

# Criteria for expenditure of NSW funds for non-government schools

From 2020, new criteria applies 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 from 2020?

From 1 January 2020, schools must spend, or commit to spend, their funding 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.

## Q2 What is capital equipment?

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

## Q3 How does this benefit schools?

- The criteria **aligns with Commonwealth guidelines**, enabling schools to spend State and Commonwealth Government funding under one set of rules.
- Harmonising financial acquittal obligations simplifies the process for schools by **reducing confusion** between the use of funds for NSW Government Funding and Commonwealth Government Funding.
- This reduces the administrative burden on schools, cut red tape and improve accountability.

## History

### Q4 What has changed?

There were three changes to appropriate expenditure that have applied since 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**.

### Q5 What criteria stayed the same?

The remaining categories of Education Purposes have **not changed**. They include:

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

### Q6 What criteria applied for 2019 NSW Government financial assistance?

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

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