

New South Wales Government Schools

Jurisdiction-specific comments

Recurrent Income:

- The financial information represents the total 2024 net recurrent income of NSW government schools prepared according to ACARA's My School Financial Reporting Key Principles and Methodology. As per ACARA's guidelines, the net recurrent income includes the notional income* from the Australian Government and State Government and the actual income from schools' own sources**, excluding income allocated to capital projects.
**expenditure has been treated as a proxy for government sourced recurrent income in NSW*
***reported as "Fees, charges and parent contributions" and "Other private sources"*
- The school level notional income is estimated by using information from multiple sources such as payroll systems, school annual reports, and business units' sub-systems (e.g. school cleaning and maintenance systems).
- Education support (corporate) staff salaries, school support services, and administration costs are centrally funded and managed by the department on behalf of schools, instead of being reflected as school-level costs in the financial systems.
- An apportionment methodology has been used to attribute recurrent income that could not be assigned to individual schools, e.g. costs noted in the point above.
- Recurrent income includes the funding of specialist units attached to a host school, such as Intensive English Centres.
- Recurrent income includes schools' employee related on costs based on a fixed rate rather than actual amounts.
- For a relatively small component, budgeted amounts, instead of actual amounts, are used to identify school level notional income due to the limited visibility of school level data from the financial system.
- Special funding arrangements may exist for certain schools and may vary between years; therefore, any comparisons with other schools should take this into consideration.
- With the increasing need for Before and After School Care (BASC), and the expansion of eligibility to pre-school aged children, the department has assessed the current nature of BASC and decided to exclude BASC costs from the 2024 My School finance data submission onwards.
- School transport (to and from school) is a specified accounting exclusion in ACARA's My School Financial Reporting Key Principles and Methodology. In 2024, a relatively small portion of school transport related costs were newly identified: the costs of support officers and program overheads for the Assisted School Travel Program. For completeness, the department has decided to exclude these costs from the 2024 My School finance data submission onwards.
- The department's Annual Financial Statements (AFS) are a key input to the My School Finance data. The audited AFS may include retrospective restatements arising from prior period errors or other factors, such as changes required by accounting standards. In such cases, NSW undertakes impact analysis on My School line items at the aggregate level and reported amounts may be revised if practicable

and the impact is material, in consultation with ACARA's My School finance assurance provider.

School Own Sourced Income:

- Schools receive income from fees, charges, parents' contributions, and other private sources, such as donations, fundraising and sponsorships. School own sourced income tends to fluctuate from year to year and is influenced by a variety of factors (e.g. special activities and general economic conditions).
- Reported school own sourced income may include an immaterial element of capital income as there is limited visibility of how much school own sourced income has been used to fund capital expenditure at the school level.

Capital Expenditure:

- Capital programs are managed centrally. The majority of capital expenditures are traced to specific schools via source system data. There is an apportionment of expenditures which are not school-specific and expenditures which cannot be assigned to individual schools.
- Some capital expenditure is reported based on budget allocation instead of actual spending due to the limited visibility of school level data from the financial system.

School Status:

- From time to time, schools in the NSW jurisdiction may undergo lifecycle transition, e.g. a school may be divided into two separate schools. Data is re-mapped where required and any comparisons between years will therefore be affected.