

*All Australian students are entitled to a well funded, world-class education.*

The Australian non-government school system reflects the diverse range of cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds of Australian society, with almost 50% of students attending a non-government school during their school years.

In relation to the funding of school education in Australia, the Independent Education Union supports a funding regime for schooling that provides for transparency, accountability, certainty and adequacy.

The IEU notes that there is an absence of policy cohesion between federal and state/territory governments in relation to the principles governing the funding of schools.

In the context of the school funding review, the IEU believes that the following principles should underpin a fair and transparent funding policy for schools:

- A national benchmark standard for schools be derived which indicates the resources needed to provide for the educational needs of every Australian student.
- Public resourcing of schools to the benchmark needed to provide quality education for every student.
- Funding be automatically indexed annually using the AGSRC supplementation regime.
- Both non-government and government schools to be publicly accountable on the same basis and to be funded by government on the basis of need, with reference to the national resources standard.
- Development of clear principles to bring the differential funding from state and federal sources into a consistent framework. This would enable public discussion of funding realities to take account of all sources of funding for government and non-government schools.
- Every jurisdiction has a responsibility to provide a world-class education. State and territory governments should fund nongovernment schools at a minimum benchmark of 25% of the equivalent average cost to the state of educating a student in a Government school.
- The requirement that equity measures target extra funding across all schools where relevant student and/or school needs are identified.

The IEU believes that the current school funding review initiated by the federal government provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to get a fair share of government funding to ensure both a quality education for students and appropriate industrial conditions for staff in non-government schools.

School funding should ensure that there is opportunity for all Australian families to access the high quality and diverse non-government school system.