

PARTNERSHIP ROUND 2026 GUIDELINES

1, 2 or 3 Year Opportunities Available

WHO CAN APPLY	FUNDING AVAILABLE	PROJECT TYPE / LENGTH	APPLICATIONS
Schools - ICSEA below 1000	Up to \$40,000-\$120,000 per year depending on the number of participating schools. Clusters of 10+ schools may be eligible for up to \$120,000 per year.	AI / STEM - up to 2 years RRR (Rural, Regional, Remote) - 3 years Other projects aligned to SP objectives – 1 – 3 years	Open 31 Aug – 14 Oct

Introduction

Australian Schools Plus is a national not-for-profit helping children and young people thrive through school and beyond. We welcome partnership applications from schools and clusters of schools seeking to improve student outcomes. Successful partnerships receive:

- Single or multi-year funding to deliver meaningful short or long-term impact.
- Project implementation coaching to strengthen strategy, project planning and delivery.
- Project management and evaluation coaching to measure and sustain outcomes.

We are particularly interested in projects that focus on:

Focus Area	Length	Description
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Up to 2 years	Using AI to improve student learning outcomes, teaching practice, school capability or future workforce readiness.
STEM (may or may not include AI)	Up to 2 years	(Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Building student engagement, achievement and pathways in STEM learning.
Rural, Regional and Remote (RRR)	3 years	With a focus on one of these themes: Attendance, Opportunity to Learn OR Transition to school. Please see our FAQ for further details.

If your project falls outside these focus areas, we encourage you to submit an [Expression of Interest](#) as an alternative to a full partnership application. We are always interested in learning about innovative initiatives that improve outcomes for children and young people and may consider these opportunities as part of future partnership discussions.

School Eligibility

- ICSEA below 1000 (special needs schools exempt).
- Direct student enrolments required.
- One application per school or cluster.
- Existing Schools Plus projects are finalised and acquitted before a new partnership begins in 2027.
- Schools aligned with a DGR-status not-for-profit are ineligible

Cluster Applications

- Cluster applications are encouraged and may involve existing networks or newly formed school partnerships.
- One lead school must submit the application, receive the funding, and manage project delivery and reporting on behalf of the cluster.
- Applications must be submitted in the lead school's name, not under a cluster or partnership name.
- Schools participating in a cluster application cannot submit a separate individual application in the same funding round.

What the Partnership Offers

Offer	What's included
Funding per year (indicative only)	1 school up to \$40,000 p.a. 2-9 Schools up to \$90,000 p.a. 10 + Schools up to \$120,000 p.a.
Coaching	Up to 12 hours of coaching per year from a Schools Plus coach to support project implementation, build your strategic capacity and provide change management guidance
Program Management & Evaluation	Project management and evaluation support, using tools to plan, implement and assess your project

Projects: What We Can and Can't Support

SUPPORTED

- 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 (metro, rural, regional & remote).
- Schools with ICSEA less than 1000.
- Special needs schools.

NOT SUPPORTED

- 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.

How To Apply

- Applications open from 9am AEST on Mon 31 August 2026 and close at 5pm on Wed 14 October 2026. Visit the [Partnership Application](#) page to apply and preview the application questions [here](#).
- Applications should clearly demonstrate need, evidence, intended outcomes, and sustainability beyond the funding period.
- Some shortlisted applicants may be invited to an online interview in November. Outcomes will be advised by the end of November, with successful partnerships commencing in January 2027.
- Need support with your application? Contact schools@schoolsplus.org.au and we can connect you with a member of the Schools Plus team to help.

Timeline

