# Schools Upgrade Fund Round 2 Frequently asked questions

Government schools across Australia can now apply for funding under Round 2 of the Australian Government's Schools Upgrade Fund.

Round 2 will provide $215.8 million for larger scale capital projects such as new classrooms, outdoor learning facilities or other major refurbishments and upgrades. Projects must be of at least $250,000 in value.

## Where can I find the application form?

The application form can be found on the Schools Upgrade Fund website.

## What date does the application process open and close?

Online applications open Tuesday 31 October 2023 and close at 11.59 pm AEDT on Thursday 29 February 2024.

## Is there anything I should consider before I start my application form?

Schools are encouraged to engage with their relevant state or territory education department early to seek their assistance with project scoping and costing.

Schools must have the support of their relevant state or territory education department when they submit their application for funding under Round 2.  Schools can find contact details for their state or territory education department and other relevant information at Jurisdiction contact information.

## Our school was successful in receiving funding under Round 1 of the Schools Upgrade Fund. Can we apply for funding under Round 2?

Yes, schools that received funding through Round 1 of the Schools Upgrade Fund – the Targeted Round or the Open Round – are eligible to apply for funding under Round 2 of the Fund.

## If I have the support of my state department of education, does that mean my project will receive funding?

The support of the relevant state or territory department of education is *not* a guarantee a project will be successful for funding. After you submit your application to the Australian Government, state and territory authorities will review and assess all applications based on need according to the Schools Upgrade Fund Round 2 Guidelines.

## How will applications be prioritised for funding?

Round 2 funding will be needs-based, prioritising schools experiencing the greatest disadvantage. Funding will prioritise:
- projects that support schools with a low Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA) value (or comparable measure)
- projects for schools that have not received significant capital funding ($250,000 or greater) in the past two years
- projects that support schools that cater to disadvantaged students, such as special schools, special assistance schools or majority Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander schools.

## Do schools need to obtain quotes to support project costings?

Schools must be able to demonstrate a reasonable basis for the project cost. Schools are encouraged to contact their relevant state or territory education department early and consult with them about costing arrangements.

## What if the school has previously applied for funding with the state or territory department of education for the same or similar project?

If you have previously applied for funding for the project, you should discuss with your state or territory department of education during the EOI period. Projects that are already underway or have had financial commitments made are ineligible for funding under Round 2.

## Is professional learning for school staff an eligible funding activity under the Schools Upgrade Fund Round 2?

The objective of Round 2 of the Fund is to support capital projects, as such, professional learning for school staff is not an eligible funding activity. There is more information in the Round 2 Guidelines.

## What happens if a school has submitted more than one application?

Schools may only submit one application per school. In the event a school submits more than one application, only the most recent application submitted will be considered for assessment.

## How can I seek assistance if I am having technical issues completing the EOI?

If you are encountering technical issues or have questions, please send a screen shot of the error and a description of the problem to SchoolsUpgradeFund@education.gov.au.

## Why is my school not available from the drop-down menu?

Please note that only Government schools may apply for this round of funding. Other factors that may stop your school from appearing are:
- School **did not** receive recurrent funding through an approved authority in 2023
- There are no enrolled students at the time of applying
- School may be listed under a different name/campus. Please check against AGEID.

## Do I need approval from my state or territory government to apply?

Yes, all applications must have the approval of their relevant state or territory government. Contacts for these can be found at https://www.education.gov.au/schools-upgrade-fund/resources/jurisdiction-contact-information.

## May I apply for funding for a project that delivers across two or more campuses?

Yes, a single application may be made by a school that will deliver a capital project across multiple campuses. Note that only one application will be accepted per school, so the project must be costed and described in a single application.

## I cannot edit my application, what should I do?

Once an applicant progresses past Part E on the application form, they will not be able to go back and edit. If a school wishes to alter or withdraw their application, please contact the team at SchoolsUpgradeFund@education.gov.au.

## Are there any word limits in the application form?

A **2,500 character limit** exists for the project description section of the application.

## My school has already unsuccessfully applied for projects under different grants, are we able to re-apply for these under SUF Round 2?

Yes, schools may reference and use previous project applications for SUF Round 2, as long as they meets the eligibility criteria laid out in the Guidelines.

## My school has received $250,000 or more in capital funding in 2022 or 2023. Is my school still eligible to apply?

Yes, this is not an eligibility criterion that would disqualify a school from applying. However, it is able to be considered as part of the assessment and prioritisation process.

An assessment and prioritisation process of all applications is being undertaken. As part of this process applications are able to be prioritised with reference to key indicators of disadvantage, including: projects for schools that have not received significant capital funding in 2022 or 2023 (i.e. $250,000 or more).

## I have progressed through to the final page of the application and can't go back and edit information, what do I do?

This issue occurs for applicants filling out an early version of the pplication form. If this issue occurs there are a few options for schools to try to rectify it:

- Schools can begin the survey again using a different internet browser (e.g. Chrome, Edge, Firefox)
- By clearing cookies in the browser being used, schools should be able to reset their survey to the new version and proceed from the beginning.

If the issue continues, please inform the team via email at schoolsupgradefund@education.gov.au, including which option you would prefer:

- For your initial application to be deleted so you may begin a new one.
- To be provided with a link to edit your initial application.

The team will then ask you to progress through and submit your application, asking for confirmation once this has been completed. We will then action your request and inform you via email, at which point you can continue your application.

Edit requests must be sent schoolsupgradefund@education.gov.au before 4:59pm AEDT, 29 February 2024.

Edited and completed applications must be resubmitted before 11:59pm AEDT, 29 February 2024.

## I'd like to apply for a school campus that did not receive Commonwealth recurrent funding in 2023, but the primary school location did. Am I eligible to apply for this campus?

Yes, as long as the primary school location received Commonwealth recurrent funding in 2023 and all other application eligibility criteria are met.

The primary campus may apply on behalf of the other campuses, noting the limit of one application per school (see relevant FAQ).