

2024 full-year report card



2024 Progress

Advance equitable outcomes, opportunities and experiences

Celebrated record enrolments of First Nations students in Year 12 and the largest overall HSC cohort in NSW and Australian history, with nearly 60,000 students eligible for an ATAR and 25% completing a VET course.	✓
Enhanced outcomes for Aboriginal students by expanding and extending the Connected Communities Strategy to all 33 schools for an additional 10 years, strengthening cultural pride and community connections.	✓
Expanded support for high potential and gifted students by creating opportunity classes at 10 additional schools, delivering enhanced professional learning resources and committing to upgrades at 13 partner high schools.	✓
Began delivery of over 200 new support classes, enabling an additional 1,500 students with disabilities to access tailored learning environments.	✓

Strengthen trust and respect for the teaching profession and school support staff

Reduced teacher vacancies by 24% to achieve a 3-year low and secured permanent roles for over 16,000 temporary teachers and school support staff.	✓
Scrapped the wages cap to deliver teachers the largest pay rise in a generation, with a three-year award guaranteeing pay increases, workplace flexibility, and reduced workloads for teachers.	✓
Supported 419 schools with additional School Administrative and Support Staff (SASS) to ease administrative workload and enable staff to focus on teaching and learning.	✓
Backed NESA's changes to accreditation, removing the need to track professional development hours – saving teachers time and reinforcing trust in the profession.	✓

Give children the best start in learning

Created over 300 additional places per week for children aged 0-6 in 31 targeted areas under the Building Early Learning Places Program.	✓
Supported a record ~200,000 children with fee relief to attend early childhood education and care.	✓
Opened the first of 100 new public preschools, with the next set of preschools to be completed in 2025 as part of the biggest expansion of public preschools in NSW history.	✓
Exceeded our Closing the Gap target for 95% of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children to participate in early childhood education in the year before school.	✓

Deliver outstanding leadership, teaching and learning

Reached a major milestone in the current NSW curriculum overhaul with all mandatory content from K-12 now in the hands of teachers.	✓
Delivered evidence-based curriculum resources and training to support explicit teaching in every school.	✓
Strengthened educational leadership through the world-class Middle Leadership Development Program and an expanded Principal Leadership Learning Program.	✓
Made NSWeduChat available to all staff, a department-owned generative artificial intelligence (AI) tool, to support staff in developing outstanding teaching experiences.	✓

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Strengthen student wellbeing and development

Banned mobile phones in all NSW public schools, with 86% of principals indicating that socialising has improved since this came into effect.	✓
Hosted a social media summit to address online safety and supported the introduction of new legislation to raise the minimum age for social media use to 16.	✓
Introduced a new Student Behaviour Policy to foster positive student behaviour and began the development of a statewide approach to address bullying.	✓
Regained half a million hours of valuable learning time by halving merged and cancelled classes, ensuring students receive more consistent and focused support.	✓

Provide meaningful post-school pathways

Completed the VET Review and launched the first NSW Skills Plan in over 15 years to rebuild the VET sector and strengthen the skills and workforce pipeline.	✓
Expanded the Educational Pathways Program to enhance vocational pathways for ~69,000 students across 171 secondary schools.	✓
Created new apprenticeships and traineeship opportunities by expanding partnerships that connect young talent with local industries, particularly in regional, rural and remote areas.	✓

Deliver school infrastructure that meets the needs of a growing population and supports improved student outcomes

Completed more than 30 new and upgraded schools, including Katoomba High School's hall and multipurpose facility, Wardell Public School and Empire Vale Public School.	✓
Responded to over 155,000 calls for urgent repairs within shorter time-frames and completed over 62,000 maintenance tasks across 1400+ public schools.	✓

Provide support services that are efficient, effective and easy to use

Slashed the number of documents by half after a line-by-line audit of policies and procedures, simplifying policies and making them easier to access and understand.	✓
Saved 27,000 hours of manual work using Robotic Process Automation to improve efficiency in support services.	✓

This is a snapshot of key achievements from 2024 in delivering [Our Plan for NSW Public Education](#) and is not an exhaustive list.



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Working towards in 2025

Advance equitable outcomes, opportunities and experiences

Provide evidence-informed resources and professional development to support schools in delivering enhanced high potential and gifted education.

Enhance participation in Arts through music, dance, art and performance opportunities and ensure all students have access to a breadth of sporting experiences and pathways.

Strengthen trust and respect for the teaching profession and school support staff

Continue to provide intensive recruitment support for schools facing staffing challenges through an expert team that assists with advertising, hiring, onboarding incentives and relocation support.

Deliver on the department's first Staff Wellbeing Strategy by focusing on 3 priority areas – reducing administrative workload, managing student and parent behaviour, and managing psychosocial hazards.

Give children the best start in learning

Continue planning and preparation for new public preschools.

Continue to provide free health and development checks for 4-year-olds in early childhood education and care services, having already completed ~10,000 checks in 14 Health districts.

Deliver outstanding leadership, teaching and learning

Deliver additional school development days in 2025 to align to system priorities, curriculum rollout and provide more support to teachers.

Continue to streamline External Validation processes to reduce unnecessary workload and complexity in managing evidence and analysis.

Strengthen student wellbeing and development

Deliver strategic programs from the 2024 – 2025 Closing the Gap Implementation Plan, focusing on cultural training, supporting school transitions and setting benchmarks for culturally responsive practices.

Expand support for student wellbeing by continuing to recruit 250 additional school counsellors, adding to the ~2,000 dedicated wellbeing roles already in schools.

Provide meaningful post-school pathways

Increase participation in vocational education by 20% by enabling students to engage in a wider range of courses through a single Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

Deliver school infrastructure that meets the needs of a growing population and supports improved student outcomes

Begin construction on 85 preschools that are being delivered at existing schools.

Continue to address the school funded works backlog and improve school facilities with maintenance and local upgrades, including work to expand high potential and gifted education opportunities at 13 identified schools.

Provide support services that are efficient, effective and easy to use

Rollout EdConnect Online to all schools, enabling quicker access to support services, reducing contact centre call volumes and reducing contact centre call times.

Make services easier, faster and more efficient through our Service Destination Program.