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.
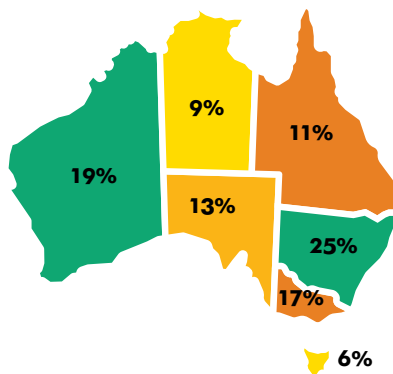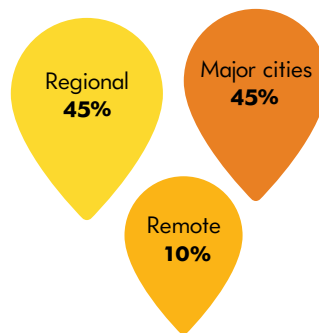
Schools Plus +

387
applications for support

$11m
in funding requested

Applications by state

- 9%
- 11%
- 19%
- 13%
- 25%
- 17%
- 6%

Applications by location

- Regional 45%
- Major cities 45%
- Remote 10%

Applications by theme

- 27% — Mental health and wellbeing
- 22% — Student engagement
- 21% — Literacy
- 16% — STEM
- 9% — Teaching practice
- 5% — Numeracy
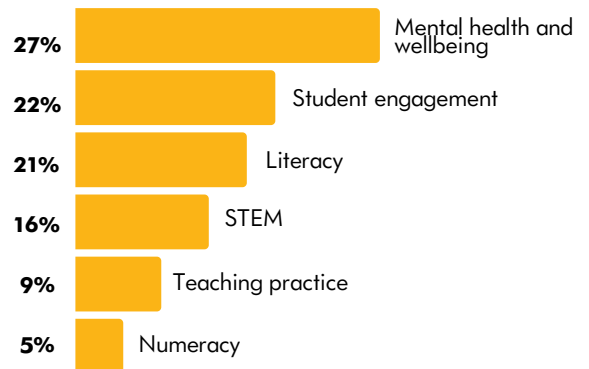
THE TOP FOUR CHALLENGES SCHOOLS NEED HELP TO ADDRESS

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

REGIONAL, RURAL AND REMOTE SCHOOLS

The below information provides further insights into the applications received from schools in regional, rural and remote areas in the 2021 Smart Giving round.
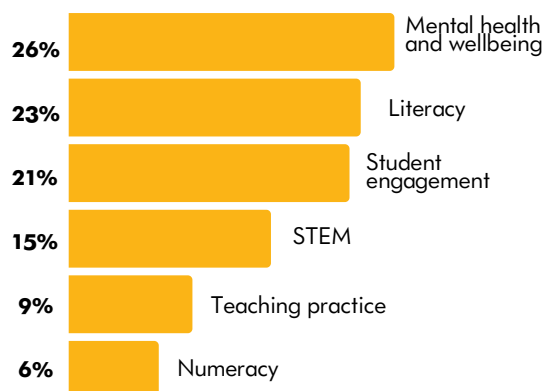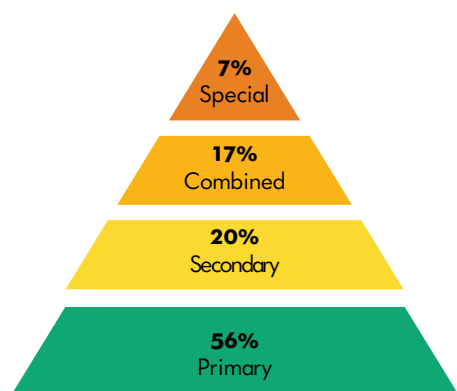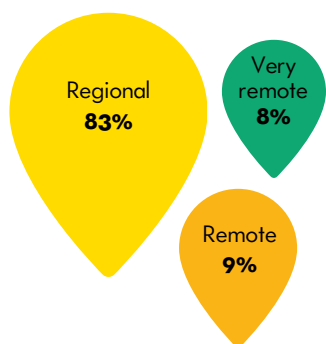
215
applications for support

$6.2m
in funding requested

Applications by location

- Regional **83%**
- Very remote **8%**
- Remote **9%**

Applications by school type

- **7%** Special
- **17%** Combined
- **20%** Secondary
- **56%** Primary

Applications by theme

- **26%** Mental health and wellbeing
- **23%** Literacy
- **21%** Student engagement
- **15%** STEM
- **9%** Teaching practice
- **6%** Numeracy

HOW RURAL SCHOOLS WILL TACKLE THE TOP CHALLENGES

Mental health and wellbeing
Development of sensory and self-regulation programs and spaces for students, building teacher capacity in trauma-informed-practice, and positively re-engaging with students who have been seriously impacted by COVID-19.

Literacy
Improvement strategies include targeted literacy development programs and teacher professional development, to improve the reading, writing and oral language skills of students.

Student engagement
Introducing culturally embedded programs and learning spaces to engage students and their families and project-based and real-world learning activities to develop employability skills and successfully transition students into post-school.

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.

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

Schools Plus