

FAQs

Partnership Round 2026

Eligibility

Is my school eligible?

To be eligible, your school must:

- Have an ICSEA below 1000 on the [My School website](#) (special needs schools exempt).
- Have direct student enrolments.
- Only submit one application per school or cluster.
- Have acquitted any current Schools Plus projects before a new partnership begins in 2027.
- Schools aligned with a DGR-status not-for-profit are ineligible

If you're unsure about your eligibility, please contact us before applying at schools@schoolsplus.org.au

How do I check my school's ICSEA value?

You can find your school's current ICSEA value on the [My School website](#).

Can schools with no ICSEA value apply?

If your school does not have an ICSEA value, please contact schools@schoolsplus.org.au.
This requirement **does not apply to special needs schools**, which are exempt from the ICSEA eligibility criteria.

Can a cluster include schools from different sectors?

Yes.

How many schools are required for a cluster application?

Two schools or more are considered a cluster for a partnership round application.

Can a school apply individually and as part of a cluster?

No – schools apply either individually OR as part of a cluster, not both.

Can a school submit more than one application?

No – one application per school only.

We have previously received Schools Plus funding. Can we apply again?

Yes – if you are in the final year of your project and it will shortly be acquitted, you may re-apply for a partnership with us.

Priority Funding Areas

What are the priority funding areas?

Schools Plus is particularly interested in applications aligned to our priority funding areas, including:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and STEM education initiatives.
- Projects supporting children and young people in rural, regional and remote communities addressing one of these challenges:
 - **Attendance** – Projects that help children and young people attend school regularly and stay engaged in their education.
 - **Opportunity to Learn** – Projects that help students access the learning opportunities, support and experiences they need to succeed at school. Examples include:
 - Access to specialist teachers.
 - Increased subject choice.
 - Extension opportunities for students.
 - Virtual or shared learning programs that overcome geographic barriers.
 - **Transition to School** – Projects that help children and families build the skills, confidence and support needed for a positive start to school.

Do I have to apply for the 2026 Partnership Round under a priority funding area?

No, schools with other high-impact project ideas are also encouraged to apply.

Can I apply with a project outside the priority funding areas?

Yes, schools with other high-impact project ideas are also encouraged to apply through this Partnership Round.

If your project theme is linked to the Arts, Entrepreneurship, Climate Action or Citizenship please complete this [short form](#)

Applying

What are the key dates?

Applications open at **9.00am AEST on Monday 31 August 2026**

Applications close at **5.00pm AEDT on Wednesday 14 October 2026.**

Applicants will be notified of outcomes by end of November 2026.

Late applications cannot be accepted, so please ensure you submit your application before the closing date.

Can I discuss my project idea before applying?

Yes. We encourage schools to contact us if they would like to discuss an idea before applying. We can put you in touch with one of our experienced project implementation coaches who can provide guidance on project design, eligibility requirements and whether a Single Year or Multi Year Partnership may be the best fit.

To arrange a conversation, email schools@schoolsplus.org.au.

How do I apply?

Applications open from 9am AEST on Monday 31 August 2026. Applications close on Wednesday 14 October 2026 at 5pm AEDT. Visit the [Partnership Application](#) page to apply and preview the application questions [here](#).

Funding

How much funding is available?

Number of schools	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1 Schools	Up to \$40,000	Up to \$40,000	Up to \$40,000
2-9 Schools	Up to \$90,000	Up to \$90,000	Up to \$90,000
10+ Schools	Up to \$120,000	Up to \$120,000	Up to \$120,000

What can funding be used for?

- ≠ Starts in Term 1, 2027 and aligns with school need and priorities.
- ≠ Uses evidence-based strategies (new, replicated, or expanded).
- ≠ Supports students in rural, regional and remote communities.
- ≠ Contributes new ideas to student learning in AI or STEM.
- ≠ Schools with an ICSEA of less than 1000.

What can't funding be used for?

- ≠ Equipment or technology without clear student outcomes.
- ≠ Playground, shade, or air-conditioning upgrades.
- ≠ Vehicles, major capital works, or overseas activities.
- ≠ Budgets with more than 70% for equipment/technology or one subcontractor.
- ≠ Costs normally covered by government funding.
- ≠ Applications from businesses, contractors, or other not-for-profits.
- ≠ Costs incurred before funding approval.

Can funding be used for staffing costs?

Yes.

When will successful schools receive funding?

Funding is released after schools have signed their funding agreement and completed their project plan by end of Term 1 2027 at the latest.

Support

What support is available when preparing an application?

We encourage all applicants to make use of the following available support:

1. **Application Guidelines** Our [Guidelines](#) include eligibility requirements and an overview of what we are looking for in projects.
2. [Application questions](#) and advice to help you prepare a strong submission.
3. **Application Support:** If you would like feedback on your project idea before applying, contact us at schools@schoolsplus.org.au to arrange a conversation with a member of our education team.
4. **Examples of Funded Projects:** Visit our [Stories of Impact](#) page to see examples of initiatives delivered by Schools Plus partner schools.

What support will successful schools receive?

All partnerships include:

- Funding to support the delivery of a strategic school project.
- Access to a project implementation coach.
- Project planning, management and evaluation support.
- Tools and resources to help schools implement, measure and sustain their project.

This wraparound support is designed to help schools successfully deliver projects that improve outcomes for children and young people.

What does coaching support look like?

Schools are matched with a project implementation coach who provides tailored support throughout the project, including project planning, implementation, problem-solving, evaluation and sustainability.

What does project management support look like?

Schools receive practical project management, including tools, templates and guidance to help plan, deliver and monitor their project.

What does evaluation support look like?

Schools receive tools, guidance and support to help measure project outcomes, track progress and demonstrate the impact of their initiative.

How often will we meet with our coach?

Schools will typically meet with their coach four times each year, with additional support available as needed throughout the project.

Is the coaching delivered online or in person?

Coaching is primarily delivered online, with in-person support available in some circumstances.

Partnership Options

What Partnership options are available?

Schools can apply for either a Single Year Partnership or a Multi-Year (2 or 3 years) Partnership, depending on the scope and timeframe of their project.

Assessment & Outcomes

How will applications be assessed?

Applications are assessed against the criteria, including the project's need, proposed measured impact, feasibility and alignment with the Partnership objectives.

What makes a strong application?

Strong applications clearly identify a need, demonstrate evidence of that need, outline achievable outcomes, align with school priorities, and describe how success could be measured.

Will there be an interview?

Some. A select number of shortlisted applicants may be invited to participate in a short online interview to provide further information about their project and implementation plans.

When will applicants be notified of the outcome?

Applicants will be notified at key stages throughout the assessment process. Key dates can be found on the [Partnership webpage](#) and in the [Application Guidelines](#).

When do successful projects commence?

Successful projects are expected to commence in Term 1 2027 following the funding announcement.

What happens if our application is unsuccessful?

Schools are welcome to apply in future partnership rounds, provided they continue to meet the eligibility requirements.

Technical Portal Issues

How do I update my name, role or phone number?

1. Log in to the portal.
2. Select **My Profile** from the person icon in the top-right corner.
3. Click **Edit** and update your details.
4. Save your changes.

How do I change my email address?

Please contact us at schools@schoolsplus.org.au. We need to update your account details to maintain secure access.

How do I change the school linked to my account?

Please contact us at schools@schoolsplus.org.au if you've moved schools or need your account linked to a different school.

I've registered but can't see an Apply button

The funding round may not be open yet, or your school may not be eligible for that funding opportunity. Contact us if you believe this is incorrect.

Where can I find my application?

After logging in, select **My Applications** from the menu to view your draft and submitted applications.

I'm experiencing a technical issue or receiving an error message

Take a screenshot of the error and email it to schools@schoolsplus.org.au, including a short description of what you were trying to do.