3. Portable Funding Allowance Proposal

Students’ socioeconomic status is a weak predictor of their performance.

The proposed Independent Schools Victoria Portable Funding Allowance (PFA) would be available to all students in government and non-government schools. It comprises a base component, topped-up with evidence-based loadings for individual special needs.

Additional funding would be allocated to Indigenous students, students with a disability, students from a Language Background Other Than English and students from remote areas. A student with a disability would receive the same special needs assistance as any other in similar circumstances.

Determining a base cost

It calculated a Public Base Cost amount at 2003 prices (including in-school and out-of-school recurrent costs):
- Primary school – $6201 per student
- Secondary school – $8504 per student.

Students’ social status does not dictate their scholastic destiny.

With indexation, the publicly funded cost of Australian schooling in 2010 is calculated to be $9287 for primary school students and $12,079 for secondary school students. It is these figures on which the PFA is based.

Our view
Australian and international evidence indicates that students’ socioeconomic status is a weak predictor of their performance in testing. Independent Schools Victoria believes students’ social status does not dictate their scholastic destiny. It would be more effective for government to target individual students who are failing, regardless of where their family sits on a socioeconomic index.

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