Providing funding certainty in uncertain times

The Resource Allocation Model (RAM) 2022
Minister’s message

As we continue to build the best education system in Australia, our nationally recognised needs-based Resource Allocation Model provides funding certainty for NSW public schools.

NSW public schools are enjoying higher levels of funding and certainty than ever before, allowing them to better support students’ learning, wellbeing, and success.

The allocation of funding through the Resource Allocation Model (RAM) continues to ensure the best possible teaching and learning opportunities can be provided to directly benefit our 2022 student cohort.

The NSW Government is committed to a needs-based funding model, with every dollar enhanced through evidence-based guidance for all schools under the School Success Model.

In 2022, $1.34 billion will be delivered to schools through the seven RAM loadings: the four equity loadings (socio-economic background, Aboriginal background, low level adjustment for disability and English language proficiency), the initiative loading for professional learning, and the base loadings of location and per capita.

Schools are supported to use this funding in the most effective ways. A new evidence-based curriculum with specialised teacher support and training is in its first stages of implementation. Training programs and leadership development and recruitment initiatives are helping grow the expert workforce who deliver this content. And throughout, a focus on driving outcomes for students in ways that work for them, no matter their background.

Our funding methodologies continue to adapt to the needs of our students. This year we have refined the methodology for the English language proficiency equity loading to provide a higher level of support for students with the greatest English language learning needs.

We will continue to simplify school budgeting processes and enhance planning, monitoring and reporting tools for schools to reduce time spent on administrative tasks, while strengthening support for a state wide focus on teaching and learning.

Our investment in school improvement will also continue in 2022, with clearer support for schools, system wide accountability within a refined framework, and renewed support resources provided to school leaders to effectively link funding to the achievement of targets in school Strategic Improvement Plans.

The NSW Government is committed to making our education system the best in Australia and one of the finest in the world. Through our ongoing commitment to needs-based funding and evidence-based system wide improvements, and our work with school leaders, we are ensuring our students are engaged and challenged to learn and thrive.

Sarah Mitchell
The Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning
October 2021
Alignment of key reforms

The NSW Department of Education has aligned key reforms, simplified processes and provided tiered support to drive improved school and student outcomes. The School Success Model, the School Excellence Framework, school Strategic Improvement Plans (SIP) and the Resource Allocation Model (RAM) funding model balance strong support for school leaders with evidence-based guidance and innovative, considered plans for student success. Together, they will help ensure every student, leader, teacher and school improves every year.

Our school leaders are committed to their schools’ long-term improvement and the success of their students. The RAM ensures the equitable distribution of needs-based funding to schools, with school leaders playing a critical role in the implementation of rigorous, evidence-based plans using their RAM funding to improve student outcomes.

Improving student outcomes sits at the heart of the NSW education system.

School Success Model

Agility in funding schools

The RAM adapts to changing student needs, allowing us to refine funding and ensure it is directed where it is needed most.

In response to changing school and student needs, in 2022 we have:

- strengthened our investment in literacy and numeracy, beginning the roll out of dedicated school leadership positions focused on improving foundational literacy and numeracy in children and young people
- refined the methodology for the English language proficiency equity loading, delivering more support for refugee students and those with the greatest English language learning needs
- delivered more allocations through the 2022 School Budget Allocation Report, reducing the time schools spend on administrative tasks and strengthening the state-wide focus on teaching and learning.

Needs-based funding and the RAM

The RAM recognises that no two schools are the same. Funding is allocated based on the identified needs of schools and their students through the seven RAM loadings.

This needs-based funding model uses school and student data to ensure funding is delivered where it is needed most. Funding is provided to lift the results of students who are facing educational disadvantage and close the gap between the least and most disadvantaged students.
Targeted funding

The RAM delivers targeted funding to provide personalised learning and support for students with identified learning needs. Targeted funding for eligible students includes:

- students from refugee backgrounds who have been enrolled in an Australian school for less than three years
- newly arrived English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D) students at the beginning and emerging phases of English language proficiency
- students with confirmed disability in mainstream classes who require moderate to high levels of adjustment.

Equity loadings

Needs-based equity loadings are provided to schools to meet the additional learning needs of disadvantaged students and reduce the impact of disadvantage on student outcomes.

- The socio-economic background equity loading supports the additional learning needs of students from low socio-economic backgrounds.
- The Aboriginal background equity loading is provided to meet the specific learning needs of Aboriginal students.
- The English language proficiency equity loading provides support for students at all four phases of English language learning – beginning, emerging, developing and consolidating.
- The low level adjustment for disability equity loading supports students in mainstream classes who have disability and additional learning and support needs requiring an adjustment to their learning.

Base school allocation

The base school allocation provides funding for the core cost of educating each student and operating a school. It includes staffing and operational funding, site specific allocations and initiative funding to support identified needs.
RAM funding and improved student outcomes

The School Success Model focuses on system wide improvement and shared accountability for improving student outcomes and lifting capacity. It provides high quality, evidence-led support that is tailored to the needs of each school.

School and student improvement is a continuous process underpinned by the School Excellence cycle, providing school leaders with tools to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate strategies to drive improved student outcomes.

The delivery of RAM funding to schools allows school leaders to make choices about the best ways to improve the learning outcomes of their students. Principals consider the specific needs and circumstance of their students and their schools to make evidence-based decisions about what will work best in their local context.

Funding delivered through the RAM must be effectively aligned to the initiatives in each school’s Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP). The SIP identifies how school funding and resources will be used to achieve maximum impact on the outcomes of their students and support continuous school improvement.

Accountability for the effective use of the funds to improve student learning occurs through each school’s annual report.

Supporting schools to use RAM funding effectively

For more information about using school funds, examples of effective practice and support for schools, visit the Schools Funding, School Excellence in Action and the School Success Model pages of the department’s website. Principals and school leaders can access targeted and universal support through specific links on these pages.

In schools that excel, resources are strategically used to achieve high quality service delivery and improved student outcomes.

The School Excellence Framework
We acknowledge the homelands of all Aboriginal people and pay our respect to Country.

Say hello

- @NSWDepartmentofEducation
- @NSWEducation
- @NSWEducation
- education.nsw.gov.au

GPO Box 33
Sydney NSW 2001
Phone: 1300 679 332
NSW Department of Education