The Department of Education and Communities’ expenses are budgeted at $14.22 billion for 2013-14.

Funding for education in the Budget has increased to a record $13.95 billion.

Expense budgets for service groups

$10.24 billion for NSW Public Schools

$1.84 billion for TAFE NSW

$301 million for Early Childhood Education Services

$447 million for Vocational Education and Training

$995 million for funding support for non-government schools

$130 million for Sport and Recreation Services

$58 million for Citizenship and Communities

$21 million for Promoting Social and Economic Opportunities with Aboriginal People

$185 million for Cluster Grant Funding and Personnel Services

Capital works and maintenance budgets

$320 million for school maintenance, including an additional $40 million over four years.

$420 million for school capital works, including five new schools at Spring Farm, The Ponds, Strathfield, Crows Nest and in Sydney’s lower North Shore.

Five major new building projects in eight schools, including in northern Sydney, West Tamworth and Rutherford.

$107 million in capital works funding for TAFE NSW. This includes eight major building projects and one information technology project at six TAFE locations including Kingswood, Mudgee, Wollongbar and Young.

$10 million in capital works funding for the Office of Communities.

Office of Communities budget highlights

$108 million for sport and recreation programs

$23.4 million for the Community Building Partnership program

$22 million to continue the Sydney Cricket Ground stand redevelopment works

$1.6 million for the NSW Government’s new Aboriginal affairs plan, OCHRE – Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment, to support more Aboriginal students to stay at school, transition to work and create opportunities for economic participation.

School funding and the National Education Reform Agreement

NSW schools will benefit from new funding under the National Education Reform Agreement. The agreement will deliver an extra $5 billion for school education in NSW from 2014 to 2019.

The $5 billion of additional investment starts in 2014 with $153 million of extra funding.

This additional funding will allow the Department to significantly progress NSW Government reforms, including the Local Schools, Local Decisions policy, the Great Teaching, Inspired Learning blueprint, the Connected Communities policy and the Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan.

The Department’s Resource Allocation Model (RAM), like the Gonski funding model, will fund schools based on student need. The 229 public schools participating in the Empowering Local Schools National Partnership will be the first to transition to the RAM.