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COAG announcements necessary but majority of schools still miss out on what is needed.

While new funding announced at the recent Council of Australian Governments' meeting will deliver vital investment to some schools it falls far short of what is needed to ensure a high quality education for all Australian students.

Public schools remain seriously underfunded.

Investment for schools located in areas of low socio-economic status will provide targeted assistance for some of Australia's most disadvantaged students. But more than 85% of schools will miss out and there are still no details on which schools will be eligible and under what conditions.

Despite lifting government primary schools to the same level of funding as government high schools, the annual recurrent funding for public schools remains capped significantly below non-government levels.

Commonwealth funding for all government schools is now capped at 10% of AGSRC, whilst commonwealth funding of non-government schools ranges from 13.7% - 70 % of AGSRC.

The extra funding to implement the Rudd Government's computers in schools election promise is absolutely necessary given the huge cost associated with its implementation.

As a nation we need to strive to lift overall student performance as well as addressing underachievement associated with disadvantage.

Public schools need extra federal funding to: reduce class sizes, provide more individual attention when it's needed and provide modern learning environments.

Every school and student deserves the right to the best quality education.

Angelo Gavrielatos
Federal President
Australian Education Union