

Needs-Based Funding Distribution Principles:

Lutheran Education of Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania System

Lutheran Education Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania (LEVNT) acts as the approved system authority for 20 Lutheran Schools located in metropolitan and regional areas across Victoria (15), New South Wales (4) and Tasmania (1). LEVNT is the schools' department of the Lutheran Church of Australia Victorian District (including Tasmania) and also, serves as the schools' department of the Lutheran Church of Australia NSW and ACT District under a memorandum of understanding between the two Church Districts.

Needs-Based Funding Distribution Arrangements

Each LEVNT school receives its full entitlement of State Government funding.

LEVNT receives Commonwealth Government funding (base funding and school/student characteristic loadings) for LEVNT schools based on Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) determined transition rates.

LEVNT will apply the following needs-based system funding distribution principles for LEVNT schools:

1. Public funding will be distributed to LEVNT schools in compliance with the *Australian Education Act 2013* and *Australian Education Regulation 2013*.
2. LEVNT will distribute base funding to individual schools based on the LEVNT determined transition rate.
3. LEVNT will recognise needs-based funding arrangements that take account of the specific circumstances of students and individual schools in order to assist in the minimisation of disadvantage and facilitate a high quality education for each student in every Lutheran school.
4. Publicly funded loadings that are received based on student characteristics, school location and school size will be distributed to each school based on a school's LEVNT determined transition rate.
5. The LEVNT determined transition rate includes a mechanism to redistribute the ISV targeted funding allocated by the Commonwealth to Victorian schools in 2013. This redistribution was incorporated in the 2019 Commonwealth funding distribution that is used to calculate the starting transition base for each school.
6. LEVNT will distribute any system supplementary funding to schools based on student enrolments. The system supplementary funding is made up of the difference between the funding allocated to LEVNT based on the DESE transition rate for each school and the funding allocated by LEVNT to schools based on each individual school's LEVNT determined transition rate.
7. LEVNT will apply a smoothing percentage to each school over the period 2020 to 2023 to even out wide fluctuations in funding changes over that period. Each school will receive any transition balance owing in 2024 based on its LEVNT determined transition rate distribution entitlement.

LEVNT Funding Arrangements

The LEVNT Regional Office is funded by schools through the following arrangements:

1. LEVNT will charge schools a System levy based on enrolments as reported at the August Census to fund its operations and support schools with their educational outcomes.
2. LEVNT will charge schools a separate Support Fund levy that is used to support schools in the event of specific circumstances such as financial hardship or developmental need. The Support Fund monies are managed separately according to a Terms of Reference approved by schools of the Region.
3. LEVNT will charge schools a separate System Transition Pool levy based on enrolments as reported at the August Census that will be used to manage transitional funding outcomes across LEVNT schools for educational and student purposes, including assistance with managing any adverse funding impacts over the transition period.

All levies paid to LEVNT is derived from schools recurrent income.

<p>LEVNT: Needs-Based Funding Distribution Principles</p>	<p>Compliance with: Australian Education Act 2013 Part 6 Division 2 Subsection 78 (5)</p>
<p>LEVNT will distribute to each school a per capita amount for each student, supplemented by additional funding targeted to individual student need.</p>	<p>a) An amount per student should be provided representing the recurrent resources required to support a student with minimal educational disadvantage to achieve expected educational outcomes.</p>
<p>Publicly funded loadings will be distributed in full to the specific schools for which they have been received based on school and student characteristics.</p>	<p>b) In addition to the amounts mentioned in paragraph (a), loadings should be provided to students and schools with additional needs in order to support student achievement, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. for students with disability; and ii. for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students; and iii. for students with socio-educational disadvantage; and iv. for students who have low English proficiency; and v. for schools based on location; and vi. for schools based on size.
<p>Schools fund the LEVNT Regional Office from recurrent funding to provide services to improve educational outcomes and realise efficiencies.</p>	<p>c) A funding model should take account of efficiencies that can be realised while improving educational outcomes;</p>
<p>Government funding to be distributed according to Schools Assembly approved needs-based funding principles and in compliance with Better Schools legislation.</p>	<p>d) A funding model should be publicly available and transparent.</p>

Reviewed: November 2020