In 2020, new criteria will apply to the expenditure of NSW Government financial assistance by non-government schools. Schools will still complete a NSW Financial Accountability Certificate.

**Q1 What is the criteria for 2020?**

From 1 January 2020, schools must spend, or commit to spend, the funding in 2020 for providing school education, on any of the below Educational Purposes:

- teaching and ancillary staff salaries
- professional development
- curriculum development
- maintenance
- general operations
- expenditure on capital equipment
- expenditure on capital works for schools classified as having zero capacity to contribute

Financial accountability certifications will still need to be signed by ASIC registered auditors.

**Q4 What is capital equipment?**

Capital equipment generally includes items such as furniture, air-conditioning/heating units, computers, and other ICT technology.

**Q5 How does the change benefit schools?**

The new criteria will align with Commonwealth guidelines, enabling schools to spend State and Commonwealth Government funding under one set of rules.

Harmonising financial acquittal obligations will simplify the process for schools by reducing confusion between the use of funds for NSW Government Funding and Commonwealth Government Funding.

This change will reduce the administrative burden on schools, cut red tape and improve accountability.

**Q6 What criteria applies for 2019 NSW Government financial assistance?**

2019 NSW Government financial assistance must have been spent on providing school education, on any of the below Educational Purposes:

- teaching and ancillary staff salaries
- professional development
- curriculum development
- maintenance
- general operations

**Q2 What has changed?**

There are three changes to appropriate expenditure that will apply from 2020:

1. Recurrent funding is required to be spent, or committed to be spent, by 31 December of the calendar year in which the funding was received.
2. Schools can spend NSW recurrent funding on capital equipment.
3. Schools with a zero percent capacity to contribute to operational costs can spend government funding on capital projects.

Furthermore, in 2020 the school/school authority will also need to certify that 2019 funds have been spent on 2019 Educational Purposes.

**Q3 What criteria have stayed the same?**

The remaining categories of Educational Purposes will not change. They include:

- teaching and ancillary staff salaries