What is the Base School Allocation?

The Resource Allocation Model (RAM) is consistent with the Gonski model. There is base funding for each student and loadings based on the same categories of need. The RAM has been designed to more precisely reflect the individual needs of each school and student.

The most complex component of the RAM is the Base School Allocation as it includes a number of school site specific loadings.

The Base School Allocation reflects the school type (primary, secondary, central, Schools for Specific Purposes), and it includes:
- a school allocation with funding for professional learning
- a budget based on current staffing entitlement, adhering to the class size policy
- site loadings for:
  - school buildings and facilities
  - climate
  - location.

How are the loadings allocated for 2014?

From the beginning of 2014, the 229 schools participating in the Empowering Local Schools National Partnership (ELSNP) will receive a total RAM allocation that incorporates:
- costed staff entitlement, and
- the sum of all existing global allocations including site loading for school buildings and facilities, site loading for climate, and site loading for location.

Staffing allocation

In 2014, ELSNP schools will receive a staffing budget based on staff entitlement and standard costs. This will allow them flexibility in determining staffing needs to meet their local requirements.

All other schools will continue to receive their existing staff entitlement under existing formulae. The staffing entitlement under this allocation adheres to the class size policy.

Site loading for school buildings and facilities

All schools will retain existing global maintenance related allocations.

Site loading for climate

ELSNP schools will receive an allocation that reflects their actual expenditure on electricity and gas costs.

All other schools will continue to receive funding through their global allocation.

In 2014, a new site loading for climate will be developed.

Site loading for location

2013 transition funding, including the Country Areas Program, will be continued for 2014. During 2014, a new location loading will be developed.

Other allocations

All schools will receive the sum of all existing formulae used for global allocations, including the $50 primary student allowance, teacher professional learning and computer coordinator allowance.

There will also be a number of site specific allocations.

How will the base school allocation impact on the cost of teachers?

The single biggest cost to a school is that of classroom teachers, but not all teachers cost the same. Teachers are paid across a range of different salary bands.

Under the RAM, a standard cost approach means that teachers on different salaries will cost the same. Principals will not be required to select staff based on cost. The actual differences in teacher costs will be managed at a system level.