be funded on a consistent basis ensuring schools have the resources they need.

Q1 How will funding change in 2019?
- From 2019 NSW funding of non-government schools will align with the Commonwealth’s needs-based, sector-blind ‘Gonski’ model.

Q2 How is the new funding model fairer?
- After the transition period, non-government schools with the same level of need will receive the same level of funding.

Q3 How does this model cut red tape?
- Schools are funded under a single system, with payments by the NSW and Commonwealth Governments made according to the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS).
- Since the end of 2018 there is no longer a February NSW census as the Department has ceased the NSW census going forward and is using the Commonwealth Census.
- Payments will be aligned with the Commonwealth, with NSW payments to be made in February, August and November.

Q4 How will non-government schools be funded from 2019 onwards?
- Schools are funded according to their SRS.
- Commonwealth began transitioning its funding to 80% of SRS in 2018.
- In 2019 NSW funding aligned with the Commonwealth funding policy and begin transitioning to 20% of SRS.
- Schools below 20% of SRS transition up to 20% of SRS over five years (to 2023).
- Schools above 20% of SRS transition down to 20% of SRS over ten years (by 2029).
- New schools are funded at 100% of SRS (20% by NSW and 80% by the Commonwealth).

Q5 What is the SRS?
- The Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) is an estimate of how much government funding a school requires to meet the educational needs of its students.
- Commonwealth Department of Education determines a school’s SRS.
- Further information about the SRS is available at the Commonwealth’s Department of Education website.

Q6 When will schools be advised how much funding they will receive?
- The Department will advise all non-government schools and systems of their estimated funding entitlement for the following year in December each year.

Q7 Will there be assistance to help schools adjust to the new funding arrangements?
- Transition funding support will be provided to schools with low SES (SES score less than 100) and low growth in their NSW funding (less than 0%).
- A Special Fund will also support schools where students with high level disability are enrolled.

Q8 How will capital funding be distributed in 2020?
- Capital funding is not included in the SRS Entitlement funding.
- The Building Grants Assistance Scheme (BGAS) will continue as planned and ongoing commitments under the former Interest Subsidy Scheme will also be maintained.