The equity loading for Aboriginal students is a funding allocation to support NSW public schools to meet the learning needs of Aboriginal students.

This is the second year this loading has been provided to schools through the Resource Allocation Model (RAM). Every NSW public school with Aboriginal student enrolments will receive funding.

**How is the loading calculated?**

The RAM uses both national census data and school-based enrolment data to determine the distribution of funds.

The formula funds students with the highest need at a higher rate per student. The rate per student increases based on the percentage of Aboriginal students in the school.

**How are the funds allocated to schools?**

Schools will receive the equity loading for Aboriginal background as flexible funding and/or staffing allocation. The staffing allocation is for permanent Aboriginal Education Officer (AEO) and Aboriginal School Learning and Support Officer (ASLO) positions on the school’s staff entitlement report. Schools that have not previously held a staffing entitlement for AEO or ASLO positions will only receive flexible funding.

For schools that currently receive funds for their allocated Aboriginal positions without a cash component, they will receive an additional $200 per Aboriginal student.

The equity loading for Aboriginal students does not include funding for the Norta Norta program. This will continue to be allocated through the targeted (individual student) funding component of the RAM (refer to information sheet 7).

**What does this mean for NSW schools in 2015?**

Every public school with Aboriginal students will receive funding. In 2015, approximately 52,000 students in 1,980 NSW public schools will receive funding.

**How will schools use the funding to support students?**

Principals will consult with staff, Aboriginal parents and carers and the local or regional Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, to determine the best way to support the learning needs of Aboriginal students.

The way schools use their funding will vary based on local needs. Some support will be for the entire school, and some will be for particular groups of students or individual students. Some schools may choose to combine their Aboriginal equity funding with other funding sources to better support the needs of Aboriginal students.

Every school has a school plan in which they must show the school community how they propose to use the funds to support students. Accountability for how the funds were used will occur through the annual school report.