

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, 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.

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, cuts red tape and improves accountability.

History

Q4 What has changed?

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

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