

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.1 – Funding for Schools

DEST Question No. E312_05

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

It was announced in June that in part, in order to qualify for values in schools funding schools will be expected to have “an active flagpole”.

As a part of this same values in schools funding, schools will be required to ensure that students do physical exercise each day.

1. When will such exercise be done – before classes? After?
2. What form will it have to take – formal lessons and activities or something as informal as a walk round the yard?
3. Will teachers be trained in physical education or given any professional development in this area?
4. Will schools be funded for specific facilities whether new or upgraded, such as changing rooms and showers?
5. Will funds be available for the purchase of equipment to meet this requirement?
6. If schools apply for equipment or facilities who will handle such applications and who will make decisions on them?
7. Have schools been sent guidelines and information on this requirement?
8. What performance indicators will there be for this requirement?
9. Who will monitor schools compliance and how?

Answer:

Schools funding linked to physical exercise

1. The requirement is that education authorities commit to providing in their curriculum at least two hours of physical activity each school week for primary and junior secondary school children. Education authorities will determine when and how such activity will be undertaken, but it should be within school hours.
2. As above, education authorities will determine what form it will take.
3. This will be determined by education authorities.
- 4-5. There is \$2.5 billion over the next quadrennium for capital facilities in government and non-government schools.
6. The education commitments of an additional \$1 billion for school infrastructure over the next four years will call for submissions from parents and school communities. Submissions will be considered by State level assessment panels.

7. The draft Australian Government Programmes for Schools Quadrennial Administrative Guidelines 2005-08 and Agreements were sent to education authorities for comment on 26 November 2004. The Agreements include the enhanced performance framework and educational accountability requirements. As the Schools Assistance (*Learning Together – Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity*) Act 2004 has received Royal Assent, the Agreements will now be forwarded to education authorities for signing.

8. No performance indicators will be established as such but, in order to meet general education accountability requirements, education authorities will publish school-level performance information as required. The regulations to the Schools Assistance legislation will specify the types of information to be published in detail as well as the ways in which this information can be made publicly available. Information regarding steps taken to ensure primary and junior secondary schools are undertaking at least two hours of physical activity each school week may be included.

9. As for Question 8. Education authorities will need to meet requirements for publishing school-level performance information as required. As such, they will need to monitor schools compliance of the two hours physical activity requirement.