



Labor's plan for Non-Government Schools

South
Australian
Labor

For the
Future



Foreword

Every South Australian deserves a great education, regardless of the school they go to.

My government's investments in education, training and skills are about setting up kids for the best life. From introducing a second year of preschool to give kids the best start, to investing record funding in both government and non-government schools, and by rebuilding TAFE SA – we are making sure every South Australian can grab the opportunities before them.

Over the past 4 years, my government has worked collaboratively with non-government schools to ensure their role in the education system is recognised.

When parents choose non-government schooling, they get with that substantial State Government funding for schools and infrastructure.

This is on top of funding provided by the Commonwealth Government.

If re-elected, my government will continue to build on existing funding and make further targeted investments in non-government schools.



Peter Malinauskas MP
Premier for South Australia





A RECORD OF DELIVERY FOR NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

 **DELIVERED**

Access to resources

The Malinauskas Labor Government has provided non-government schools with access to resources developed by the Department for Education, to improve academic results. This includes the Numeracy Check which is rolling out from 2026 - provided for free to non-government schools to use to help with maths.

The Malinauskas Labor Government has delivered record funding to non-government schools. We are proud to have played a role in supporting non-government schools to deliver the best education.

✓ DELIVERED



Locked in around \$4.8 billion in State Government funding for non-government schools over the next decade

It was a Labor Government who introduced funding levels for non-government schools at 22 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard – above the 20 per cent minimum requirement.

This is over and above the funding provided by the Commonwealth Government.

But this funding was never guaranteed. Now it is. The Malinauskas Labor Government has signed a 10-year deal to guarantee funding levels over the decade.

This is delivering around \$4.8 billion in funding to non-government schools across the decade.

✓ DELIVERED



Regional school buses

The Malinauskas Labor Government has provided both independent and Catholic schools with \$500,000 each per year in extra funding to assist in providing regional transport services to non-government students.

✓ DELIVERED



National advocacy

The Malinauskas Labor Government has stood with non-government schools to advocate to the Commonwealth Government. Most notably, we all stood together to fight for the return of mid-year intake funding, resulting in the Commonwealth Government committing to delivering a funding solution for non-government schools.

✓ DELIVERED



3-year old preschool

The Malinauskas Labor Government has introduced the biggest reform to the early years through the introduction of a second year of preschool for 3-year-olds. In designing this program, we've made sure non-government schools are part of the program and are eligible for infrastructure grants to enable 3-year-old preschool at non-government early learning centres.

A student is sitting at a desk, working on a project. The desk is covered with various papers, including a large sheet with a grid pattern. A clear water bottle is visible in the foreground. The student is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt. The background shows other papers and a black bag.

OUR COMMITMENTS TO NON- GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

The Malinauskas Labor Government is taking a plan to the election to build on investments we have already made to non-government schools throughout the past 4 years.

We will continue to provide substantial support to non-government schools.



No new taxes

A re-elected Malinauskas Labor Government makes a firm commitment that there will be no new taxes introduced on non-government schools. This is in stark contrast to Victoria, where payroll tax was recently introduced for non-government schools.

This means families won't be slugged with extra fees to cover increased taxes.



\$32 million to cover non-government school costs for regulatory bodies

Historically, government school funding has covered the non-government school costs for regulatory bodies like the SACE Board and the Education Standards Board. The Malinauskas Labor Government is changing that so that funding allocated for government schools goes directly to them – which is the right thing to do.

Instead of slugging the extra cost on non-government schools, which could be passed onto families, a re-elected Malinauskas Labor Government will allocate additional funding to prevent extra charges on non-government school families. This comes at an estimated saving for non-government schools and families of \$32 million.

This funding is on top of the substantial \$4.8 billion in State funding being invested over the next 10 years in non-government schools.



A new joint gym for Gleeson College and Golden Grove High School

A re-elected Malinauskas Labor Government will contribute \$10 million to build a new gym for Golden Grove High School and Gleeson College. With a \$10 million commitment also made by Catholic Education South Australia, this joint funding will deliver a better gym for students.

Extending HomeStart to Technical College graduates

HomeStart makes it easier for South Australians to buy their own homes. The Graduate Loan allows eligible South Australians to access a loan with only a 2 per cent deposit.

Under a re-elected Malinauskas Labor Government, all Technical College graduates – including non-government Technical College graduates – will become eligible for the HomeStart Graduate Loan.

More skills places

Access to TAFE SA is important for non-government schools to offer VET in Schools programs. The Malinauskas Labor Government has rebuilt TAFE SA, and increased its funding so it can train more South Australians.

If re-elected, we will further expand TAFE SA with a \$25.5 million new trades training facility at the Mount Barker TAFE campus. This will deliver 1,200 training places a year, with opportunities for local non-government school students to study there.

Reaffirm our commitment to regional school buses

At the 2022 State Election, the Malinauskas team promised that we would provide \$4 million to provide regional transport services to students. \$500,000 per annum is provided to both catholic and independent schools, total \$1m per year.

My government will not only continue that if re-elected - we will also index the funding by 2.5 percent each year from 2027 to ensure the funding remains at a fair level.



KIDS OFF SCREENS

South Australia has led the world by initiating Australia's ban on social media for children. We will now double down on our pursuit by ensuring all South Australian children and young people are living active, healthy and happy lives – where smartphones and social media are not the defining feature of their childhood.

Student Volunteer Awards

We want to see more students getting involved in volunteering. Not only does volunteering help students connect with others and make a difference, but it also takes students away from screens. That's why a re-elected Malinauskas Labor Government will introduce a new Student Volunteer Award Program for all school students, across all sectors. It will allow young people to gain valuable skills and experience and gain SACE credits in year 11. In partnership with Volunteering SA & NT, a new portal will be created to connect students and volunteering opportunities at school.

Wait Mate

South Australia is leading the way to make childhood smartphone free. We are investing \$6.5 million to make the Wait Mate program available to every school in the state, across all sectors, supporting parents to unite and delay the introduction of smartphones for their kids.





Free School Holiday Come-And-Try Sessions

The Malinauskas Labor Government will establish the *Try.Play.Belong* program, allowing all South Australian children aged 3-16 to attend come-and-try sports and activities sessions during the school holidays – free of charge.

- Activities hosted by local sporting and recreation clubs
- An additional option for families while parents are working
- More opportunities for clubs to recruit participants

This will provide more opportunities for young South Australians to engage with their local communities and keep physically active.

Expanding Sports Vouchers to include 16 to 18-year-olds

It's all too common for kids reaching the end of their school years to drop extracurricular activities like sports and music to focus on their studies. Costs can also increase the older you get. But keeping our kids' bodies active, keeps their minds in top shape.

A re-elected Malinauskas Labor Government will expand the current Sports Vouchers Plus program to include all 16 to 18-year-olds for the first time.

- Provide 2 x \$100 vouchers per child each year, now also to 16 to 18-year-olds
- Cover the cost of sport, active recreation and music fees

This commitment, commencing on 1 January 2027, builds on our existing program, where we doubled the value of the voucher to \$200, and expanded the eligible activities to include dance, music lessons, swimming, scouts and guides.



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