

2025 full-year report card



2025 progress

Advance equitable outcomes, opportunities and experiences

Engaged more than 70,000 students to explore career opportunities through the Educational Pathways Program, with over 40% from regional, rural and remote areas.	✓
Secured the state's largest ever investment in public education, with full funding for all NSW public schools to reach 100% of the Schooling Resource Standard by 2034.	✓
Worked to tackle religious intolerance and strengthen multifaith inclusion through strong partnerships with faith leaders.	✓
Released additional anti-racism resources for school leaders and staff, adding updated guidance and resources on the Racism. No Way! website.	✓

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

Expanded priority recruitment support, reducing teacher vacancies by more than 60% since Term 3 2022 and helping principals fill hard-to-staff roles.	✓
Reduced administrative workload in more than 700 schools through the School Administration Reduction Program, which has provided more than 1,000 additional school support staff, as well as strategic support and operational resources to schools to make sustainable operational improvements.	✓
Reduced mandatory training hours by overhauling the program and introducing a one-hour annual competency check.	✓
Streamlined student planning by consolidating 25 individual plans into 3 key templates, reducing complexity and strengthening planning efficiency.	✓
Launched the Teacher Leader Development Program, providing leadership development opportunities for every educator, from classroom teachers to directors of educational leadership.	✓
Processed pay increases for teachers, school psychologists and SASS under new Awards.	✓
Increased the number of on-the-ground WHS advisors in schools and workplaces.	✓
Strengthened the connections the department has with initial teacher education (ITE) providers, ITE students and education faculties.	✓

Give children the best start in learning

Led national and NSW child safety reforms that strengthen the safety and wellbeing of children in early learning settings.	✓
Delivered more than 18,000 health and development checks for children in early education and care services, in partnership with NSW Health.	✓
Advanced the plan to build 100 public preschools. All 100 master plans have been signed off, 96 contracts executed, 65 planning approvals secured and more than 30 sites are now under construction.	✓
Strengthened the workforce pipeline by partnering with 4 universities and supporting more than 750 students to complete early childhood education and care qualifications through scholarships and accelerated degree pathway programs.	✓



We acknowledge the homelands of all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and pay our respect to Country.

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2025 progress

Deliver outstanding leadership, teaching and learning

Provided coaching and mentoring to almost 400 newly appointed, relieving and first-time principals, strengthening leadership capability and wellbeing.	✓
Delivered the What Works Best 2025 suite of resources, giving teachers and school leaders research-based advice on effective teaching practices, supported by illustrations of practice.	✓
Strengthened teaching practice for high potential and gifted students by delivering professional learning on explicit teaching and high expectations.	✓
Expanded the Mathematics Growth Team to additional key learning areas to support teaching and learning practices in secondary schools.	✓
Trialled a targeted literacy approach with 10 school networks, delivering 8 professional learning sessions to strengthen phonics teaching practice.	✓

Strengthen student wellbeing and development

Introduced more than 80 new counselling positions to increase student wellbeing and access to services.	✓
Launched the NSW Public Schools Student Survey, hearing from over 430,000 students on their engagement, learning experiences and wellbeing.	✓
Delivered behaviour seminars to strengthen support for student wellbeing and behaviour, reaching up to 200 participants per seminar.	✓
Expanded the School Breakfast 4 Health program to more than 860 public schools, enabling students to start the day energised, focused and ready to learn.	✓

Provide meaningful post-school pathways

Supported more than 2,500 young people, aged 15 to 21, to re-engage in education, training or employment through the Get Back in the Game Program.	✓
Launched the Career Pathways Programs, Resources and Services Finder to support schools in planning and delivering diverse, high-quality post-school pathways.	✓
Expanded access to pathways through the NSW Fee Free Program, with over 43,000 students enrolled, including more than 6,700 aged 19 years and under.	✓

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

Delivered new and upgraded schools across NSW to ensure families have access to world-class public schools in their local area, including new schools in Melonba, Jindabyne and Wentworth Point.	✓
Supported the ongoing recovery of the Northern Rivers region with rebuilt, flood-resilient schools in Blakebrook, Broadwater, Tumbulgum and Condong.	✓
Improved responsiveness to school maintenance requests, achieving an average close-out time of under 7 days, delivered by an expanded statewide contractor network.	✓

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

Delivered a new school website platform, making it easier for all public schools to share information with their communities about what they offer to help students grow and succeed.	✓
Provided all students from Years 5 to 12 access to NSWeduChat to foster independent learning, critical thinking and student engagement.	✓
Enabled access to over 650 services for schools through EDConnect Online.	✓



Working towards in 2026

Advance equitable outcomes, opportunities and experiences

Deliver professional learning on disability, neurodiversity and inclusive education.

Support early career teachers, school leaders and principals in regional NSW through professional learning and connection events.

Continue to work with faith leaders to strengthen multifaith inclusion and address antisemitism and other forms of religious intolerance.

Deliver anti-racism resources and professional learning to build staff and student knowledge of strategies to counter racism and strengthen social cohesion.

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

Launch the Early Career Academy for Teachers, serving as a centre of excellence for new and future teachers.

Expand the Schools Roadshow to 10 new locations.

Continue our focus on reducing workload through streamlining day-to-day work tasks, so teachers can focus on teaching and learning in the classroom.

Give children the best start in learning

Continue work to open all 100 new preschools as part of the biggest expansion of public preschools in NSW history.

Continue to support all public preschools in meeting the legislative and quality requirements of the National Quality Framework.

Progress the expanded First Steps Strategy, including growing the Aboriginal early childhood workforce pipeline and Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation-led early childhood services.

Deliver outstanding leadership, teaching and learning

Expand targeted literacy and numeracy support for students through the Small Group Tuition program.

Support schools to implement the Year 1 Number Screening Check.

Add quality-assured resources to the Lesson Library.

Deliver professional learning and resources to support high potential and gifted education implementation.

Continue to expand the targeted phonics support program to a further 10 school networks.



Learn more about our key achievements in delivering [Our Plan for NSW Public Education](#).





Working towards in 2026

Strengthen student wellbeing and development

Deliver unique arts and sports initiatives and expand access to existing programs.

Continue recruitment of 250 school counselling staff to support student wellbeing.

Expand the School Engagement Support Program to help students who are disengaging from school to reconnect and develop skills for success.

Support schools to implement the NSW Anti-Bullying Framework in School Behaviour Support and Management Plans.

Provide meaningful post-school pathways

Expand virtual delivery of VET courses to support students in regional, rural and remote areas.

Meet our commitment to appoint 1,000 NSW public sector apprentices and trainees.

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

Upgrade infrastructure to expand high potential and gifted education opportunities at 33 partner schools.

Open new permanent schools, complete upgrades and deliver facilities where they are needed most.

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

Roll out the new Access Request system that helps schools access specialist support for students with disability.

Deliver resources to support the safe and effective use of AI in NSW public schools.



To provide feedback, refer to the [Our Plan for NSW Public Education form](#).

