



Distance education

The number of schools enquiring about delivering distance education has increased in recent years. To attract Australian Government recurrent funding for distance education students, schools must:

- have state or territory approval for distance education
- notify the Australian Government Department of Education (the department) through SchoolsHUB.

Schools can only report distance education students and attract Australian Government recurrent funding if they meet all 4 requirements, which are:

1. The school is approved for distance education by the state or territory it is located in.
2. The student must reside in the state or territory the school is located in.
3. The student is not registered as a home education student in accordance with the laws of the relevant state or territory.
4. The state or territory provides funding to the school for distance education students.

Non-government schools that only provide distance education are not considered a 'school' under the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act). Therefore, they are not eligible for funding.

Non-Government School Census

Schools with state or territory approval to deliver distance education must notify the department before the Non-Government Schools Census (the Census) in August each year.

Distance education students are eligible to be reported in the Census if they meet all 4 of the requirements listed above and students are:

- enrolled as a distance education student at the school on Census Day
- have a pattern of regular attendance at the school, or at school generally, during the year
- attending (not physically) the delivery of distance education at the school on at least one day during the census reference period.

It is up to the school to determine what constitutes attendance for a distance education student in the context of its distance education program. Documentation that the school may retain as evidence of attendance by distance education students, could include an attendance record which demonstrates that the student attended distance education during the census reference period.

Distance education students must be reported as distance education students in the Census (not as day students).

Schools must **not report** distance education students in the Census if they:

- are registered or approved for home education
- reside in a different state or territory than the school
- do not attract state or territory funding.

The Act provides distance education students with 45% of the Schooling Resource Standard. Distance education students are excluded from the calculation of the Capacity to Contribute score of a school.

We are here to help

If you have questions about Australian Government recurrent funding for distance education, contact us by:

- emailing schools@education.gov.au
- calling 1800 677 027.

