



3 November 2023

Chair and Members
Education, Employment and Training Committee
Via email: eetc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Education, Employment and Training Committee Chair and Members,

Please see below a response to the question taken on notice regarding Investing for Success funding.

Mr BOOTHMAN: ...just say a school in a leafier suburb, just for I4S funding purposes, could be getting \$419 per student and so you have a higher ICSEA number, say an ICSEA number of 1136, and you have another school in definitely a more working-class area which is 1027 and they are only getting \$299 per student. What are your thoughts on that?

From my understanding, the amount of Investing for Success Funding that each school receives is based on:

- The profile of individual students at a particular school.
- Historical calculations of Great Results Guarantee initiative funding.

Without knowing the student profile of each of the schools mentioned, it's difficult to determine why one school might get more or less than another. However, Question on Notice 557 indicates that Coorparoo State School is receiving an additional loading 'top-up payment' as a result of historical calculations.

I note that the 2018 Queensland Audit Office review of Investing for Success¹ noted that:

"The model now has a much higher correlation to potential educational disadvantage than the earlier models because it focuses less attention on meeting national minimum standards and more on addressing disadvantage."

The Queensland Audit Office also noted that:

"Top-up payments have undermined the purpose and equity of the allocation model and meant that two schools with similar student populations and community contexts may have received different allocations".

¹ QAO, 2018,
https://www.qao.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/reports/investing_for_success_report_to_parliament_-_proposed_report_v1.pdf

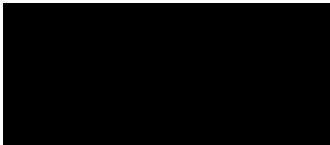
The limitations of Investing for Success and any other needs-based loadings, ultimately rests on the fact that overall, Queensland state schools are underfunded. The Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) calculates the amount of funding required to ensure 80% of students at a given school meet minimum NAPLAN standards for reading and numeracy. Queensland state schools, as a whole, receive just 85% of SRS in recurrent funding. All aspects of the SRS are underfunded, including loadings for disabled, low English proficiency, low socio-educational background, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. This means that underfunding is especially detrimental to disadvantaged students who not only receive less than the minimum educational resources required by any student, but also do not receive full funding for the additional resources needed to ameliorate intergenerational and acute disadvantage.

Investing for Success ostensibly provides funding to improve student results with some weighting in its funding formula to address specific disadvantages. However, this funding is insufficient to mitigate against or overcome systemic underfunding.

Using 2021 finance data obtained from the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, and assuming that a 15% deficit in recurrent SRS school funding to state schools applies equally across schools, the approximate funding shortfall for each school is:

- Coorparoo State School - \$1.9 million
- Park Lake State School - \$2.4 million

Kind regards,



Amy MacMahon
Member for South Brisbane