



Fact sheet for families: School Readiness Funding

About School Readiness Funding

In an Australian-first, the Victorian Government is investing around \$160 million over four years to provide School Readiness Funding. This is for kindergartens that deliver a funded kindergarten program for three- and four-year-old children.

In 2019, funded kindergarten programs in 25 local government areas of Victoria received School Readiness Funding for the first time. A further seven local government areas received the funding in 2020. In 2021, all funded Victorian kindergartens will be receiving this funding. This funding is designed to help support your child's learning and development at kindergarten, and is available to long day care and other kindergarten services.

The amount of funding is calculated using information from each kindergarten that helps the Department of Education and Training determine where funds are most needed. Some services will receive \$1,000 extra per year, with a small number of services receiving more than \$200,000 extra per year.

School Readiness Funding and the kindergarten service my child attends

School Readiness Funding supports educational outcomes for all children in the kindergarten program in the priority areas of:

- communication (language development)
- wellbeing (social and emotional development)
- access and inclusion.

School Readiness Funding funds programs and supports that benefit all children, and builds the knowledge and skills of educators and families.

This may include:

- speech pathology, psychology and occupational therapy professionals to work with kindergarten educators to strengthen their knowledge, skills and expertise to benefit your child every day
- support for you to enhance your child's learning and development at home
- additional educators, or coaching for educators, to enhance the educational program offered to your child
- programs to support everyone to thrive in kindergarten, including families and children who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, refugees, new migrants or others who have diverse language and culture, children with disabilities or developmental delays, and children and families who have experienced trauma.

Which kindergartens are receiving School Readiness Funding in 2021?

School Readiness Funding is being provided to around 1700 kindergartens in 48 local government areas for the first time in 2021 (see map below).

If your child attends a funded kindergarten program in one of the areas below, the service your child attends will receive School Readiness Funding.

How will my child's kindergarten use their School Readiness Funding?

All kindergartens receiving School Readiness Funding will have a plan for how it will be used. Speak to your child's kindergarten to find out how they will use this additional funding.

For more information on School Readiness Funding, see:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school-readiness

Local government areas to receive School Readiness Funding for the first time in 2021

