



PARTNERSHIP GUIDELINES

Multi Year Opportunity 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Australian Schools Plus (Schools Plus) is a national not-for-profit that aims to help children and young people to thrive through school and beyond.

The following guidelines are designed to assist schools in submitting a quality application for a Multi-Year partnership with Schools Plus leading to deeper, longer-term change for children and young people and the school community.

Through this partnership, Schools Plus helps to build the capacity of the school project team to design and implement evidence-based projects focusing on meaningful outcomes.

This includes:

1. Multi-year funding for schools to facilitate the delivery of longer-term projects over a three-year period.
2. Provision of coaching for project leadership teams, aiming to build strategic leadership capacity throughout the life of the project. The coaching will support schools in successfully delivering and evaluating their long-term strategic projects, with a focus on achieving impactful and sustainable outcomes.
3. Project management and evaluation support using tools and resources to effectively plan, implement, and evaluate projects. Helping schools to achieve their objectives and assess the success of their projects.

SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR APPLICANTS



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 22 July and Friday 30 August. After that, a Schools Plus team member is happy to assist.



Application support video: [A short video is available to view](#) and has key information about the partnership as well as tips for submitting a strong application. We highly recommend viewing before beginning your application.

CHECK YOUR SCHOOL'S ELIGIBILITY

- 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/>.
- Your school must have direct student enrolments. A campus of a significant site does not qualify unless student enrolment is held directly at this campus.
- Only one project per school or school cluster will be considered.
- Schools involved in a cluster application cannot submit a separate individual application.
- If your school has received funding and support through our previous Partnership Round (including Partnership Invitation), Commonwealth Bank Teaching Awards or Fair Education programs your project must be acquitted by 23 August to apply. This includes any cluster schools involved in a project. Please contact us if you are unsure.
- Schools aligned with a Not-for-Profit body which holds Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status are ineligible to apply.

WHAT THE PARTNERSHIP OFFERS TO SCHOOLS

Funding

Funding available to support the implementation of a three-year project ranges in value:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Single school	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Cluster of schools	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000

Coaching

Successful schools will also 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.

The purpose of the coaching is to improve learning by building the capacity of leaders to develop innovative, high order strategy, systems and practices to effectively lead communities to flourish, grow and connect, within and beyond the school.

- All our coaches have had extensive experience in schools and will provide schools with up to 12 hours of coaching per year over the duration of the project implementation.
- The sessions will be between 1.5 – 3hrs held with the project team and principal via phone, video conference or face-to-face starting Term 1, 2025. The first session will focus on deeper project co-design and will be a 3.5hr workshop.
- Coaching provides the space for reflection and 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.

Program Management Support and Evaluation

- All successful schools are supported with ongoing Program Management for the duration of the project. Through this process, schools can evaluate the success of their project and make adjustments as needed to ensure its ongoing effectiveness.
- Schools will receive a Project Planning Tool to track the impact of their project. With the guidance of their coach, schools will create rubrics covering key areas such as activities, beneficiaries, achievements, and evidence, enabling them to effectively measure and assess the results of their project.

PROJECTS THAT CAN BE SUPPORTED

- Projects that start in Term 1, 2025, align with your long-term strategic school plan and are supported by the school leadership team.
- Initiatives that require an extended implementation phase to effectively embed sustainable change.
- Projects that seek to contribute new thinking and learning to the wider educational discourse.
- New projects that support the delivery of a strategy based on evidence, data analysis or research.
- Replication or extension of projects where existing strategies are being tried in a new location or with a new target group.

WHAT WE CAN'T SUPPORT

- Equipment, resources or technology not linked to outcomes for children and young people or your project.
- Playground upgrades (including sporting fields/courts, play equipment etc).
- Shade cloths / shade structures or air conditioning units.
- Vehicles including buses.
- Budgets where more than 70% of funds are allocated to equipment and/or technology.
- Major capital construction/works/improvements/expenditure.
- Overseas travel or projects based overseas.
- Projects for which funding would normally be sought from government and system sources, e.g. additional classroom teachers, superannuation, school buildings, 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 application. Expenses cannot exceed more than 70% for one supplier.
- Expenditure incurred before the application has been confirmed as successful.

CLUSTER PROJECTS

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

- All schools applying for the partnership opportunity need to meet the ICSEA eligibility criteria.
- 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 auspice of a lead school which will take responsibility for managing the project including the reporting and receiving the funds.
- 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.

WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE APPLICATION








Your application should 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 intend to sustain the change beyond the funding.

Below we have provided some supporting information relating to the key questions. We encourage you to reference this table as your team develops your school's submission.

Preview the full set of questions, including the project overview, goals, and details about student beneficiaries [here](#).

Question	Supporting information	Example
<p><i>Student Focused Intervention:</i> Describe the specific part of the project (approach, activity or program) that will target the student outcomes you are aiming to improve. (1500 characters)</p>	<p>Refers to what you will do to specifically to address the student learning needs you have identified. Strategies and activities will be asked in a later question.</p>	<p><i>Implementation of a trauma-informed pedagogy program that upskills staff and screens students to identify those at risk and provides targeted interventions to address behavioural issues and underlying challenges in early years (Kindy, Prep).</i></p>
<p><i>Key Strategies and Activities:</i> What strategies will you develop to support delivery of the intervention? (2000 characters)</p>	<p>Consider the activities required to bring about change, indicative timeframes, how the project will build on itself over time, 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.</p>	<p><i>Training of teaching and support staff in trauma-informed approaches. Develop and implement appropriate resources for behavioural screening at various stages. Increase family engagement via development of shared language and technology tools, providing an opportunity for early identification and intervention.</i></p>
<p><i>Project Measure:</i> Describe what and how you will measure the project outcomes? (2000 characters)</p>	<p>How will you know you have achieved the goal? Describe what you will measure and the tools (e.g. 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.</p>	<p><i>Development of survey tools for teachers and families to measure and track changes in student behaviour over time, as well as capture feedback. Increased number of participants attending information sessions and meetings regarding intervention plans. Increase in early years behavioural interventions. Decrease in years 5-10 specialist school referrals.</i></p>
<p><i>Sustainability:</i> How will you sustain the impact of the project outcomes beyond Schools Plus funding and support? (1500 characters)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><i>The work will constitute a change in practice of the delivery of early behavioural interventions, meeting the needs of students through a trauma-informed approach. This model will be delivered in partner schools to impact systemic practice. Improved outcomes for early learning students will minimise the need for higher cost intervention programs in later years.</i></p>
<p><i>Budget:</i> Total project implementation cost Total amount requested from Schools Plus Amount allocated for the initial year of your project Expense details</p>	<p>What is the total cost for the school to implement this project? This might be above the amount Schools Plus is offering and could include expenses the school is covering from other sources.</p> <p>What is the amount you are requesting from Schools Plus over the three years of the partnership?</p> <p>How much is required from Schools Plus for the first year of the project?</p> <p>Provide a clear breakdown of the budget showing the thought and research that has gone into the items/suppliers. Ensure it reasonably demonstrates the ability to fulfil the first year as outlined in the project. The 2nd and 3rd years will be provided later if the application is successful.</p>	<p><i>Total project implementation cost: \$95,000</i></p> <p><i>Total amount requested: \$90,000</i></p> <p><i>Amount allocated for a single year: \$30,000</i></p>

HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

-  The round is open between **9am AEST on Monday 5 August** and **midnight AEST on Monday 9 September 2024**. The round link will be available on the [Schools Plus website](#) once the round opens. A [preview of the application is available to download](#).
-  **September** - Our expert assessors will assess the submissions and schools will be notified if they are shortlisted. The assessment of projects will be based on the quality of responses – taking into consideration if projects are evidence-based, innovative, and have the potential for sustainable impact beyond the program duration. Shortlisted schools will be further assessed by independent experts in the focus area of the project.
-  **October** - Schools will be notified of the outcome of the second assessment. A select number of schools that proceed to the final stage will participate in a short online interview to provide further details of the project. Questions will be supplied prior to the interview.
-  **December** - Schools Plus will determine which of these projects have been successful. Interviewed and final shortlisted schools will be notified of the outcome of their application.
-  **Term 1 2025** - To ensure projects have the maximum impact on learning outcomes, schools will have an initial coaching session (approx. 3 – 4hrs).
-  **Funding** - Schools will receive their funding once initial project documentation is returned and approved by Schools Plus and the coach.
-  **Reporting** – Project update will be required in August 2025 and an Annual Report will be required in February 2026 to share the impact and outcomes of the project.

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR SELECTED APPLICATIONS

- Schools selected will be required to sign a Funding Agreement before funds can be transferred. School bank account details and proof of account will need to be provided at this point. Note - Government schools in Victoria who are participating in a cluster project, will each be required to complete a Funding Agreement and receive funds into their school's bank account.
- Once the Funding Agreement is signed and the completed Project Planning Tool is 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.
- School project teams will be expected to participate in a coaching session per term throughout the life of their project. These sessions will be delivered via a mix of face-to-face, video and teleconferencing as required.
- Project teams will be provided with a Project Planning Tool that will enable them to capture the impact of the project. With the support of their coach, schools will devise rubrics that will cover activities, beneficiaries, achievements, and evidence used to measure the results.
- School partnerships and outcomes undergo continuous evaluation and support from Schools Plus. If, based on annual reports and coaches' insights, a project is deemed non-viable or necessitates a change in strategy, Schools Plus reserves the right to cease or adjust the project accordingly.
- Schools are required to provide reports updating Schools Plus on the progress and evaluation of the project so achievements, insights and lessons learned can be captured. Reporting dates are usually in August and February. Information in the reports will be shared with donors and other key stakeholders.
- If applicable and where possible, Schools Plus will provide support for schools to build a relationship with their supporters.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

- Visit [Multi-Year Partnership - Australian Schools Plus](#) from 9am AEST Monday 5 August 2024 to start your application, a link will be available then. [Download a preview](#) of the application to start your planning.
- You can contact the Education Team via email - schools@schoolsplus.org.au – if you have any questions or wish to set up a project design session with one of our education professionals.

Applications open: 9am AEST on Monday 5 August 2024.

Applications close: Midnight AEST on Monday 09 September 2024.

Late submissions will not be accepted.