Priority Schools Programs comprise the Priority Schools Funding Program and Priority Action Schools Program.

**Priority Schools Programs**

These programs provide additional resources to schools serving low socio-economic status communities across New South Wales to improve student literacy and numeracy achievement and engagement in learning.

Additional funding, staffing and consultancy are provided through Priority Schools Programs to targeted government schools that support students from communities with the highest concentrations of low SES families.

These resources are in addition to the resources provided to all government schools.

In providing these resources Priority Schools Programs have the aim of reducing, with a view to eliminating, the achievement gap in student learning outcomes for students who may be adversely affected in schooling due to their socio-economic circumstances.

Priority Schools Programs are underpinned by principles of equity and social justice in education.

**Identification of Priority Schools**

The Minister for Education and Training approves the list of New South Wales government schools eligible to receive Priority Schools Funding Program resources.

Priority Schools to be supported from 2009-2012 have been identified as a result of the 2008 Priority Schools Programs survey.

The Priority Schools Programs survey is a voluntary and statewide survey that collects information including occupational status, hours worked and educational qualifications of parents and caregivers.

Priority Schools are identified every four years to coincide with the Commonwealth’s funding quadrennium.


**Further information**

More information about Priority Schools Programs is available on the Supporting low SES school communities website.

[www.lowsesschools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.lowsesschools.nsw.edu.au)

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