In 2016, the third component of the Resource Allocation Model (RAM) will be delivered for all schools. Schools will see additional funding flow through the base allocation. Every NSW public school will benefit from additional funding which will contribute to the operational capacity of the school.

What’s new in the base for 2016?
An extensive consultation process informed the development of the base school allocation for 2016. Principals indicated that a greater degree of operational flexibility would benefit schools.

There are four components of the base that will be delivered in 2016. The new components of the base include:

- per capita allocation
- professional learning allocation

The location allocation was the first component of the base to be delivered in 2015. It will continue to recognise and support the needs of more than 1,000 rural and remote NSW public schools.

For the first time, all NSW public schools will receive a RAM summary report that shows the full funding allocation, including operational and staffing costs.

Per capita allocation
The per capita allocation based on the students’ year group will distribute National Education Reform Agreement (NERA) funding, consistent with the recommendations of the Gonski Review. This is based on a weighted per capita allocation for each year level across every school setting. This allocation recognises the relative differences in the cost to educate our students within the current class size policy. It recognises that at different stages of a student’s learning, the cost of education varies. It delivers flexibility in supporting principals in local decision making. Schools have complete flexibility with this resource and may choose to use this allocation to:

- maintain a class if there has been a small reduction in full-time equivalent (FTE) staff
- allocate additional resources to support specific programs.

Some specialised settings receive a higher weighting due to the intensive nature of teaching support required.

Professional learning allocation
Every NSW public school will receive an increase in their total professional learning allocation in 2016, compared with 2015. In 2016, additional funding will be allocated on the basis of teaching and non-teaching staff.

This new allocation for professional learning incorporates Teacher Professional Learning (TPL) funding and includes additional funding. The Professional Learning Policy is being reviewed to incorporate the new methodology and additional funding.

School location and type is factored into the allocation methodology for the total amount of available professional learning funds. The new funding will support school staff in regional settings to have more equitable access to professional learning opportunities.