

| NSW Department of Education

Menu



Education



Education

## SBAR essential updates

The 2023 School Budget Allocation Report (SBAR) essential updates highlights new and notable changes to the SBAR and the implications for school planning, budgeting and reporting.

### Release time for new curriculum implementation

Every NSW teacher will be guaranteed release time to engage with and implement the new curriculum for Kindergarten to Year 10.

Implementation year	2023	2024	2025
Primary	30 minutes per week	60 minutes per week	60 minutes per week
Secondary	30 minutes per week	30 minutes per week	30 minutes per week

Phased release time for primary and secondary teachers\*

\* curriculum implementation release time must be made available to all teachers regularly, with no less than 5 hours per term.

Primary school executive will receive funded additional release time from 2023 for the period of curriculum reform, matching the timetabled load for secondary school executive staff. Schools will receive related budget adjustments in Term 1 2023.

Many schools already provide release time to teachers above current entitlement and meet this cost from existing resources. Schools that incur additional costs providing teacher release time are required to use existing SBAR funding such as:

- per capita
- quality teaching, successful students (QTSS)
- professional learning allocations
- unspent carry forward funds.

A small number of schools may require additional funding to deliver this release time and the department will work to support these schools on a case-by-case basis as part of the 2023 SBAR Adjustments process.

For educational resources and guidance to help schools implement the new curriculum, see the [NSW curriculum reform](#) page.

## **COVID Intensive Learning Support Program**

Evidence and early evaluation findings indicate that the small group tuition implemented by schools as part of the COVID Intensive Learning Support Program (ILSP) improved student confidence and engagement in learning. Schools are also reporting learning gains for targeted students. With these successes, and school enthusiasm to continue small group tuition, the program has been extended into 2023.

A scaled-down Semester One funding allocation to support this evidence-informed model will be centrally provided for 6 months. Advice on your school's allocation is now available and can be viewed in the [COVID ILSP/ISGT allocation report](#). Allocations will be delivered to schools in Term 4 2022 as a budget adjustment. Unspent COVID ILSP funds held by schools in 2022 will not be rolled over to 2023.

Schools are expected to continue the program for the full year using flexible SBAR funding such as socio-economic background, Aboriginal background and low level adjustment for disability equity loadings or available carry forward funds.

## **Simplified school budgets**

A streamlined budgeting process for schools through the Simplifying School Budgets initiative and the Carry Forward Policy enables greater focus on activities that will drive the greatest impacts on student improvement, ensuring the needs of students are central to decision making.

The 2023 SBAR staffing allocation continues to show both dollars and FTE.

New guidance for the use of the FTE staff entitlement is as follows.

- Schools are provided a staffing entitlement (teaching and non-teaching) to meet the operational needs of the school. The provision of staffing entitlement as FTE supports workforce planning and staff engagement. It maximises the use of permanent staff to meet student needs, including planned release and leave cover. The first priority should always be to engage staff against entitlement and to meet the core resourcing to operate the school.
- Schools must fill their teaching entitlement positions with a permanent teacher in accordance with the Staffing Agreement 2021-2023, unless the specific circumstances described in Clause 2 of the Agreement apply. Where applicable, principals may also consider options available to vary the mix of staff within school entitlement in line with the Determining the Mix of Staff in NSW Public Schools Procedure.
- Casual teacher engagement under this model is mixed and contingent upon the role they are fulfilling (see the Staffing Agreement 2021-2023). In Term 1 2023, both staff entitlement FTE usage and flexible funding expenditure will be monitored.
- As a result of Simplifying School Budgets, schools will have more visibility over the funding available for them to spend when planning their 2023 budget in eFPT, with flexible funding reported in dollars and entitlement staffing now reported in FTE values only.
- When planning entitlement staffing, schools should focus on filling positions with ongoing staff where possible, followed by temporary engagements to fill the gaps. This will streamline and simplify workforce planning.

2023 is the third year of the Carry Forward transition period and schools are reminded that each year's SBAR allocation is intended to be spent in full on the students of that year, as are any approved carry forward amounts from 2022.

Schools that still have accumulated funds from their original 2020 balance are to plan to spend 75% by end of 2023 with the full amount being exhausted by the end of 2024.

The auto-carry forward component for 2023 has reduced to 2% of operating budget, defined as 2023 SBAR Adjustments minus staffing (base, targeted and other staffing).

To assist schools to meet the learning needs of their students, principals may:

- consider combining vacant entitlement for temporary engagements, such as quality teaching, successful students (QTSS) or smaller school staffing supplementation
- consider engaging temporary staff against flexible funding delivered for staffing purposes, such as:
  - sick and FACS leave model (SFLM)
  - teaching principals relief
  - schools for specific purposes (SSP) supplementary funding
  - low level adjustment for disability flexible funding
  - integration funding support
- vary the mix of staff using vacant or held entitlement positions. The Determining the Mix of Staff in NSW Public Schools Procedure outlines the principles and processes that apply to school-created staffing positions, and can be found under School-created staffing positions on the department's [Human Resources website](#).

More information on simpler school budgeting can be found on the [Simplifying School Budgets webpage](#). For support planning entitlement staff in the eFPT, please refer to the self-service resources [Create your plan in eFPT](#) and the [eFPT Staff Planning page](#).

## [New methodology for the low level adjustment for disability equity loading](#)

In 2023 there is increased support for students with additional learning and support needs through improved funding allocation methodology, using data from the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on Students with Disability (NCCD).

The new methodology will fund an additional 188 FTE learning and support positions. The allocation of the learning and support teacher staffing component of the loading has also been refined and improved. Learning and support teacher allocations will continue in a 3-year cycle.

The new methodology for the flexible funding component of the low level adjustment for disability equity loading will be phased in over 2 years.

Under the new methodology, most mainstream schools will receive an increase in total funding for the low level adjustment for disability equity loading.

Schools whose allocation is reduced under the new methodology will receive a one-off transition payment for the 2023 school year to support them to adjust to these changes. The transition payment, where applicable, will be identified on the low level adjustment for disability page of the SBAR.

For more information about the methodology changes, go to the [low level adjustment for disability](#) page on the SBAR resource hub.

## [Literacy and numeracy initiative](#)

2023 is the second year of the phased rollout of the new entitlement allocation for an Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction, supporting improved student literacy and numeracy learning outcomes in schools with Preschool to Year 6 enrolments.

Schools in phases 1 and 2 received their Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction allocation in 2022. These schools may also receive flexible funding under the literacy and numeracy initiative for 2022 and 2023 as part of a moderation strategy. This flexible funding will be phased out after 2023.

Schools in phase 3 will receive their Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction allocation commencing in January 2023.

Schools can see their Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction entitlement on the staffing allocation page of the SBAR Scout report.

## Quality time

A 1.75% increase to the school operational funding rates has been provided to enhance operations in schools, contributing to the quality time initiative. This increase addresses the need, as raised by our school stakeholders, to transition to the **Administration Marketplace Panel for Schools (AMPS)**. The AMPS has been specifically designed to provide functionality to schools, to effectively and efficiently manage student administration and finance processes.

## Sick and FACS Leave Model (SFLM) fact sheet

Your school's Sick and FACS Leave Model (SFLM) fact sheet is now electronic and can be accessed from the staff allocation page of your SBAR. The fact sheet provides detailed advice on how your school's SFLM budget was calculated, including differentiation between teaching and non-teaching staff.

## Staffing maintenance

Staff entitlement for disaster supplementation including drought, fire and flood impacted schools has been maintained until the end of 2023, totalling \$96.8M. Disaster supplementation is identified on the school enrolment and entitlement report.

Staff maintenance for seven Intensive English Centres (IECs) has also been maintained, totalling \$3.2M.

## Allocations to be updated (not included in the 2023 SBAR)

- Primary executive release (curriculum reform teacher release) will be allocated in Term 1 2023.
- Professional experience hub school will be updated in the 2023 SBAR Adjustments.
- Rural experience program will be updated in the 2023 SBAR Adjustments.
- National school chaplaincy program will be allocated via a budget adjustment in 2023.
- External validation - teaching principals support will be updated in the 2023 SBAR Adjustments.

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**This information is current as at "28/10/2022 5:51:07 PM", Australian Eastern Time. For the most up-to-date information, go to <https://education.nsw.gov.au/strategic-schools-resourcing/sbar-resource-hub/sbar-updates>**

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