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Federal Budget fails test for public education

The Rudd Government's first budget doesn't give parents, students and teachers what we need for public education, said Australian Education Union Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos.

"Lifting overall student performance and addressing student underachievement requires an immediate and significant investment to lower class sizes, to provide all students with more individual attention and to modernise our schools," said Mr. Gavrielatos.

"Whilst funding for re-announced election commitments is welcome, it is not enough to redress years of chronic and systematic neglect of public education.

"The Government has missed its first real chance to address the damage caused by eleven years of under-funding of public schools under the Howard Government.

"The redirection of discredited Howard Government initiatives like school vouchers into literacy and numeracy programs is welcome.

"However these measures still fall well short.

"Government research shows that public schools need at least \$2.9 billion in additional annual funding."

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