

2025

Capital Financial Contribution Guidelines



Endorsed by Commission: 427

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Introduction

1. The Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) administers capital funding under the Queensland Government Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) and the Australian Government Capital Grants Program (CGP).
2. Capital funding is available to assist non-government school communities to improve capital infrastructure where they do not have the capacity to meet the total cost of the project.
3. In administering these capital funds, QCEC as the Block Grant Authority (BGA) under the CGP must assess the maximum contribution a school and its supporting community can make to the project¹. As the Capital Assistance Authority (CAA) under the CAS, QCEC must determine the school community's capacity to obtain financial resources for capital projects, including, for example, by donations, fundraising, loans and payment of fees².
4. The Guidelines should be read against and in conjunction with the following documents which provide further detail about the requirements of the capital program:
 - a. the *QCEC 2025 Capital Round – Important Dates*
 - b. the *QCEC 2025 Capital Assistance Guidelines*
 - c. the *QCEC 2025 Capital Assistance Guidelines – Special Assistance Schools*
 - d. the *QCEC 2025 External Infrastructure Subsidy Scheme Guidelines*
 - e. the *Capital Grants Program Guidelines* published by the Australian Government
 - f. the *Capital Assistance Scheme Guidelines* published by the Queensland Government
 - g. the *External Infrastructure Subsidy Scheme Guidelines* published by the Queensland Government
 - h. the *Australian Education Act 2013* (Cth) and *Australian Education Regulation 2013* (Cth)
 - i. the *Education (Capital Assistance) Act 1993* (Qld)
 - j. the *Education (Capital Assistance) Regulation 2015* (Qld)
 - k. *QCEC 2023 Capital Grants Conditions of Compliance*
 - l. *QCEC Appeal Process – Government Funded Programs*.
5. The eligibility of projects is a separate process and any grant funding calculated under these guidelines will only apply to eligible project components.
6. With a limited funding pool available, projects are prioritised by the QCEC Capital Assistance Assessment Committee. The grant funding calculated by these guidelines is contingent on the project being prioritised for funding.

Capacity to contribute

7. The methodology for determining the financial contribution by applicant schools is determined by QCEC with advice from the QCEC Finance Committee.
8. QCEC uses the [National School Resourcing Board](#)'s definition of 'capacity to contribute', where the capacity to contribute is a function of the school community's income and wealth, with school community referring to parents and guardians of the students at the school.

¹ [Capital Grants Program Guidelines 2022](#), section 59

² [Education \(Capital Assistance\) Regulation 2015](#), part 1, section 1(1)(g)

Capacity to Contribute scores

9. Under these guidelines, a school's Capacity to Contribute (CTC) score is used to measure its capacity to contribute to capital costs and to determine the size of the grant for each eligible project.
10. Under section 52 of the [Australian Education Act 2013](#), the Minister determines the CTC score for every non-government school, subject to exclusions in subsection 6.
11. The methodology for calculating CTC scores is outlined in section 21-24 of the [Australian Education Regulation 2013](#). The CTC score for 2025 applied by the Minister is based on the Direct Measure of Income (DMI) score.
12. The CTC score to be used in 2025 for all Catholic schools in Queensland will be the published CTC score as at 1 June 2025. Where a greenfield new school, that does not have a CTC score at the time of applying, is in the same or similar area to an existing school, the CTC of the 'like' school will be used, until the new school has its own CTC score.

Using CTC scores to calculate capacity to contribute

13. The *Australian Education Act 2013* (section 54) specifies the capacity to contribute percentages that apply to each SES score.

Table 1. Capacity to Contribute percentages – Australian Education Act Paragraph 54

Capacity to contribute percentage			
Item	CTC score	Primary school	Secondary school
1	93 or lower	10.00	10.00
2	94	10.86	12.19
3	95	11.71	14.38
4	96	12.57	16.56
5	97	13.43	18.75
6	98	14.29	20.94
7	99	15.14	23.13
8	100	16.00	25.31
9	101	17.90	27.50
10	102	19.80	29.69
11	103	21.70	31.88
12	104	23.60	34.06
13	105	25.50	36.25
14	106	27.40	38.44
15	107	29.30	40.63
16	108	31.20	42.81
17	109	33.10	45.00
18	110	35.00	47.19
19	111	37.62	49.38
20	112	40.23	51.56
21	113	42.85	53.75
22	114	45.46	55.94

Capacity to contribute percentage

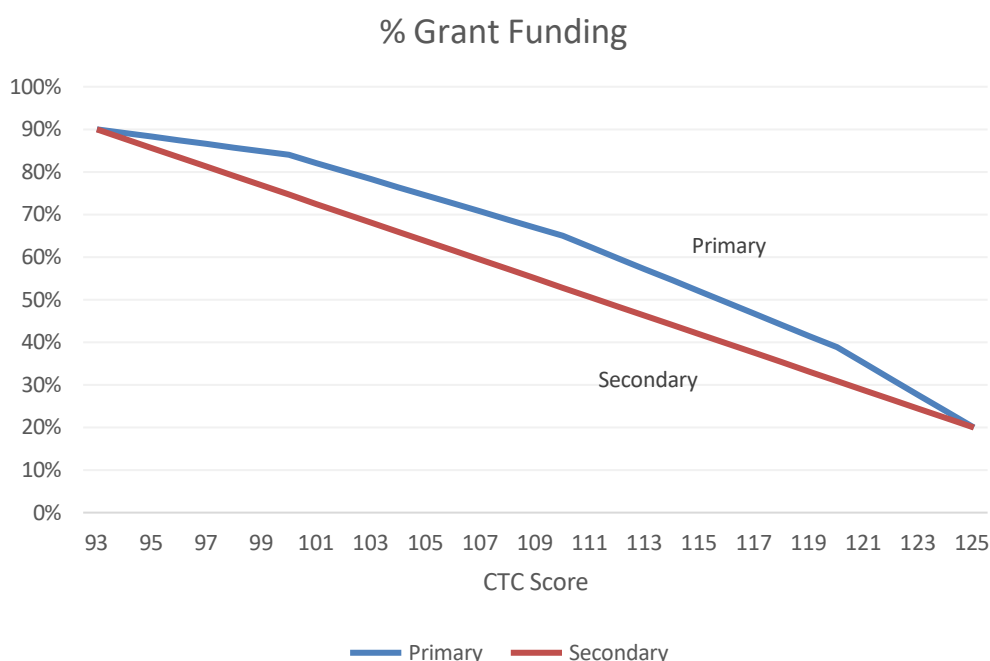
Item	CTC score	Primary school	Secondary school
23	115	48.08	
24	116	50.69	60.31
25	117	53.31	62.50
26	118	55.92	64.69
27	119	58.54	66.88
28	120	61.15	69.06
29	121	64.92	71.25
30	122	68.69	73.44
31	123	72.46	75.63
32	124	76.23	77.81
33	125 or higher	80.00	80.00

- The Australian Government uses these percentages to calculate recurrent funding of non-government schools. A 'capacity to contribute' discount of 10 per cent is applied for schools with the lowest CTC scores (meaning these schools are entitled to 90 per cent of the base Schooling Resource Standard (SRS)). As CTC scores increase, the base SRS amount is discounted further. For schools with the highest CTC scores, a 'capacity to contribute' discount of 80 per cent is applied.

Using capacity to contribute to calculate grant

- QCEC uses the same methodology to determine grant funding for capital projects, with a maximum grant rate of 90 per cent of the total project cost provided to schools at SES 93 or lower. The grant rate is reduced to 20 per cent for schools at SES 125 or higher.

Figure 1. Proposed % Grant Funding by SES score based on Table 1.



- The use of CTC scores and percentages provides greater certainty to applicants and ensures fair and consistent grant allocation across all applications.
- The maximum level of 90% grant funding (plus any applicable locality loading) applies to all Special Assistance Schools and Majority Indigenous Student Schools.

Locality loading

- In calculating the total project cost, schools outside of the Brisbane metropolitan area have an allowance for location. The grant funding percentage calculated by these guidelines will apply to the gross project cost with the locality allowance 100% grant funded.

External Infrastructure Subsidy

19. Separate Grant funding is available for External Infrastructure, with up to 50% of the costs met by the State Government and the balance funded by the school.
20. External Infrastructure is not considered an eligible project component in this assessment and will be excluded from both the capital grant funding and the school contribution calculations.

Fixed grant

21. Using the above methodology, the grant is calculated at the time of application without provision for subsequent upward revisions. No additional funding is available for project or cost variations or special circumstances.
22. If the approved project tender is lower than the project cost approved by the Minister the level of Government funding is reduced in accordance with Government regulations.
23. If the project is completed at a total cost lower than the project cost approved by the Minister, Government funding is reduced in accordance with Government regulations.
24. Catholic School Authorities can appeal QCEC's decision via the [QCEC appeal process](#).

Process

25. The financial contribution assessment does not require a separate application. The level of grant funding will be calculated based on the published CTC score as at 1 June 2025 and the methodology set out in these guidelines.
26. Future stages of new schools continuing with their staged development will be assessed under these guidelines.