

File Note

Determining eligible schools for the School Investment Package that have received major redevelopment (including rebuild).

Description

- New schools that opened in 2015 or after are excluded.
- The definition of new school excluded redevelopments of existing schools (including where the school was completely rebuilt or merged with another school).
- For the purposes of determining eligibility the Ministry considered whether or not it could clearly articulate the rationale for excluding some redevelopments / rebuilds and not others
- Our default position was that they were all in regardless of the scale of the redevelopment.
- This position was supported by the due diligence process imbedded in the School Investment Package that requires the Ministry to review and approve all projects. If there are no projects that meet the 10YPP criteria then the school cannot access the funds.
- This provided better risk mitigation than trying to determine eligibility based on need.
- It also mitigated the risk of the Ministry being perceived as picking winners and losers or being seen to have subjective criteria based on need.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

BUDGET SECRET: SCHOOL INVESTMENT PACKAGE

All state schools opened before 2015 and not in the process of potentially closing (around 2,050 schools), regardless of size, are eligible to receive a one-off capital contribution to spend on school property.

To ensure the contribution is fair across schools that range in size, the amount a school can receive will be determined by their roll size. We are using the 2019 July roll.

Schools get \$693 per student up to a maximum of \$400,000. Schools will receive a minimum a \$50,000, regardless of their roll size.

The School Investment Package will enable schools to spend on property projects that they otherwise would need to defer. Funding will be spent on property projects to be delivered over the next 12-24 months.

Schools will have projects planned as part of their usual 10 Year Property Plan (10YPP), and this funding will be used to either accelerate or expand planned or existing works.

If schools do not have a project planned already, the Ministry will work with the school Board to identify upgrade works that can improve the school environment for its students, in line with the school's vision.

Projects will vary from school to school, but examples of planned works may include:

- Create more collaborative space by modifying the configuration of existing teaching spaces;
- Resurfacing outdoor courts and paved areas;
- Upgrading the school's storm water drainage systems;
- General landscaping and signage works;
- Bringing forward or expanding classroom upgrades, to improve lighting, acoustics and ventilation; or
- Capital projects to maintain existing pools (e.g. replacing a pool pump).

To limit the burden on schools, existing 5YA processes will be used to access the funding provided by the School Investment Package. Principals and Boards are familiar with these processes.

This additional funding will give schools a boost, and enable them to accelerate planned works.

As a brief summary of the process all schools will be asked to identify a project in their property plans and discuss with their property adviser. The Ministry will review and confirm the project fits within the investment package criteria. Once agreed the school can obtain a quote for the work. The Ministry reviews and accepts the quote and the work commences. The contractor is paid once the work is completed and inspected. If the school identifies a project that is not in their 10YPP plan, it will be on a case by case basis.

Where it makes sense for the Ministry to manage the projects we can work with the school to develop a delivery plan. Ministry staff are on stand by and ready to help.

Integrated schools, schools built through a Public Private Partnership, or schools in leased accommodation are excluded from the Schools Investment Package.