



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 (which must not be longer than 12 months) immediately before year 1’. For Australian Government recurrent funding purposes this means 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.