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# How is school funding indexed?

## School funding – the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS)

Commonwealth funding for schools is needs-based and is calculated with reference to the [Schooling Resource Standard (SRS)](https://www.education.gov.au/recurrent-funding-schools/schooling-resource-standard). The SRS is an estimate of how much total public funding a school needs to meet its students’ educational needs.

The SRS is made up of a base amount for all primary and secondary students and up to 6 needs-based loadings for student priority cohorts and disadvantaged schools.

The base amount and all the loadings are indexed each year to reflect changes in prices and therefore costs faced by schools.

## How is indexation calculated and applied?

The base amount, and all the loadings except for the school size loading, are worked out by reference to an amount per primary and secondary student called the SRS funding amount.[[1]](#footnote-2) The school size loading is worked out by reference to maximum size loading amounts and starting amounts.

For 2018, the SRS funding amounts, maximum size loading amounts and starting amounts are prescribed in the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act).[[2]](#footnote-3)

From 2019, these SRS funding amounts, maximum size loading amounts and the starting amounts are indexed annually by either:

* a rate calculated as the higher of:
  1. 3 per cent, or
  2. a percentage derived from 75 per cent of the change of the Wage Price Index (WPI) and 25 per cent of the change of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), or
* a rate prescribed by the Minister for Education.

This approach provides a minimum indexation rate and certainty for schools, while ensuring that funding reflects changes in wages and other costs. Indexation is weighted towards changes in wage costs reflecting that teachers’ and staff salaries are a significant driver of schools' costs.

## Final indexation rates and SRS funding amounts

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** |
| **SRS funding amount for a primary student** | 10,953 | 11,343 | 11,747 | 12,099 | 12,522 | 13,048 | 13,570 | 13,991 |
| **SRS funding amount for a secondary student** | 13,764 | 14,254 | 14,761 | 15,204 | 15,736 | 16,397 | 17,053 | 17,582 |
| **Indexation rate** | N/A[[3]](#footnote-4) | 3.56% | 3.56% | 3.0% | 3.5% | 4.2% | 4.0% | 3.1% |
| **Basis of indexation rate** | N/A | Prescribed rate | Prescribed rate | Minimum legislated rate | CPI and WPI derived factor | CPI and WPI derived factor | CPI and WPI derived factor | CPI and WPI derived factor |

Source: Australian Government Department of Education

The final indexation rate for each year will be available around August, after the Australian Bureau of Statistics publishes the June quarter CPI and WPI.

The final indexation rate for 2026 is expected to be available after August 19, 2026.

## Estimated indexation rates and SRS funding amounts

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2026** | **2027** | **2028** | **2029** |
| **SRS funding amount for a primary student** | 14,439 | 14,887 | 15,378 | 15,901 |
| **SRS funding amount for a secondary student** | 18,145 | 18,707 | 19,324 | 19,981 |
| **Indexation rate** | 3.2% | 3.1% | 3.3% | 3.4% |
| **Basis of indexation rate** | Estimated based on Budget  2025-26 | Estimated based on Budget  2025-26 | Estimated based on Budget  2025-26 | Estimated based on Budget  2025-26 |

Source: Australian Government Department of Education

Estimated indexation rates for 2026 to 2029 take into consideration the latest available Budget and Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) projections. Published estimates may not be reflected in the latest payment calculations for schools due to the timing of these releases and payment schedules.

Estimated indexation rates for 2026 to 2029 will be next updated with CPI and WPI projections from MYEFO 2025-26, expected to be released in late 2025.

1. Section 31 of the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Section 34, 44 and 49 of the Act. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. In 2018, the SRS funding amounts were prescribed in section 34 of the Act. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)