Making Public School Free

Foreword

We believe that a quality education should be available to everyone regardless of their background, postcode or family income.

By investing in our public education system, we are supporting the next generation to achieve their full potential.

The Malinauskas Labor Government has already made strong progress in increasing access to education, by investing in targeted cost-of-living initiatives for our public school families. Our initiatives include a $200 discount on school fees, discounted computers, a school excursion support program and free devices for high-school students on the school card.

But we know there's more to do to make public education affordable for every family.

Because public school is a right for every South Australian child - and school fees shouldn't get in the way of getting the best education.

That's why the Malinauskas Labor Government is taking to the election a nation-leading plan to abolish public school fees, making public education free for all South Australian children.

This bold initiative will provide immediate cost-of-living relief for families and set up the next generation to grasp the significant opportunities our state has before us.

Peter Malinauskas MP
Premier for South Australia

MAKING PUBLIC SCHOOL FREE

We believe that access to public education is a fundamental right.

The current average cost of the annual materials and services charge is $382 for primary students and $723 for secondary students.

We know this creates pressure on family budgets – especially alongside other school costs like uniforms and laptops.

And we want to make it easier for South Australian families.

That's why the Malinauskas Labor Government is taking to the election a bold and nation-leading plan to abolish public school fees, starting from the 2027 school year.

This policy will save South Australian families $300 million over the next four years, including an extra $148 million on top of our existing investment of $152 million to fund the school card program and the $200 material and services charge rebate for all school students.

This means that each South Australian family with a child in public schooling will save on average more than $8,000 per child over their 13 years of schooling.

This money will go straight back into the pockets of families, providing immediate cost-of-living relief.

We believe that essential public services should be accessible to all and our plan will deliver just that.

DELIVERED

This builds on our existing targeted cost savings measures for families in public schools

✓ **DELIVERED**

Doubled the School Sports Voucher

Doubled the School Sports Voucher to 2 x $100 vouchers per school age child, and expanded it to include music lessons.

✓ DELIVERED

School Materials and Services Fee Discount

School materials and services fee discount - $100 discount in 2022, 2023 and 2024 – and double that discount to $200 in 2025.

✓ DELIVERED

School Excursion Support Program

A 2025 school excursion support program – for drought affected regional families on a school card with a year 7 child.

✓ DELIVERED

Discounted computers

Discounted school computers – enabling families to purchase computers, with a saving of up to $200.

✓ DELIVERED

School Breakfast Expansion

School breakfast $6.5 million expansion - allowing more state government schools to run a breakfast program five days a week.

✓ DELIVERED

Student MetroCARD

Student MetroCARD - $10 travel for 28 days, or 25c a trip, for students using an Adelaide MetroCard.

✓ DELIVERED

Learning for Life Program

Learning for Life program - $4 million to the Smith Family to support an extra 700 families every year with tutoring and education costs.

✓ DELIVERING

Free Laptops for high school students on School Card

Free laptops for high school students in years 7 and 10 for families on school card. This program will continue under a modified school card scheme with existing income thresholds maintained.

South
Australian
Labor