NSW Department of Education and Training

Fast facts – schools

Budget 10/11

$14.4 billion for education and training for 2010/11.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Maintenance (included in recurrent)</th>
<th>Total recurrent</th>
<th>Total Capital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Schools</td>
<td>$270.7 million</td>
<td>$ 9.296 billion</td>
<td>$ 1.913 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAFE</td>
<td>$38.6 million</td>
<td>$ 1.813 billion</td>
<td>$ 114.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VET Grants</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$ 289 million</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Studies</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$ 112.8 million</td>
<td>$ 0.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non government</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$ 874.2 million</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>schools</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Number of Government Schools/enrolments by type

Over 736,000 students were educated at more than 2,200 government schools in 2009.

- Over 220,000 students with Language Background other than English (28.8% of students).
- More than 40,000 Indigenous students.
- More than 33,000 students with a disability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of schools</th>
<th>2009 Enrolments (FTE)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary &amp; Infants Schools</td>
<td>1,629</td>
<td>421,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Community Schools</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>16,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Schools</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>294,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools for Specific Purpose</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>4,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Ed Centre</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,230</td>
<td>736,647</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Staffing

As at June 2009 there were 96,221 full time equivalent casual, temporary and permanent staff in the Department (source: Workforce Profile, 30 June 2009).

In June 2009 there were around:

- 49,000 permanent school teachers
- 10,600 TAFE teachers
- 16,600 support staff in schools
- 3,800 support staff in TAFE.

Over 30,000 teachers are registered as seeking employment with the Department as at 10 May 2010. Note that these teachers may be casual or temporary teachers seeking permanent appointment.

95% of staff are providing frontline services.

The Teaching Service Act 1980 enables qualified teachers from outside the NSW Education Teaching Service to apply on merit for appointment to senior positions.

Aboriginal appointments

Since the commencement of the 2004/2005 staffing operation on 27 April 2004 to 3 May 2010, 385 Aboriginal teachers have been permanently appointed to vacant positions, including 76 teachers appointed in the 2009/2010 staffing operation.

The support program for these teachers includes an orientation resource package, mentoring, regional workshops and networks, and personalised support through regular telephone and email contact from Aboriginal Project Officers in the Department's Human Resources Directorate.

Casual Direct

Over 37,000 teachers (as at 10 May 2010) are registered for employment on Casual.Direct - a booking service matching casual teachers with schools who need relief staff. Casual.Direct has successfully resolved over 168,000 requests for casual placements from schools since 2002 with an overall success rate of 92%.

Class size reduction program

By the end of 2007, the Class Size Reduction Program delivered more than 1,800 teachers to more than 650 classrooms in NSW primary schools.
Class sizes have been reduced below the state wide average targets set for 2007. These were:

- 20 for Kindergarten students;
- 22 for Year 1 students; and
- 24 for Year 2 students.

The commitment included approximately $603 million in recurrent expenditure and $107 million for capital works, a total of $710 million over four years from 2004.

**Student achievements**

A 2005 article 'State differences in achievement among secondary school students in Australia' in the Australian Journal of Education (volume 49, no 2, 2005) by Gary Marks from the University of Melbourne and John Cresswell from the OECD find clear evidence that 15 year olds in NSW consistently outperform students in the other states and territories.

'generally, student achievement in reading, mathematics and science are higher in New South Wales than the other states, once demographic and grade differences are taken into account'.

**Science**

The results of the second national science literacy test (2006) released on 21 November 2008 show NSW Year 6 students are among the best in Australia in science literacy.

57.4% of NSW students achieved the challenging "proficiency" standard of Level 3.2 or above compared with the national achievement level of 54.3%.

NSW ranked behind the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria but statistically, the differences in performance were not likely to be significant.

NSW had the largest proportion of students working at the highest proficiency level of Level 4 or above.

**TIMSS**

In the latest Trends in Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS 2007) NSW ranked strongly in both science and mathematics at Years 4 and 8. Only Singapore performed significantly better than NSW in science in Year 8. Only Singapore and Chinese Taipei performed significantly better than NSW in science in Year 4.

In Year 4 mathematics and science and Year 8 science, New South Wales scored significantly higher than the TIMSS scale average. In mathematics, Year 4 students in New South Wales performed better than students in all other states.
PISA

NSW 15 year olds rank amongst the best in the world in literacy, according to the latest (2006) OECD’s Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). Only Finland significantly did better than NSW across all three areas tested: (mathematical literacy, reading literacy and scientific literacy).

According to the OECD, NSW 15 year olds have better reading literacy skills than students in France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway and the United Kingdom.

The NSW average exceeded the outstanding results achieved by the nation as a whole in PISA 2006.

Civics and Citizenship

The results of the second national Civics and Citizenship test (2007) released on 18 February 2009 show NSW students out-performed students from all other States. Students in Year 6 and Year 10 had the highest average scores of 432.4 and 529.0 respectively.

NSW also had the highest number of students achieving the proficiency standard in both years. 64.2% of NSW Year 6 students achieved the challenging proficiency standard of Level 2 or above, well above the national average of 53.4%.

More than half (52.2%) of NSW Year 10 students achieved the challenging proficiency standard of Level 3 or above, well above the national average of 41.5%.

The proficiency standard is a challenging level of performance based on what students with a sound grasp of the subject matter should know and be able to do by the end of Year 6 and Year 10. It differs from the minimum standards for literacy and numeracy, where the focus is on identifying the minimum skills and knowledge students would be expected to demonstrate to progress to the next level of their schooling.