

Federal Election

2025



***Make your voice heard
on May 3rd***

INTRODUCTION

Public Education Advocacy Pack – Federal Election

Why This Matters

The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) represents the families of over 2.6 million students in our public schools. We advocate for quality, inclusive, and accessible education for every child, no matter their background or where they live.

This upcoming Federal Election is critical. Our public education system is under pressure—facing chronic underfunding, growing inequity, staff shortages, and increasing expectations without matching support. Public schools educate the vast majority of Australian children, including those with the greatest need, yet they remain the least resourced.

This election is our chance to change that.

We are calling on all political candidates and parties to commit to:

- Fast-tracking the full and fair funding of all public schools to the **Schooling Resource Standard (SRS)**.
- Investing in inclusive education, allied health support, and digital learning.
- Supporting family and community partnerships in education and providing schools with the time and resourcing to do so.
- Further resourcing and professional learning available for school staff

Every child deserves access to high-quality teaching, support, and opportunity. Public education is a cornerstone of a fair and democratic society—and it must be treated as a national priority.

Use this advocacy pack to speak up. Whether you're a parent, carer, student, educator or community member, your voice can help make public schools a top priority this election.

In this pack

This pack contains sample letters and social media posts supporters can use to advocate for public education in the lead-up to the Federal Election. These templates can be personalised and sent to local candidates from any party.



This pack contains:

- A clear introduction on why this Federal Election matters for public education
- Letter templates to personalise and send to your local candidates
- Versions written from the perspective of parents, students, and concerned citizens
- Letters targeting both government and opposition candidates
- Key themes: school funding, inclusion, family engagement, cost of living, digital learning, and workforce shortages
- Ready-to-use social media posts to raise awareness and encourage action
- Tips for contacting candidates

IN THIS PACK

- Letter templates to candidates
- Sample messages for social media
- Public education key messages
- Tips for contacting candidates

Please make use of these resources – they are a guide and can be changed to suit your school community needs. Share them with friends and colleagues – make your voice heard on May 3rd for public education



LETTERS / EMAILS TO CANDIDATES

These can be emailed, posted, or handed in at community events or meet-the-candidate sessions.

A. From a Young Person (Student Voice)

Subject: We Need Stronger Public Schools

Dear [Candidate Name],

As a student in a public school, I want to share what matters to me. Schools are about more than just books and tests — they are where we learn how to be part of a community.

My school needs more teachers, more support staff, and help for students who are struggling or feeling left out. It's hard to learn when some of us don't get the help we need.

Please support full funding for public education, more mental health support, and programs that make school inclusive for everyone.

We're the future — and we're asking you to invest in us.

Sincerely,

[Your Name], Student

[Year level or school optional]

B. Directed at Government Candidates (Holding the Line)

Subject: Public Education Needs Action Now

Dear [Candidate Name],

Your government has taken steps to reform education, but our public schools are still not receiving their full, fair share of funding.

As a voter in your electorate, I urge you to commit to meeting the full Schooling Resource Standard for every public school by 2028. Our students can't afford to wait.

Will you ensure no child is left behind due to underfunding and lack of resources?

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

C. Detailed letter

Subject: Supporting Public Education

As a [parent/carer/educator/community member] in the electorate of [Electorate Name], I am writing to express my concerns about the current state of public education funding and to seek your commitment to addressing these issues if elected.

Critical Education Funding Concerns

The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) has identified several critical issues facing our public schools that require urgent attention:

1. **Accelerated School Funding Increases:** Public schools across Australia continue to be underfunded. The recent Better and Fairer Schools Agreements between the federal, state and territory governments will deliver 100% of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) by 2035-36. We need an accelerated timeline to reach 100% of the SRS, recognising that even at 100% SRS funding, only 80% of students are expected to achieve basic numeracy and literacy standards. This stark reality highlights that 100% SRS funding model is the minimum required, not an aspirational target. The present funding arrangements leave many schools struggling to provide even basic services.
2. **Access to Basic Learning Resources:** Many students lack access to essential learning tools such as computers, up-to-date textbooks, and reliable internet connectivity. In today's digital world, this creates an unacceptable inequality in educational opportunities. Every student must have access to the basic resources required for modern education.

Local Impact [Electorate Name]

[INSERT PERSONALISED SECTION ABOUT LOCAL SCHOOLS AND SPECIFIC ISSUES]

Examples of local concerns you might include:

- Specific schools in your area that are struggling with resource shortages
- Local infrastructure issues (aging buildings, inadequate facilities)
- Community-specific challenges (e.g., rural connectivity, growing population needs)
- Personal stories about how funding shortfalls have affected your family or community

Our Request

I urge you to commit to:

- Updating the Better and Fairer Schools Agreements between the federal, state and territory governments to accelerate funding increases to public schools
- Advocating dedicated funding to ensure all students have access to essential learning resources, including technology
- [Add any electorate-specific requests]

Public education is the foundation of an equitable society and a strong economy. Our children deserve schools that are fully funded and equipped to prepare them for the future.

I would appreciate hearing your position on these important issues and what specific actions you plan to take if elected.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Optional: Include any relevant affiliations, such as P&C membership, school board position, etc.]

D. Directed at Government Candidates

Subject: Public Education Needs Action Now

Dear [Candidate Name],

Your government has taken steps to reform education, but our public schools are still not receiving their full, fair share of funding.

As a voter in your electorate, I urge you to commit to meeting the full Schooling Resource Standard for every public school by 2028. Our students can't afford to wait.

Will you ensure no child is left behind due to underfunding and lack of resources?

Yours sincerely,
[Your Name]

E. Directed at Opposition Candidates (Seeking Bold Commitments)

Subject: Will You Deliver for Public Schools?

Dear [Candidate Name],

I want to vote for a candidate who will stand up for fully funded, inclusive public education.

Our schools need more than a patch-up — they need bold investment to recruit and retain educators, fund allied health support, and ensure every child, regardless of background, can thrive.

Will you champion public schools as a core priority of your platform? I'm looking for leaders who will lead on education.

Regards,
[Your Name]

F. Teacher Shortages and Resourcing

Subject: Urgent Action Needed on Teacher Shortages

Dear [Candidate Name],

Our public schools are facing a staffing crisis. Teacher shortages are placing enormous pressure on students, educators, and school leaders. In some schools, classes are merged, subjects are cut, and students miss out on the support they need.

We can't solve this without strong action: better pay, fairer workloads, more support staff, and investment in teacher training and retention.

I'm asking you to stand up for the teaching profession and the students it serves. Public schools need sustained funding and workforce strategies that ensure every classroom has a qualified teacher and the resources to succeed.

Will you commit to addressing teacher shortages and ensuring every public school is fully and fairly resourced?

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Suburb or Electorate]

G. Inclusive Education

Subject: A Commitment to Inclusive Public Education

Dear [Candidate Name],

I am writing as a local voter and someone who values inclusion in our education system. Every child has a right to thrive in a welcoming school environment that supports their learning and wellbeing.

Too often, students with disability or learning differences are not given the support they need due to a lack of trained staff, classroom aides, or inclusive teaching strategies. Public schools need proper funding and specialist resources to deliver truly inclusive education.

I would like to see your commitment to policies that invest in inclusive practices, training for teachers, and accessible classrooms in every school.

Will you advocate for funding and policies that enable every child to learn and belong?

Warm regards,
[Your Name]
[Your Suburb or Electorate]

H. Family and Community Engagement

Subject: Families Need a Voice in Our Schools

Dear [Candidate Name],

Public education works best when families are partners in the process. Strong parent and community engagement has a powerful impact on student learning, attendance, and wellbeing.

But too often, school communities lack the time, support, and resources to build these essential relationships. I'd like to see greater recognition and investment in programs that support genuine family-school partnerships, especially in diverse and disadvantaged communities.

Will you support national efforts to embed family engagement as a key pillar in education policy and funding?

Kind regards,
[Your Name]
[Your Suburb or Electorate]

I. Allied Health Support in Public Schools

Subject: Invest in Allied Health Support in Public Education

Dear [Candidate Name],

Public schools are supporting more students with complex learning and wellbeing needs than ever before, but they are not resourced to meet this challenge alone.

Speech pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists, and other allied health professionals play a vital role in helping students succeed—especially when they can work directly with teachers and families as a team.

I'm calling on you to support increased federal funding for allied health services in schools, especially in disadvantaged and regional areas where support is hardest to access.

Will you advocate for stronger collaboration between health and education, with a commitment to funded allied health access in all public schools?

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Suburb or Electorate]

Quick Posts for Supporters to Use on X, Facebook, or Instagram

Post 1 – Funding

🔔 Public schools educate the majority of kids – but they’re still underfunded!
I’m voting for candidates who commit to fully funding public education by 2028. #FairFundingNow
#PublicSchoolProud

Every public school should be funded to meet the needs of every student. Let’s fast-track full and fair funding by 2028.

#FundOurSchools #FairFundingNow #PublicSchoolProud

Post 2 – Inclusion

Every child deserves to belong at school.
It’s time for real investment in inclusive education in every classroom.
#InclusionMatters #PublicEducation

Real inclusion means support in every classroom—not just on paper.
Invest in aides, training, and accessibility.

#InclusiveEducation #SupportEveryLearner

Post 3 – Family Engagement

Strong schools need strong partnerships with families.
I’m calling on candidates to support family engagement in education policy. #FamilyVoice
#StrongerTogether

Post 4 – Allied Health

Our kids need more than textbooks.
Let’s fund speechies, OTs, and mental health workers *in schools* where they’re needed most.
#SupportEveryStudent

Speechies, OTs, and counsellors are part of a child’s learning team.
Let’s work with them in schools, where they can assist for a student to belong.
#SupportEveryStudent #HealthyLearning

Post 5 - Digital Equity

Devices. Data. Access. These are not luxuries—they’re essentials for learning. Let’s close the digital divide.

#DigitalInclusion #EveryStudentConnected #PublicEducation

Post 6 – Cost of Living Relief

Public education shouldn't come with hidden costs.
Let’s support families with excursion, uniform, and subject fee relief.

#CostOfLivingCrisis #BackToSchoolSupport

TIPS FOR CONTACTING CANDIDATES

1. Know Who You're Contacting

- **Identify your local candidates** using the AEC website: <https://www.aec.gov.au>
- Include **major parties and independents**—especially those who may be in a tight race.

2. Use Multiple Methods of Contact

- **Email:** Professional and can include attachments (like advocacy packs).
- **Phone call:** More direct and memorable—ask to speak to their campaign manager if the candidate isn't available.
- **In-person visit:** Attend local meet-and-greet events or campaign forums.
- **Social media:** Publicly tag candidates on platforms like Twitter/X or Facebook with your key message.

3. Be Clear, Polite, and Concise

- Introduce yourself and where you're from (mention you're a constituent if relevant).
- State the issue: *"I'm contacting you because public school funding is a priority for me and many in our community."*
- Be **respectful**, even if you disagree with their policies.
- Ask a clear question, such as:

"If elected, will you commit to ensuring all public schools are funded to 100% of the SRS by 2028?"

4. Personal Stories Make Impact

- Briefly share how education policy has affected your family, school, or community.
- Candidates remember real stories more than statistics.

5. Provide Resources or a Call to Action

- Offer to send an info pack or invite them to a forum.
- Use a **letter template** or one-pager outlining what you're asking for (I can help with this too!).

6. Track Responses

- Keep a simple spreadsheet or notes of who responded and what they said.
- This helps for follow-up—and to share info with your community.

7. Follow Up

- If you haven't heard back in a week or two, follow up with a quick email or call.
- After the election, thank those who responded—even if they didn't win.

TIPS FOR CONTACTING CANDIDATES



KNOW WHO YOU'RE CONTACTING

Identify local candidates, including major parties and independents



BE CLEAR, POLITE, AND CONCISE

Introduce yourself, state the issue, and ask a question



USE MULTI-METHODS OF CONTACT

Use emails, phone calls, in-person visits and social media



PROVIDE RESOURCES OR A CALL TO ACTION

Offer to send info pack or invite candidates to forums



PERSONAL STORIES MAKE IMPACT

Briefly sharing how the issue affects you, your family, or community



TRACK RESPONSES

Keep track of responses



FOLLOW UP

If there's no response or after election



Fully Fund Public Schools by 2028

Close the Digital Divide



Support Families: Ease Back-to-School Costs

Fund Allied Health in Schools



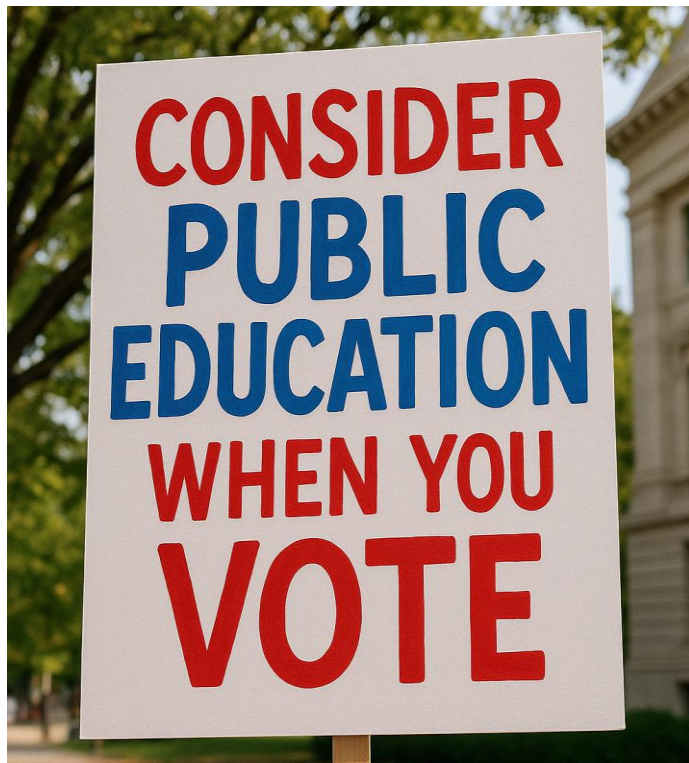
Family Engagement



Students Have a Voice - Listen



"The most powerful voice in a democracy is an informed and engaged citizen. Contact your candidates—because if they want your vote, they should hear your voice." ACSO 2025



WHAT IS THE SCHOOLING RESOURCE STANDARD (SRS)?

What does the SRS include:



\$13,000 per primary student
116,800 for secondary students (indexed annually)

Loadings for disadvantage:

- Low socio-economic backgrounds
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Low English proficiency
- Regional and remote areas
- Students with disability (funded through separate programs)

What's the goal?

To make sure all students have the resources they need to meet minimum standards—no matter where they live or what school they attend.

The funding gap



The Commonwealth Government has promised to fund 25% of the SRS for public schools and states and territories are expected to fund the remaining 75%

‘The most powerful voice in a democracy is an informed and engaged citizen.

Contact your candidates – because if they want your vote, they should hear your voice.’

Fast track the full and fair funding to public schools to the Schooling Resource Standard



Digital learning



Family engagement



Cost-of-support



Allied health support

Speak up for Public Schools – Every Voice Matters

Questions Parents Can Ask POLITICIANS IN THE ELECTION

1. Will you commit to fully funding public schools to 200% of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) by 2028?
2. Why are public schools still underfunded when they educate the majority of Australian children?
3. Do you support increasing the Commonwealth contribution to public schools beyond 25% of the SRS?

On Inclusion and Student Wellbeing

4. What will you do to ensure schools can meet the needs of students with disability and learning challenges?
5. How will you address the growing demand for allied health support—like speech therapists and counsellors—in schools?
6. What’s your plan to support student mental health and reduce bullying in schools?

Out-of-Pocket Costs

7. What will you do to ease the cost of public schooling for families, including school contributions, devices, uniforms, and excursions?
8. Do you support removing ‘voluntary’ fees and replacing them with adequate government funding?
9. How will you help schools attract and retain great teachers, especially in rural and remote areas?
10. What are your plans to reduce teacher workload so they can focus more on teaching and student support?
11. What policies will you support to ensure families are recognised and respected as partners in their child’s education?



Want to know more about ACSSO?

Website: <https://www.acsso.org.au>

Connect with us on:



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