

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 2 - Schools**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0491\_11**

**Senator Fifield provided in writing.**

**Question**

***BER FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY (SPECIAL SCHOOLS)***

Will the Minister consider building into your funding criteria consideration of the additional and higher needs of schools that cater for children with disabilities?

**Answer**

The Building the Education Revolution Guidelines incorporate broader funding criteria considerations for special schools under the *Primary Schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (P21) element of the BER program. Funding was provided on the basis of a primary school's total FTE student enrolments as determined by the February census data collection. For a K-12 school, only primary school FTE was counted. For a special school, both the number of FTE enrolments from the primary and secondary schools components were counted to calculate the indicative funding cap. Special assistance schools are included within the definition of special schools for the purposes of BER.

In addition, both the bilateral agreements with the states and territories and the funding agreements with the Block Grant Authorities specify that projects funded under the BER must comply with any Disability Standards relevant to construction of premises made under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.