
Appendix six – Relevant funding for NSW public schools

The Department allocates specific funding to all NSW public schools for supporting students with disability. In the audit review period (2018–2023), relevant resourcing comprised three types of support (together referred to as the ‘resource allocation model’ or RAM):

- **Universal** through base school allocations. Base school allocations fund the core cost of educating students and operating schools, including staffing and school operational funding. This funding is driven by enrolled student numbers and class sizes. Generally, schools are funded at a level of 1.084 full time equivalent hours in teaching staff per class at primary schools and Schools for Specific Purposes, and 1.4 full time equivalent hours per class at secondary schools.
- **Equity loadings** provided on top of the base school allocation to support additional student need including socio-economic disadvantage, low English language proficiency, Aboriginal status and disability.
 - The ‘low level adjustment for disability’ loading is an allocation of some staffing time and some flexible funding to all mainstream schools to support students with disability, regardless of diagnoses.
 - Schools for Specific Purposes do not receive the low level adjustment for disability loading, but receive other equity loadings.
- **Targeted supports** – in relation to students with disability, this includes funding and supports sought by application by schools for students who have a formal diagnosis and are eligible for:
 - Integration funding support to assist students who are enrolled in a mainstream class and have moderate to high support needs
 - placement in support classes in mainstream schools or in Schools for Specific Purposes
 - itinerant sensory support (visiting teachers specialising in hearing or vision supporting students who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing and/or are blind or have low vision)
 - distance education delivery and/or
 - early intervention at preschool in the year before starting kindergarten.

These three types of funding support are not required to be used by schools on physical adjustments necessary to accommodate a student with disability in a school. Instead, School Infrastructure NSW in the Department makes modifications to school assets that are needed for a student with disability to attend school (see section 3.2).

The total amount of RAM funding allocated to each public school each year is published by the Department.