SMART GIVING GUIDELINES
2022

Schools Plus ✚
HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in applying for the 2022 Smart Giving round. These guidelines are designed to help schools submit a quality application to seek funding to support a strategic plan aligned with the great work you're already doing in your school.

Australian Schools Plus (Schools Plus) is a national not for profit that aims to close the education gap. Through our Smart Giving program, schools have an opportunity to design and deliver projects that explore innovative, creative and progressive approaches in education. To enable schools to do this, Schools Plus matches schools with donors to provide funding for projects which can bring about transformational change.

Applications open 9am Monday 8 August, and close midnight AEST on Friday 9 Sept 2022.

Supporting you to submit a quality application

Project design support: if you would like to speak to an education professional prior to submitting your application to help guide project design, please email schools@schoolsplus.org.au to arrange a time to connect. This support is available between Monday 11th July and Friday 26th August. After that, a Schools Plus team member is happy to assist.

Application support webinar: A short webinar is available and has key information about the Smart Giving program as well as tips for submitting a strong application. We highly recommend viewing before beginning your application.

Is your school eligible to apply?

- Your school must have a value below 1000 on the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA). Schools with no (zero) ICSEA value must contact Schools Plus to determine eligibility, except for special needs schools which are eligible. For current ICSEA values, see your school's profile on MySchool at http://www.myschool.edu.au/.
- Only one project per school or school cluster will be considered under this round.
- Schools involved in a cluster application cannot submit a separate individual application.
- If your school has received funding through our Smart Giving (including Smart Giving Invitation), Commonwealth Bank Teaching Awards or Fair Education programs your project must be acquitted by close of round (9th September) to apply. This includes any cluster schools involved in a project. Please contact us if you are unsure.
- Funding for projects designed to meet your long-term strategic school plan will begin in Term 1, 2023.

What is available to schools through this program?

Funding

Schools Plus is seeking submissions for strategic projects ranging in value:

- Up to $30,000 for an individual school project
- Up to $60,000 for projects by a cluster of schools.

Coaching

In addition to funding support, successful schools will be partnered with a coach allocated from our team of education professionals. Schools Plus coaches provide an independent sounding board for school leaders and teachers beyond their education system.

- All our coaches have had extensive recent experience in schools and will provide schools with up to 12 hours of coaching over the duration of the project (up to 18mths).
- The sessions will be between 1.5hrs – 3hrs in length to be held with the project team and principal either over the phone or face to face starting Term 1 2023.
- Coaching provides the space for reflection & learning and focuses on the design, implementation and evaluation of the project. Evidence and data are used to target support, guide a coherent focus on strategic goals, and to gauge change in teaching and learning.

What sort of projects can be supported through Smart Giving?

- Projects that start in Term 1, 2023, and align with your long-term strategic school plan.
- Innovative projects that trial new designs or strategies that have a sound research base and the potential for significant transformational change.
- The project can extend an existing school initiative that is having a proven impact, or it could replicate projects where existing strategies are being tried in a new location or with a new group.
- All projects must lead to improved learning outcomes for students in schools facing disadvantage.
- In designing your projects, schools should be able to clearly identify the student focussed intervention, why change is needed, how the project will enable the change to be achieved and the difference the change will make to students and the broader school community.
- Your project submission will be able to identify what evidence or research is available to support the purpose and design of the project, how you will measure the change it creates and how you will share that information with us.
- Projects must be supported by the school leadership team and have an ongoing and sustainable benefit to the school community.

Some examples of what we can't support

- Equipment, resources or technology not linked to student outcomes or your project.
- Playground upgrades (including sporting fields/courts, play equipment etc)
- Major capital construction/works/improvements/expenditure
- Shade cloths / shade structures or air conditioning units
- Projects for which funding would normally be sought from government and system sources. Examples of these would be additional classroom teachers, school buildings and office equipment.
- Applications submitted from a private business, contractor or not-for-profit organisations. However, schools may subcontract such organisations to deliver part of the project, provided this is identified in the funding submission.
- Expenditure that has been incurred before the application has been confirmed as successful.

We welcome submissions from clusters of schools

In addition to supporting individual schools, Schools Plus is also keen to support schools which are part of a cluster.

- Groups of between four and 10 schools are invited to submit a joint application for a project that will be implemented across all their schools.

- <u>All schools receiving funding for the one project submission need to meet the ICSEA eligibility criteria</u>.
- Clusters may be existing local networks of schools or other schools working together on an initiative. They can also be cross-sector groupings. Based on learnings to date, clusters that are already working together tend to make better progress within the program.
- The project must be under the auspices of a lead school which will take responsibility for managing the project including the reporting.
- The lead school will submit one application on behalf of the cluster and include the school name and project contact details for each participating school.
- The application must be submitted in the name of the lead school and cannot be submitted using a Cluster name.
- Schools involved in a cluster application cannot submit a separate individual application.

How the process works

Schools are invited to lodge an online application between **9am AEST on Monday 8th August 2022** and **midnight AEST on Friday 9 September 2022**. The link to the form is available at the end of these guidelines.

The form asks for information about the school and responses to key questions. Guidance for the information to put in these questions is provided below, in the webinar (link above) or contact Schools Plus for support (schools@schoolsplus.org.au).

Our expert assessors will assess the submissions and schools will be notified in September if they are shortlisted. The projects will be assessed based on the quality of the responses provided.

Shortlisted schools will be further assessed by independent experts in the field of the project.

Shortlisted schools will be notified in October of the outcome of the second assessment. Schools that proceed to the final stage will participate in a short phone interview to provide further details of the project. Questions will be supplied prior to the interview. These will take place in October 2022.

Schools Plus will determine which of these projects have been successful. Interviewed schools will be notified early December of the outcome of their application.

To ensure projects have the maximum impact on student learning outcomes, schools that have been allocated a coach will conduct an initial coaching session (approx 3 – 4hrs) in Term 4, 2022 or Term 1, 2023.
Schools will receive their funding once initial project documentation is returned and approved by Schools Plus and the coach.

What do we want to know in the application?

The application comprises four key questions. Below we have provided some supporting information that we encourage you to use as your team develops your school's submission. Please note, you do not have to answer all the supporting questions – they have been provided to help lead your thinking.

Question	Supporting information	Example
Student Focussed Intervention: Describe the specific part of the project (approach, activity or program) that will target the student outcomes you are aiming to improve. (200 words)	Refers to what you will do to specifically address the student learning needs you have identified e.g. an oral language program that screens students to identify those at risk and provides targeted interventions to address skill gaps. How (strategies and activities) will be asked in a later question.	*Implementation of an oral language program that screens students to identify those at risk and provides targeted interventions to address skill gaps.*
Key Strategies and Activities: What strategies will you develop to support delivery of the intervention? (300 words)	Consider the activities required to bring about change, indicative timeframes and who it will involve (e.g. stakeholders -staff, family, community partners etc). In helping to determine your strategies you may like to consider the following strategic areas: school leadership, teaching and learning and/or family and community engagement.	*Training of teaching and support staff in phonological awareness and oral language. Develop and implement screeners at various stages and appropriate support resources. Increase family learning and understanding in oral language and phonological awareness.*
Project Measure: Describe what and how you will measure the project outcomes? (300 words)	How will you know you have achieved the goal? Describe what you will measure and the tools (eg: surveys, curriculum assessments etc) you will use to measure the change in student outcomes, and other stakeholders including teachers, families and the broader school community. This may include quantitative and/or qualitative measures.	*Staff surveys and participation in ongoing PD, whole school and individual professional growth plans. Checklist of screeners and identified process for screening. Number of parents and students involved in oral language and phonological awareness interventions attending information sessions and meetings regarding intervention plans.*
Project Sustainability: How will you sustain the impact of the project outcomes beyond Schools Plus funding and support? (200 words)	In your response consider new capacity (professional and resources) built through the project, future ongoing/new funding and support you may need, how you plan to maintain and/or sustain equipment, and/or how the project fits with the ongoing broader school improvement plan.	*The work will constitute a change in practice of the delivery of early language education, meeting the needs of students. This model could be easily scaled up to impact systemic practice.* *Improved outcomes for many more students by the end of Transition will minimise the need for expensive intervention programs in later years.* *Within families, as students improve their reading, older siblings and cousins will be able to model and support strong language and literacy skills for younger family members.*
Budget:	Provide a clear breakdown of the budget showing the thought and research that has gone into the items/suppliers. Ensure the budget reasonable demonstrates the ability to fulfil the strategies outlined in the project.	

Conditions and further information for funded projects

- Schools receiving funding will be required to sign a Funding Agreement before funds can be transferred. Bank account details will need to be provided.
- Once the Funding Agreement is signed and the completed evaluation tools are returned to Schools Plus, the donation will be given to the school by electronic funds transfer. The school accepts these funds as a donation, no GST applies.

- Projects which are fully or partially funded will be required to provide reports updating Schools Plus on the progress of the project. Reporting dates are usually in August and February. Information in the reports will be shared with donors.
- Schools Plus will provide schools with a set of evaluation tools that will enable them to capture the impact of the project. With the support of their coach, schools will devise rubrics that will briefly cover activities, beneficiaries, achievements and evidence used to measure the results.
- If applicable and where possible, Schools Plus will provide support for schools to build a relationship with their supporters.

Key dates

9am AEST, Monday 8 August	Round opens
Midnight AEST, Friday 9 Sept	Round closes
September	Applications assessed by expert assessors
October	Interviews conducted
Early December	Schools are notified the outcome of the application
December	Funding Agreements are sent to the school Principal for signature
December	Coaches allocated
Term 4 2022 or Term 1, 2023	First coaching session conducted
Term 1 2023	Funds released to school once initial project documentation is returned and approved by Schools Plus and the coach.
August 2023	Progress report due
February 2024	Final report due to acquit the funds and share the impact and outcomes of the professional learning

Sounds wonderful, how do I apply?

To submit your application:

- Visit https://www.schoolsplus.org.au/for-schools/smart-giving-grant/ from 9am AEST on Monday 8th August 2022 to start your application.
- You can contact the Education Team via email - schools@schoolsplus.org.au – if you have any questions or you wish to discuss your project before applying.

Submissions open: 9am AEST on Monday 8 August 2022**.**

Closing date: Midnight AEST on Friday 9 September 2022.

<u>Late submissions will not be accepted</u>.