

Question on Notice
No. 826
Asked on 19 November 2013

Mr Dowling asked the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (MR LANGBROEK)

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QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise if there is any plan or strategy in place to ensure that non-government schools receive equal funding per student in the future?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

Both the Queensland and Australian Governments support the State's autonomy to innovate and achieve better education outcomes.

I have continued to advocate strongly for the best interests of all Queensland schools and families to ensure funding certainty over the next four years, while also cutting the strings to reduce red tape for teachers and schools.

All eligible non-state schools receive a unique per student recurrent rate of funding for each enrolled primary and secondary student.

These rates, which are used to determine the school's proportion of the State's general recurrent grant, are made up of two components—a base component common to all schools and a needs-based component based on the specific needs profile of each school.

The needs-based funding component is based on a number of factors including the socio-economic status index, the school resource index, school isolation index and student needs categories comprising the number of students with disabilities, Indigenous students, students with English as a second language, isolated students and students in receipt of boarding fee concessions.

The needs component of the recurrent rates ensures that each school's primary and secondary rate of per student funding for each calendar year is representative of the school's specific and unique needs profile.

This approach to calculating recurrent funding ensures that schools with a greater need receive a greater share of the recurrent grant on a per student basis.