The Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth today announced that another 22 NSW public schools would become Centres for Excellence to improve the quality of teaching in schools.

Ms Firth said the schools would receive additional resources including a Highly Accomplished Teacher and start up funding under the joint Commonwealth and State National Partnerships Program.

“Under National Partnerships more than a billion dollars in new Commonwealth and State funding is flowing into NSW schools over the next five years for initiatives inside the classroom.

“These schools have been selected because they are consistently achieving strong results which are an indication of high quality teaching.

“Each Centre will form the hub for a cluster of schools which will eventually extend the benefits to a further 200 classrooms across the state through Connected Classroom Technology.

“It’s a great opportunity for our future teachers to observe high quality teaching first-hand.”

Centres for Excellence would also establish university partnerships which would allow universities to send student teachers to the school for a range of activities as well as the traditional internships.

“Teacher quality is widely recognised as the single greatest in-school influence on student engagement and outcomes,” Ms Firth said.

“We will place at least one Highly Accomplished Teacher into each Centre for Excellence, that is, a teacher who has reached a high level of professional accreditation from the NSW Institute of Teachers.

“Highly Accomplished Teachers have been selected not only on their own teaching ability, but also because they have demonstrated an ability to broaden and strengthen the teaching skills of their colleagues.

“These additional schools will join the first round of 13 Centres for Excellence that were established at the start of the year. National Partnerships continues to deliver substantial new funding to schools in need, with a particular focus on ensuring quality teaching in every classroom,” Ms Firth said.

“The first tranche of Centres for Excellence are consistently achieving strong results so I am very pleased to announce the expansion of this initiative.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
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| Hunter Central Coast | Heaton Public School  
Tighes Hill Public School |
| Illawarra South East | Keiraville Public School  
Narooma High School  
Bega High School |
| New England          | Wariialda High School  
Quirindi High School |
| North Coast          | Gulmarrad Public School  
Chatham High School  
Coffs Harbour Senior College |
| Riverina             | Narrandera High School  
Barellan Central School |
| South Western Sydney | Bonnyrigg Heights Public School  
Bankstown Girls High School  
Homebush West Public School  
Burwood Public School  
Beverly Hills Girls High School |
| Sydney               | Leichhardt Campus - Sydney Secondary College |
| Western NSW          | Blayney High School  
Coonabarabran High School |
| Western Sydney       | Colyton Public School  
Westmead Public School |