

# WHAT DO SCHOOLS NEED IN 2021

Schools Plus helps children facing disadvantage succeed at school. Through our Smart Giving program, we provide funding, coaching and resources to support strategic school initiatives that improve student outcomes. Here are the insights from the 2021 application round.

# 387

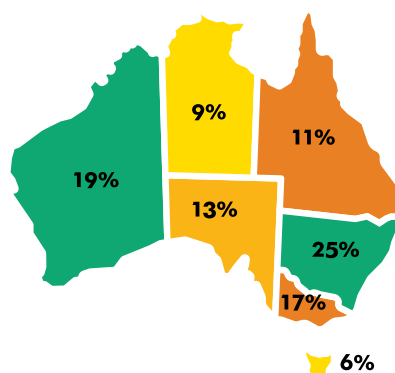
applications for support

# \$11m

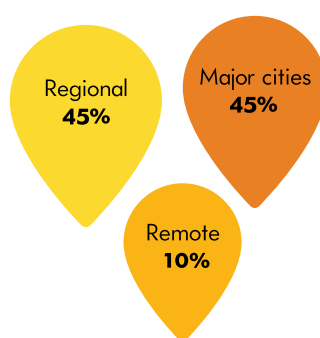
in funding requested

Schools Plus

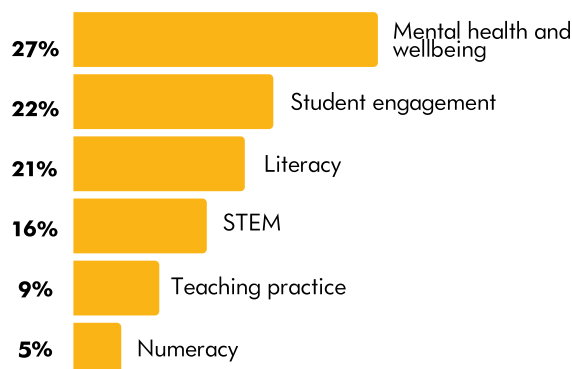
## Applications by state



## Applications by location



## Applications by theme



## THE TOP FOUR CHALLENGES SCHOOLS NEED HELP TO ADDRESS



### Student wellbeing

The number of students with anxiety and social/emotional needs is rising, exacerbated by the events of recent years. Projects include initiatives such as trauma-informed practice and allied health support.



### Literacy

Strong literacy skills underpin a child's ability to thrive at school and beyond. Projects will ensure students of all ages improve their reading, writing and language skills, many through the support of speech pathologists.



### Student engagement

Introducing culturally embedded and hands-on learning are highly effective ways of engaging students. Other initiatives engage families and communities, provide post-school pathways and re-engage students after periods of remote learning.



### STEM

Introducing science, technology, engineering and maths programs and new STEM equipment help to develop students' critical thinking, creativity and digital literacy.

## THE TOP THREE STRATEGIES USED TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS



**School Leadership  
Development and  
Agenda Setting**



**Teaching and  
Learning Practice  
Development**



**Family and  
Community  
Engagement**

# A CLOSER LOOK AT NSW SCHOOLS

The below information provides further insights into the applications received from NSW schools in the 2021 Smart Giving round.

# 98

applications for support

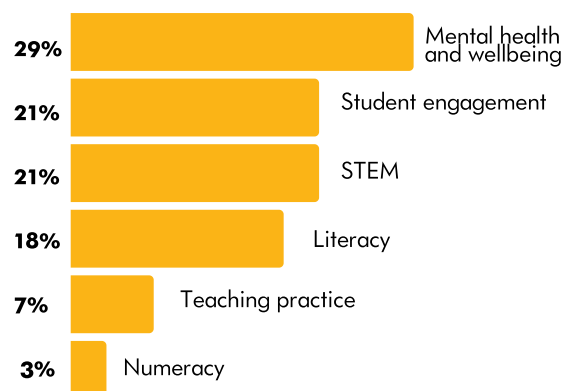
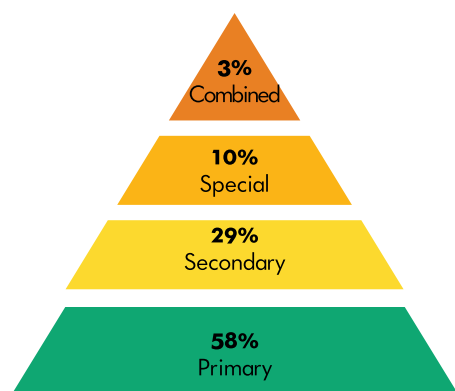
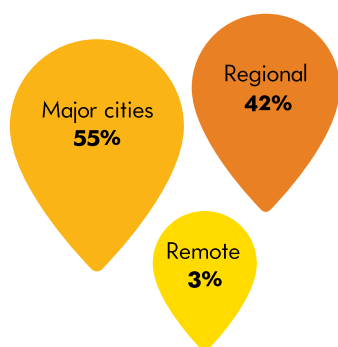
# \$2.8m

in funding requested

## Applications by location

## Applications by school type

## Applications by theme



## HOW NSW SCHOOLS WILL TACKLE THE TOP CHALLENGES



### Mental health and wellbeing

Improve students' wellbeing, resilience and sense of belonging by building their leadership skills and voice, introducing activities such as resilience programs, film-making and cooking, creating sensory spaces and playgrounds and connecting with families and culture.



### Student engagement

Introducing project-based and real-world learning activities and creating partnerships with business to strengthen students' engagement in school and develop their skills and aspirations for a smooth transition to work.



### STEM & digital technologies

Equipping students with technological and future-focused skills by introducing coding and robotics, design thinking, increased access to computers and professional development for teachers.



### Literacy

Strategies focused on teacher professional development (including engaging with speech therapists) and developing parents' skills to improve the oral language, reading and writing skills of students.

If you would like to know more about supporting students facing disadvantage, visit [schoolsplus.org.au](https://schoolsplus.org.au) or contact our team on (02) 8880 0296.

**Schools Plus**