



6 February 2024

The Hon. Anthony Albanese  
Prime Minister  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

Parents, teachers and principals have always maintained a commitment to the highest quality education for all students attending public schools in NSW.

We note your government's strong statements about the importance of public education and its critical role in realising the learning potential of all students.

Unfortunately, the current funding negotiations to date fall short of what is needed for all children to achieve the education they deserve. All things being equal, NSW public schools will only receive 89 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard, the minimum level of funding needed to properly attend to the learning needs of all students.

That equates to a \$1.9 billion shortfall.

This gap is unconscionable. Plugging it would transform lives for generations. It would mean more permanent teachers, allowing smaller class sizes, and more one-on-one time for students with complex needs.

The proposed state-federal funding agreement rejected by NSW and other states falls billions of dollars short of the needs-based funding target devised under the 2012 Gonski reforms.

Premier Chris Minns and Deputy Premier and Education Minister Prue Car are determined to fully fund NSW public schools. The salary agreement they recently struck was a critical step to ending the teacher shortage.

We wholeheartedly support their position that the Commonwealth must do more when it comes to meeting the level of funding needed to properly attend to the learning needs of all students.

This should not be viewed as a cost to the federal budget. It is an important investment opportunity which will make your home state of NSW a fairer and more prosperous place.

Giving all children the start they deserve will allow them to make the most of their potential and contribute to their community and the nation.

We are also calling on you to remove the funding loophole created by the Morrison Government that further short-changed NSW children.

The loophole allows the artificial inflation of the SRS by including costs not directly related to the learning needs of students such as capital depreciation and regulatory costs.

In NSW public schools in 2023 this equated to \$640 million being diverted away from public students' learning in order to inflate the state's overall SRS share.

NSW public schools deserve no less than the genuine 100 per cent of the SRS. It is therefore necessary for the Federal Government to increase their share of the SRS to 25 per cent no later than 2028.

The future of NSW public education is too important to miss this incredible opportunity to invest in our children.

Yours sincerely



**Yvonne Hilsz**  
President  
Federation of Parents &  
Citizens Association of NSW



**Robyn Evans**  
President  
NSW Primary  
Principals Association



**Craig Petersen**  
President  
NSW Secondary  
Principals Council



**Henry Rajendra**  
President  
NSW Teachers Federation