



Mid-year intake for foundation year

Recurrent funding advice for non-government schools

This fact sheet explains Australian Government recurrent funding under the *Australian Education Act 2013* and the *Australian Education Regulations 2023* (the Regulations) for foundation year programs in state and territory jurisdictions.

What is a 'foundation year'?

The Regulations define 'foundation' as 'the year of schooling immediately before year 1'. For Australian Government recurrent funding purposes, foundation is a 'year' or 12 months of schooling. This means that students who participate in a foundation program that goes beyond 12 months can only attract recurrent funding for a single year (which is the year immediately before year 1).

Students who repeat a foundation year of schooling due to lack of educational attainment or development can attract recurrent funding for the repeated year of schooling.

Reporting in the non-government schools census

The Department of Education conducts an annual non-government schools census (the census) to calculate funding. It is important that schools report foundation year students correctly in the census.

Schools with multi-year learning stages must ensure students are only reported as foundation students in the census for a single year, being the year before year 1.

Reporting examples

Below are examples of how to report students in foundation year programs:

- A student is enrolled in a mid-year intake foundation program at the start of term 3 and the 18-month program finishes in December the following year. **The student should not be reported in the census for the first 6 months of the foundation program. The student is only eligible to be reported in the census for the year of attendance immediately before year 1 (the second year).**
- A student is enrolled in foundation at the beginning of the school year in a 12-month 'year' of schooling that finishes in December of the same year. Due to a lack of educational attainment or development, the student will repeat the same year of schooling. **This student is eligible to attract a second year of foundation recurrent funding and can be reported in the census as a foundation student for both years.**

- A 4 year-old student is considered ready to start school and is enrolled in a program at a school which offers multi-year learning stages, commencing with pre-primary (such as Montessori Stage 1 ages 3 to 6, or Steiner programs). **This student is only eligible to be reported in the census as a foundation student if they progress to year 1 the following year.**

Contact Us

For questions about ongoing requirements for recurrent funding:

- call the Department of Education on 1800 677 027 (select option 2)
- email schools@education.gov.au
- download the [Census guide](#) on SchoolsHUB.