

5 November 2020

Mr M Chaney
Chair
National School Resourcing Board

Dear Mr Chaney

Review of Regional Schooling Resource Standard Loadings

On behalf of the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS), the review commissioned by the Minister of the location loading and school size loading, which form part of the recurrent funding arrangements, is welcomed. These loadings are of particular importance to SACCS due to the profile of its schools. SACCS is the Approved Authority for 97 schools in South Australia, of which 82% are Primary Schools that have less than 400 enrolments. Furthermore, 100 % of the Regional / Remote Primary schools have less than 400 enrolments.

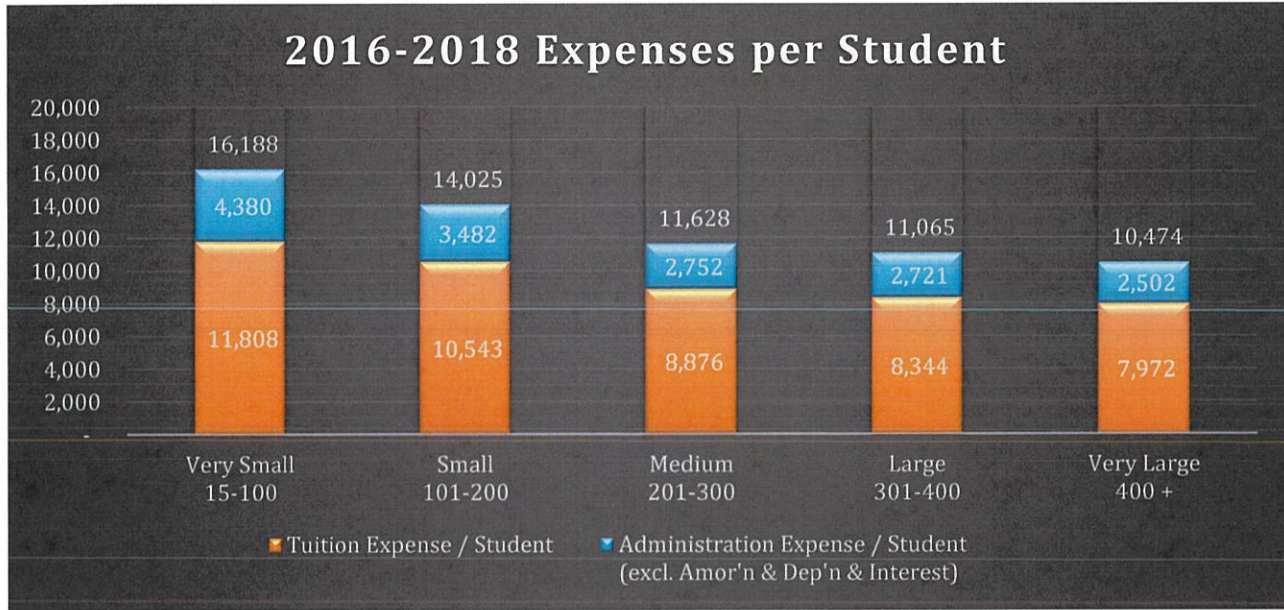
SACCS School Profile	Total	< 400 students
All Schools	97	
Primary Schools	69	57 (82%)
Regional / Remote Primary Schools	13	13 (100%)

School Size Loading

Using Financial Questionnaire data, SACCS has analysed the cost associated with educating students and operating schools for all its Primary schools.

Importantly, to enable a genuine comparison of the data, particular costs have been excluded being Depreciation / Amortisation and Interest Expense in order to remove the effect of each schools unique value of fixed assets and financing arrangements.

The costs reflected in the below graph are on a per student basis.



Comparison of CESA data to Current Loading

	Very Small 15-100	Small 101-200	Medium 201-300	Large 301-400	Very Large 401+
Cost per Student differential	\$ 5,714	\$ 3,551	\$ 1,154	\$ 591	\$ -
Current Primary 2020 size loading	\$ 185,245	\$ 185,245	\$185,245 less \$1,852 per student above 200	\$ -	\$ -
Proposed Primary 2020 size loading	\$ 571,400	\$ 710,200	\$ 346,200	\$ 236,400	\$ -

Key observations drawn from the data

- There is a per student cost differential between Very Large schools and schools with less than 400 students,
- For Very Small and Small schools, the cost differential is significant (\$5,714 for Vey Small and \$3,551 for Small),
- For each category of school, the current size loading is significantly less cost associated with educating students and operating schools for Primary schools.

School Location Loading

Regarding the location loading, through analysis of the additional costs incurred by regional and remote schools, SACCS considers that the existing location loading adequately addresses the costs associated with remoteness.

In conclusion, SACCS recommends that additional funding support through adjustments to the size loading, aligned to the following, is implemented for small Primary schools:

- Very Small 15 - 100: \$571,400
- Small 101 - 200: \$710,200
- Medium 201 - 300: \$346,200
- Large 301 - 400: \$236,400

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Roocke', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Roocke
Assistant Director – Finance and Infrastructure
Catholic Education South Australia

