NSW Non-Government Schools Building Grants Assistance Scheme Guidelines

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Contents

General Information ................................................. 3
  1. Purpose ................................................. 3
  2. Introduction ........................................ 3
  3. Contact Information .................................. 3

Objectives, Eligibility and Selection Criteria .................. 4
  4. Objectives of the Scheme ................................ 4
  5. Eligibility .................................................. 4
  6. Selection Criteria ......................................... 4

Grant Information .................................................. 6
  7. Purpose of Financial Assistance ............................ 6
  8. Funding Available to Block Grant Authorities (BGAs) .... 7
  9. Administration of the Scheme .............................. 8
 10. Submission and Approval by the Minister .................. 9
 11. Project Variations and Terminations ....................... 10
 12. Accountability .............................................. 11

Procedural Information ............................................. 13
  13. Applications .............................................. 13
  14. Assistance Parameters ................................... 14
  15. Assessment of Applications ............................... 15
  16. Payment Process ......................................... 15
  17. Acknowledgement of Assistance .......................... 15
  18. Recovery Guidelines ..................................... 16

Appendices .......................................................... 17
General Information

1. Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to set out the requirements for the Block Grant Authorities (BGAs) to administer the Building Grants Assistance Scheme on behalf of the NSW Government. The guidelines include:

- General information on the Building Grants Assistance Scheme
- Objectives, eligibility and selection criteria for the Building Grants Assistance Scheme
- Specific grant information including the purpose, funding, administration and accountability of the Building Grants Assistance Scheme
- Procedural information including the application, assessment, and payment process of the Building Grants Assistance Scheme
- The Block Grant Authorities are required to have relevant and subsequent guidelines and procedures available to non-government schools on the scheme.

2. Introduction

New South Wales (NSW) non-government schools that are registered and do not operate for profit under the Education Act 1990 (the Act) are eligible for NSW Government funding assistance.

The Building Grants Assistance Scheme is a capital assistance grant for non-government schools in NSW. It is administered on behalf of the NSW Government by the NSW Catholic Block Grant Authority and the Association of Independent Schools of NSW Block Grant Authority.

The NSW Government introduced the Building Grants Assistance Scheme for non-government schools in the 2010/11 financial year.

This scheme replaced the Interest Subsidy Scheme and provides funding to non-government schools in a fairer way.

3. Contact Information

The NSW Department of Education (Department) is responsible for the administration of funding to non-government schools.

The unit responsible for the Building Grants Assistance Scheme is the Strategic Resource Management directorate within the Education Futures and Governance division.

For further information on the administration of the Scheme lease contact the Strategic Resource Management Directorate by phone on 02 7814 1262 or by email NGSFU@det.nsw.edu.au.

For further information on the application process and requirements of the Scheme, please refer to the relevant BGA:

- NSW Catholic Block Grant Authority
- The Association of Independent Schools of NSW Block Grant Authority
Objectives, Eligibility and Selection Criteria

4. Objectives of the Scheme

1. Capital projects must be for the purpose of providing education and learning spaces at primary and/or secondary levels in non-government schools registered by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) under the Act.
2. Funding under the Scheme is to be directed towards areas of greatest need (including financial need, demographic student projections, socio-economic characteristics and/or classification as a special school).
3. Funding under the Scheme should be prioritised towards new schools and new capital developments undertaken to provide educational facilities for increased student enrolments.
4. The Scheme encourages joint planning for growth and opportunities for shared procurement and community use of facilities.
5. Grants can only be provided for the provision of proper and adequate teaching facilities which are comparable in area and standard to those provided in a NSW government school.

5. Eligibility

1. To be eligible for assistance under the Scheme, a non-government school must be registered for funding assistance under the Act.
2. New schools may be recommended for assistance under the Scheme however funding must not be released to the school until its registration has been approved by NESA.
3. Each non-government school must be affiliated with one of the BGAs referred to in Section 3. Contact information.
4. Schools must demonstrate to the BGA that they are financially viable to be eligible for funding under the Scheme.

6. Selection Criteria

1. Each BGA must consider and demonstrate how the project meets each of the Objectives of the Scheme as follows:

   a. the socio-economic characteristics and/or classification as a special school. The BGA should explicitly consider the school’s SES, Capacity to Contribute, and parent fees and contributions based on recent MySchool data; and
   b. the project supports enrolment growth and/or enrolment maintenance in priority growth areas in line with the demographic student projections in the Department’s School Infrastructure NSW Student Projections report which is attached at Appendix A; and
   c. the school and its supporting community do not have the capacity to meet the total cost
of the project. That includes consideration of the following:

(i) The condition and extent of the school’s existing facilities;
(ii) The facilities that are, or are likely to be, needed to provide the school’s curriculum or proposed curriculum;
(iii) The school community’s capacity to generate financial resources for capital projects including, for example, through donations, borrowings, fundraising and payment of fees.
Grant Information

7. Purpose of Financial Assistance

(1) Under the Scheme, schools may apply for financial assistance for the planning, construction, alteration, extension, renovation, relocation or upgrading of educational facilities, including:

(a) New capital developments that provide educational facilities for increased student enrolments.
(b) Refurbishment of existing facilities where refurbishment is seen as the most economical solution to providing school facilities of a standard necessary for continued registration under the Act and to ensure learning spaces are kept at an acceptable standard.

(2) The funding may only be used:

(a) To provide payments to non-government schools for approved capital projects;
(b) To administer the Scheme including the selection, assessment and monitoring the progress of the approved projects;
(c) For a BGA Project as approved by the Minister (refer Administration of the Scheme (5));
(d) In special circumstances, purchase land, with or without buildings (or parts of buildings).

(3) Assistance is also available for the following types of work:

(a) The preparation of sites associated with the building project;
(b) The purchase of essential furnishings and equipment associated with the project;
(c) Architectural, engineering and other professional fees (except general legal and bank fees);
(d) Essential ground improvements associated with the project;
(e) Costs associated with meeting Council development application conditions;
(f) Costs incurred to comply with government (local, state and Commonwealth) legislation;

(4) Financial assistance will not be provided to meet expenditure related to any of the following:

(a) Facilities which have religious worship as a principal purpose;
(b) General maintenance (e.g. replacement of carpets, guttering, repainting of rooms).
   Government support for these costs is provided through the payment of recurrent financial assistance;
(c) Projects for which a contract for the project has been entered into or construction, including site works included in the scope of the project to be funded, has commenced prior to Ministerial approval.

(5) In situations where a school wishes to undertake construction of a new building, or renovation of an existing building, etc of leased premises, then this situation may qualify for assistance. This is on condition that the school can provide evidence (e.g. lease documents) that the lease has a period that runs commensurate with the period in which the grant may be required to be repaid if the school no longer provides school education (refer to Recovery Guidelines). Any arrangements (for example, an underlying lease) must be at reasonable market value, defined as the amount that a knowledgeable and willing third party would pay for a specific good or service in an arm’s length transaction from the seller.

8. Funding Available to Block Grant Authorities (BGAs)

Project Commitment:

(i) The Building Grants Assistance Scheme provides $500 million in committed project funding between 2019/20 and 2022/23.

(ii) The committed project funding is as shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019/20</th>
<th>2020/21</th>
<th>2021/22</th>
<th>2022/23</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committed project funding ($million)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BGA Share Calculation:

(iii) Each year, the BGA share of the annual committed project funding is calculated based on:

(a) The Commonwealth recognised BGA membership as at 31 May of the preceding funding year. Non-government schools should provide BGAs with 12 months’ notice prior to any changes in membership, unless otherwise agreed with the BGAs. The BGAs agree to the Department requesting and accessing BGA membership information from the Australian Government for the purposes of this grant.

(b) The proportion of NSW recurrent funding payments to schools in each BGA (60 per cent) plus proportion of enrolment of each BGA (40 per cent).

(iv) The Department will communicate the BGA commitment share to the BGAs after the State Budget each year and the payments to the relevant BGAs.
Payments to BGAs:

(5) The annual commitment project funding will be paid over three years with 25% paid in year 1, 50% paid in year 2, and 25% paid in year 3.

(6) Payments will be made to the BGAs on the following basis:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committed project funding ($million)</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For example, payments to BGAs based on year 1 committed project funding is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>($ million)</th>
<th>2019/20</th>
<th>2020/21</th>
<th>2021/22</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committed project funding</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSNSW 2019/20 share 59.5%</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AISNSW 2019/20 share 40.5%</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment to BGAs for 2019/20 committed project funding</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSNSW payment</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AISNSW payment</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(7) The BGA payments for the annual committed project funding are fixed for each three year payment period.

(8) All payments to BGAs must be held in an interest bearing account and all interest earned must be applied to the Objectives of the Scheme.

9. Administration of the Scheme

(1) The Scheme is administered on behalf of the NSW Government by the NSW Catholic Block Grant Authority and the AISNSW Block Grant Authority (BGAs) for the schools under the membership of the respective BGAs (refer to Accountability for reporting and accounting guidelines).

(2) Each BGA will receive and assess applications for capital assistance, and make recommendations in line with the Objectives of the Scheme.

(3) To assist BGAs in meeting costs associated with administering the scheme on behalf of the NSW Government:

(a) The NSW Catholic Block Grant Authority may use for administrative purposes up to $475,000 of the total financial year budget allocated to the BGA for the Scheme.
(b) The AISNSW Block Grant Authority may use for administrative purposes up to $390,000 of the total financial year budget allocated to the BGA for the Scheme.

(4) If there are significant changes in the budget of the Scheme or each BGAs allocation then the administration amount may be negotiated at the time of the main project submission round. The BGA should submit a request with supporting rationale for the increase for Minister approval as part of the main project submission round.

(5) By exception, the BGAs may submit for Minister approval, a project ('BGA Project') which meets the Objectives of the Scheme (including financial need, demographic student projections, socio-economic characteristics and/or classification as a special school) on behalf of a single school, multiple schools, or across school systems. A BGA Project must be assessed on the basis of meeting the Objectives of the Scheme.

(6) BGAs will work collaboratively with the Department including facilitation with schools on the provision of data and data sharing to support joint planning and address growth in student numbers.

10. Submission and Approval by the Minister

(1) There will be two submission rounds to the Minister each financial year:

(a) 30 September (main application round);
(b) 31 March (supplementary application round);
(c) By exception, out of round applications may be submitted to the Minister if there is an urgent need for application approvals outside of the above two rounds, provided sufficient funds still exist in that BGAs allocation to fully fund the project.

(2) Each BGA will submit to the Department a project listing on the form provided showing the reasons for the recommended level of assistance for each grant including:

(a) School name and details;
(b) Estimated start and completion dates;
(c) A brief description of each project identifying the major facilities to be provided and how it meets the Objectives of the Scheme;
(d) The number of new classrooms and additional student places for each project (if applicable);
(e) An assessment of how each project met the Selection Criteria including the school’s SES, Capacity to Contribute, and parent fees and contributions based on recent MySchool data;
(f) The project type (new construction or upgrade);
(g) The total costs for each project; and
(h) A summary of projected increase in student places by Local Government Area (LGA) and by each year subsequent to completion of the project.

(3) The Minister will review and approve the BGA proposals and reserves the right to initially advise the successful applicants.

(4) BGAs will be advised of the Minister’s approval.

11. Project Variations and Terminations

(1) For all project variations, BGAs must ensure that sufficient funds are available within existing allocations for the proposed variation.

(2) Minor project variations:

(a) Defined as a variation less than 10% of the total project cost AND does not change the major facilities to be provided nor how it meets the Objectives of the Scheme.
(b) Minor project variations can be approved by the BGA and are to be advised to the Department in writing.

(3) Major project variations:

(a) Defined as a variation greater than or equal to 10% of the total project cost OR changes the major facilities to be provided and how it meets the Objectives of the Scheme.
(b) Major project variations are to be re-submitted to the Minister for approval.

(4) In the event of a project termination (either completed or after acquittal) or withdrawal prior to any commitment either:

(a) The remaining funds are reallocated to an existing or new project in the next round of submissions upon Minister approval; or
(b) The amount repayable to the State will be calculated in accordance with the Recovery Guidelines.

(5) It is the responsibility of the BGA to recommend to the Department, in respect to funding or other changes to the project, the course of action which best serves the Objectives of the Scheme.
12. Accountability

(1) Each BGA must establish an interest bearing Building Grants Assistance Fund (The Fund) for the payment and receipt of:

(a) All amounts paid by the State Government under the Scheme;
(b) Amounts of capital assistance paid to schools;
(c) Amounts of capital assistance returned by schools;
(d) Interest earned on amounts in The Fund; and
(e) Administrative costs incurred by the BGA

(2) The BGA must make all records of approved projects available for inspection to the Department and the Minister for this purpose, if so required.

(3) By 30 December, each BGA must provide to the Minister a written return for the previous financial year that includes an Audited Financial Statement of The Fund showing:

(a) Details of the amounts paid to and from the fund in the previous financial year
(b) The financial position of the fund at the beginning and end of the previous financial year.
(c) The amounts received by it for administration in the previous financial year,
(d) Interest received on the amounts
(e) Any monies returned; and
(f) Disbursements.

(4) Within 30 days of the end of each quarter (September, December, March and June), each BGA must provide to the Minister a Financial Statement of the Fund with a projected payment cash flow for all approved projects on a quarterly basis until the end of each project.

(5) Within 30 days of the end of each quarter (September, December, March and June), each BGA must provide to the Minister a written progress report that includes the following details, in a format agreed to between each BGA and the Department, for all capital projects still in progress and projects approved in the previous financial year:

(a) the name of the school and the project identifier;
(b) whether or not the project was completed in the previous quarter;
(c) the amount spent on the project as at the end of the previous quarter;
(d) the amount, if any, held on account of the project at the end of the previous quarter;
(e) the number of new classrooms and additional student places;
(f) the project type (new school or upgrade);
(g) the status of the project (recently announced, in progress, completed);
(h) the start date or estimated start date; and
(i) the completion date or estimated completion date.

(6) This section may be reviewed and amended periodically so that reporting includes information agreed to between the Department and BGAs under data sharing to support joint planning and address growth in student numbers.

(7) Data provided may be made publically available.
Procedural Information

13. Applications

(1) An application for capital assistance must be submitted to the school’s BGA by the due date for each submission round, as determined by the BGA each year.

(2) The following information must be provided in an application for capital assistance:

(a) The school’s name and address;
(b) A description of the proposed project identifying the major facilities to be provided, and how it meets the Objectives of the Scheme (including enrolment growth);
(c) The purpose and use of the facilities;
(d) A facilities schedule, showing existing facilities and the facilities of the school at the completion of the project;
(e) Current and projected enrolments;
(f) The estimated number of additional enrolment places the project will provide;
(g) Detailed financial data including:

   i. The estimated total project cost;
   ii. The amount of capital assistance sought;
   iii. Other sources of funding for the project, including any private funds and Commonwealth grants that have been approved or applied for; and,
   iv. How the school has demonstrated it has made the case for financial need for the proposed project.

(h) The year the facilities are needed.
(3) An application must demonstrate that proposed projects are:

(a) In accordance with a master plan for the ordered development of the school;
(b) Consistent with and intended to meet the Objectives, Eligibility and Selection Criteria of the Scheme.

(4) This section may be reviewed and amended periodically so that applications include information agreed to between the Department and BGAs under data sharing to support joint planning and address growth in student numbers.

(5) Data provided may be made publically available and consent from the school should be sought during the application process.

(6) Schools should encourage contractors to employ apprentices and trainees, including school based apprentices and trainees, as well as encouraging contractors to consider gender equity by engaging women as apprentices and trainees in non-traditional trades. Schools may also like to encourage contractors to invest in skill development more broadly by promoting upskilling the existing workforce though vocational education and training.

(7) Schools should maximise employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people where a project is undertaken specifically for an Indigenous Australian community or where the project is located in an area likely to provide employment or training opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, to reduce the disproportionately high unemployment rates among these people.

14. Assistance Parameters

(1) Assistance will be provided within the following parameters:

(a) Unless otherwise determined by the Minister, all funds available in a financial year will be allocated to the applications approved in that year or the preceding year;
(b) All applications received by the BGAs due date will be assessed for assistance;
(c) The maximum amount of assistance for any application is the total actual expenditure minus any assistance received from any other State or Commonwealth government agency.
15. Assessment of Applications

(1) Each BGA must ensure that robust assessment processes are in place and clearly demonstrate how each project has been assessed and prioritised against the Scheme’s Selection Criteria.

(2) The BGA must retain records of the application assessments and how clause (1) (a)-(c) in the Selection Criteria are met, as the Department may call upon these records.

(3) The approval of a grant in one year does not preclude the receipt of further grants for a project over subsequent years, provided the school can demonstrate the financial need for the capital assistance.

16. Payment Process

(1) In respect to disbursements from BGAs to eligible non-government schools for approved projects:

(a) Each BGA, before releasing funds to an approved authority, must be satisfied that all documentation relating to approval from council and other regulatory authorities and appropriate tender arrangements are finalised.

(b) Upon request by the Minister, each BGA must provide details of all payments made in any specified period.

(c) If project expenditure on the approved works is less than the grant provided, the difference must be returned to the BGA. Any funds returned may be available to increase funds available for other applications for capital assistance upon Minister approval.

(d) In the event that the approved project is no longer being used for educational purposes or in the event of the school closing and the property being sold, funds must be required to be returned to the BGA. The amount repayable will be consistent with the Commonwealth Government’s Recovery Period guidelines. The current repayment schedule is shown in the Recovery Guidelines.

17. Acknowledgement of Assistance

(1) The Minister reserves the right to attend or have a representative attend official ceremonies and events.

(2) Schools are required to comply with the NSW Government’s Funding Acknowledgement Guidelines for Recipients of NSW Government Infrastructure Grants.

(3) The acknowledgement requirements may be subject to change. The Department will advise the BGA of any changes to the acknowledgement requirements.
18. Recovery Guidelines

In the event of a project termination, any unused funds may be recovered by the State. The calculated portion of recovered funds (i.e. the amount repayable to the State) will be calculated in accordance with the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Grant Amount</th>
<th>Designated Use Period</th>
<th>Recoverable Portion</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$75,001 to $500,000</td>
<td>2 years plus one additional year for each $50,000 over $100,000 (Rounded to the nearest full year)</td>
<td>Full amount will be recoverable up to half way through the Designated Use Period, and then reduced by equal proportions of the total amount over the remaining period.</td>
<td>Grant amount $475,000: retain interest for 2 years plus 7.5 years (total rounded up to 10 years). The full amount recoverable up to 5 years then the amount to be recovered would be reduced by 20% of the total amount each year until $0 is recoverable after the 10 years from the date of the commencement of the Designated Use Period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500,001 to $1.5M</td>
<td>10 years plus additional year for every $100,000 over $500,000 (Rounded to the nearest full year)</td>
<td>Full amount will be recoverable up to half way through the Designated Use Period, and then reduced by equal proportions of the total amount over the remaining period.</td>
<td>Grant amount $1m: retain interest for 10 years plus 5 years (total 15 years). Full amount recoverable up to 7.5 years then would reduce by 13.33% of the total amount each year to the end of 15 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over $1.5M</td>
<td>20 years</td>
<td>Full amount will be recoverable up to half way through the Designated Use Period then reduced by equal proportions of the total amount over the remaining period.</td>
<td>Grant amount $2m: retain interest for 20 years. Full amount recoverable over 10 years and then would reduce by 10% of the total amount each year to the end of the 20 years.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is consistent with the Commonwealth Government’s *Capital Grants Programme (CGP) for Non-Government Schools Program Guidelines 2019*. 
Appendix A

NSW Student Projections Paper for Building Grants Assistance Scheme

This paper summarises projected population trends of children living in NSW. The analysis looks at state, regional and local demographic changes by school sector, over the next two decades.
Contents

User Guide 3
NSW Total School-Aged Population 5
Sydney Total School-Aged Population 6
NSW Government Students 8
Sydney Government Students 9
NSW Non-Government Students 10
Sydney Non-Government Students 12
Sensitivity Analysis 14
Document Control 15
User Guide

The Demography Unit within School Infrastructure NSW of the NSW Department of Education [DoE] produce the Student by Area Projections. The Student by Area Projections answer the key question of how many students will be living in a particular area. The Student by Area projections are for long-term (5-20 years) strategic planning and are used for school infrastructure decision-making. The 2019 Student by Area Projections were released in June.

The projections align to the requirements of the Common Planning Assumptions book, which was endorsed by the NSW Government in 2016. This ensures agencies plan using consistent population and housing assumptions drawn from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment [DPE] Population Projections.

The main inputs of the 2019 Student by Area Projections are the NSW DPE 2019 Interim Population Projections together with observed historical government school participation to derive government students.

Methodology

The NSW DPE Population Projections are produced for each local government area [LGA] and 5-year age group. The projections factor in NSW DPE’s Sydney Housing Forecasts to distribute anticipated population change within Sydney. 2018 Sydney Housing Forecasts are based on current planning instruments, approved strategies and developments and market conditions as of December 2018. Using censal information and the 2018 Sydney Housing Forecasts, NSW DoE reengineers the population projections to the SA1 level (Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS] geography). SA1 projections are then aggregated to different geographies including school catchments and Local Government Areas [LGAs]. The projections assume children aged 5-11 years represent primary students, and persons aged 12-17 years, secondary students.

Government student projections are produced by applying an anticipated government share to the school-aged population. Projected government shares are calculated at an SA2 level, using a weighted average of actual government school participation at the primary and secondary level observed in 2014 to 2017. The projected government share is then applied consistently to the school-aged population of SA1s that fall within that SA2, and held constant across all years within the projection horizon.

Lastly, non-government students is calculated as the residual of school-aged children and government students. Non-government students includes all school-aged children outside of the public school system, including home-schooled students. Any future changes in sectoral preferences or socio-economic factors driving such preferences, are not captured in the projections.
Geographies

This paper reports future population trends at four geographies; state, Sydney Metropolitan Region [Sydney], LGA and SA2. State refers to all areas within NSW. Sydney is defined as the 33 LGAs that form the Sydney Metropolitan Region, as per the Greater Sydney Commission (see Table 1). LGA boundaries are gazetted by State and Local Government Departments. There are 129 LGAs within NSW, including Unincorporated. LGAs range widely in population, from roughly 2,000 to 360,000 persons. SA2s form part of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard [ASGS] defined by the ABS. SA2s have a population range of 3,000 to 25,000 persons, or an average population of roughly 10,000 persons. SA2s are an aggregation of whole SA1s and are designed to represent social and local economies. There are 578 SA2s in NSW.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. LGAs within Sydney</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bayside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacktown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Mountains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbelltown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury- Bankstown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georges River</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disclaimer

NSW Department of Education disclaim liability to the reliance of information in the Students by Area Projections. Information is correct only at the time of release and reflect the assessed observed current and retrospective trend. There is no certainty that these trends will be realised at any reported time point or geography. These projections are not targets and are made independently from Departmental policy direction.
In 2017, there were 1.25 million NSW residents aged 5 to 17 years. By 2036, this age group is expected to grow by roughly 266,000 persons, or 21%. Most of this growth will occur within the Greater City of Sydney (Sydney), with most regional areas expected to see a decline in the number of children over this period. Other areas of growth outside of Sydney include the Central Coast, Wollongong and Newcastle. Figure 1 and Figure 2 visualise projected population changes amongst all school-aged children across NSW by enrolment level (primary and secondary). Both maps reveal a concentration of population growth in areas within and surrounding Sydney.

Figure 1. NSW Primary Total Students Population Change by LGA, 2017-2036

Figure 2. NSW Secondary Total Students Population Change by LGA, 2017-2036
Sydney Total School-Aged Population

Almost 750,000 school-aged children called Sydney home in 2017. Within almost two decades, this group is expect to grow by 273,000 residents or 36%—growing faster than the rest of NSW. This is because most areas in the rest of the state will see a decline in the number of children by 2036.

There are two key drivers of population growth in NSW and Sydney in particular; births and migration. The growth in school-aged children will be driven by an increasing number of births, due to a growing number of women at reproductive ages. The second driver is immigration from overseas, interstate and within NSW (namely regional NSW to Sydney).

Conversely, drivers of school-aged population decline are population ageing and emigration of young adults and families from regional NSW to metropolitan areas.

Figures 3 and 4 show that student population growth is not expected to be evenly spread across Sydney. Although most local councils will see an increase in the number of school-aged residents by 2036, the largest changes are expected in Western Sydney. This is driven by births from an expected growing pool of mothers, higher local fertility rates relative to other parts of Sydney and new Greenfield developments drawing young families.
Figure 4. Sydney Secondary Total Students Population Change by LGA, 2017-2036
In 2017, almost 790,000 students were enrolled in a NSW government school. This represented a government share of 70% amongst primary students and 54% of secondary students. By 2036, over 950,000 children are expected to be in the NSW government school system. Of the 162,000 additional government students, 91,000 will be primary students and 71,000 secondary students. Most of this growth will be concentrated in Sydney (see Figures 5 and 6).
Sydney Government Students

Over 457,000 children living in Sydney attend a government school. By 2036, this population is expected to grow by 163,000 students or 36% - thereby exceeding the projected growth for NSW as a whole. Most of this increase will be concentrated to LGAs within Western Sydney, due to the area’s anticipated high growth in school-aged children (see Figures 7 and 8).

**Figure 7. Sydney Primary Government Student Change by LGA, 2017-2036**

**Figure 8. Sydney Secondary Government Students Population Change by LGA, 2017-2036**
NSW Non-Government Students

In 2017, 30% of primary school aged-children and 46% and secondary school-aged children residing in NSW, attended a non-government school. Assuming current sector preferences hold true into the future, enrolments at non-government schools will increase by over 104,000 students within the next twenty years. Roughly 55% of this growth will occur in secondary non-government schools and 45% in primary non-government schools. Similar to anticipated trends amongst school-aged children, most of this growth is set to occur within Sydney (see Figures 9 and 10). Areas outside of Sydney expected to see moderate increases in non-government students include Wollongong, Newcastle, Maitland and Cessnock (see Table 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Government Area</th>
<th>Primary Students</th>
<th>Secondary Students</th>
<th>Total Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wollongong</td>
<td>+ 800</td>
<td>+ 700</td>
<td>+ 1,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>+ 550</td>
<td>+ 400</td>
<td>+ 900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maitland</td>
<td>+ 500</td>
<td>+ 250</td>
<td>+ 700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cessnock</td>
<td>+ 350</td>
<td>+ 300</td>
<td>+ 650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Coast</td>
<td>+ 50</td>
<td>+ 450</td>
<td>+ 500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 9. NSW Primary Non-Government Student Change by LGA, 2017-2036
Figure 10. NSW Secondary Non-Government Student Change by LGA, 2017-2036
Sydney Non-Government Students

Current data reveals a marginally higher preference for non-government schooling amongst school-aged children living in Sydney compared to NSW as a whole (31% of primary students and 49% and secondary students). Assuming current sector preferences remain unchanged, the non-government school sector in Sydney will experience an increase of roughly 110,000 students by 2036. This change is higher than that compared to the state as a whole, as most regional areas outside of Sydney will see a decline in the number of non-government students over this period.

Table 3, Figure 11 and Figure 12 reveal the anticipated growth within Sydney will not be evenly spread across all local government areas [LGAs]. Interestingly, the top ten LGAs in NSW expected to experience the largest increases in resident non-government students over this period are all located in Sydney - combined they represent 88% of the state’s total growth by 2036 (see Table 3). Alternately, a small number of LGAs within Sydney, including Blue Mountains and Hunters Hill, will experience a decline in the number of resident non-government students within the next two decades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Government Area</th>
<th>Primary Students</th>
<th>Secondary Students</th>
<th>Total Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camden</td>
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<td>+ 9,550</td>
<td>+ 18,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacktown</td>
<td>+ 7,600</td>
<td>+ 9,200</td>
<td>+ 16,850</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>+ 5,750</td>
<td>+ 5,900</td>
<td>+ 11,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Hills Shire</td>
<td>+ 4,400</td>
<td>+ 5,800</td>
<td>+ 10,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parramatta</td>
<td>+ 3,900</td>
<td>+ 4,950</td>
<td>+ 8,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury-Bankstown</td>
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<td>+ 7,550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>+ 3,500</td>
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<td>+ 7,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penrith</td>
<td>+ 1,700</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbelltown</td>
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<td>+ 2,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryde</td>
<td>+ 1,200</td>
<td>+ 1,750</td>
<td>+ 2,950</td>
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Figure 11. Sydney Primary Non-Government Student Change by LGA, 2017-2036

Figure 12. Sydney Secondary Non-Government Student Change by LGA, 2017-2036
Sensitivity Analysis

Sensitivity analyses reveal the impact of a shift in sectoral preference among school-aged children, to the student projections. Tables 4 and 5 illustrate a 1, 3 and 5 percentage point increase (or decrease) to LGA non-government share, on the projected number of non-government students in NSW by 2036.

Assuming the non-government share increases by 5 percentage points, over 642,000 school-aged children would be attending a non-government school in NSW by 2036. This up from 462,000 students in 2017, or 566,000 students by 2036 in the 2019 Student by Area Projections. On the other hand, a 5 percentage point decrease in non-government share would result in 490,000 non-government students living in NSW by 2036. At the LGA level, a change non-government share would have the largest impact in Blacktown, Camden and Liverpool - as these areas are set to see the largest growth in school-aged residents by 2036.

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<th>SBA</th>
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<th>+3% Shift</th>
<th>+5% Shift</th>
<th>SBA</th>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>566,350</td>
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<td>611,900</td>
<td>642,250</td>
<td>104,350</td>
<td>119,500</td>
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## Revision History

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Welcome to Catholic Schools NSW

CSNSW takes a leadership role, coordinating and representing Catholic education in NSW at a state and national level.

Every child matters

Catholic schools educate one in five NSW students and employ more than 20,000 teaching and support staff.

Catholic schools are safe, supportive learning communities where the unique dignity of each child is respected, nurtured and valued.

Every child matters, and every teacher embraces the privilege and challenge of teaching in a Catholic school.
Wonder is the desire for knowledge

- St Thomas Aquinas