

At-a-glance: quick comparison of education policies.

ISSUE	ALP	COALITION	GREENS
Students with Disabilities	<p>No commitment to portable funding.</p> <p>Common definitions between states.</p> <p>New access to early intervention services and therapies.</p> <p>Helping Children with Autism package (\$190m).</p> <p>Some additional treatment services through Medicare</p>	<p>Committed to portable funding.</p> <p>Common definitions between states by 2012.</p> <p>Education Card for all students with disability starting in 2012 for severe categories, and expanding as the budget improves.</p>	<p>No commitment to portable funding.</p> <p>Policy supports increased funding and services, but not specific as to how that would be apportioned.</p> <p>Will await the outcomes of the Review of Funding.</p>
Religious Freedom and Choice	<p>Will ‘harmonise and consolidate’ anti-discrimination laws. This will include looking at gaps at the federal level and reviewing the powers of the Australian Human Rights Commission and the adequacy of the complaint-handling process.</p> <p>“Federal Labor recognises that there are longstanding exemptions in anti-discrimination laws, at both the federal and state level, for educational institutions established for religious purposes in relation to the employment of staff.”</p> <p>Consultation on the proposed single anti-discrimination law.</p>	<p>‘The Coalition would not support amendments that would remove the current ability of schools to hire and retain staff on the basis that they are genuine adherents, in belief and practice, to Christian or other faith basis of a school’.</p> <p>‘Similarly the Coalition would not support amendments their ability to integrate a world view based on religious beliefs and values into curriculum and school practice including enrolment.’</p>	<p>Would ‘ensure that non-govt schools do not discriminate in hiring of staff or selection of students’; and ‘have an admissions and expulsions policy similar to public schools including an obligation to enrol’.</p>

Notes here have been summarised from direct correspondence and published policy positions available at the time of preparation. Check with the parties concerned for more information. Please report any inaccuracies to ceo@csa.edu.au. Responsibility for election comment is taken by S O’Doherty for Christian Schools Australia, 5 Byfield St Macquarie Park NSW.

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Chaplaincy	<p>Further funding for three years.</p> <p>Expansion to 1,000 more schools, being 3,700 in total.</p>	<p>Funding until at least 2014.</p> <p>Expansion to 1,000 more schools, being 3,700 in total.</p>	<p>Replace the chaplain programme with grants for secular counsellors for 2,000 schools.</p>
Recurrent Funding	<p>Until the end of 2013, funding will be “at least indexed as currently for all schools”.</p> <p>“Post 2013 arrangements will include indexation for all schools and will be put forward well before the next election.”</p> <p>Comprehensive Review of Funding underway.</p>	<p>Continue the SES model beyond the current quadrennium.</p> <p>Indexation, FM and FG continued.</p> <p>Will look at any enhancements of SES model suggested by the Review of Funding.</p>	<p>End the SES funding system, replacing it with a resources-based model (inc. fees and other parent contributions).</p> <p>Withdraw funding from ‘the very wealthiest schools’.</p> <p>A pool of funds for non-government schools (i.e. not a per capita entitlement). Pool set at 2003/4 levels plus inflation.</p> <p>End the nexus between public school funding increases and non-govt school indexation.</p>
Capital funding	<p>The Government Budgeted for non-government school capital funding through til 2013-2014. This capital will be made available to no-government schools immediately if the Government is re-elected, with a focus on growing communities.</p>	<p>Restructure unspent BER (mainly affecting govt schools).</p> <p>Acknowledges concerns about ‘growing inadequacies of existing government capital support mechanisms to the Independent schools sector’ and ...’willing to investigate [CSA-suggested investment incentive] options further’.</p>	<p>Not specified in federal policy. In at least one state, NSW, the policy is to ‘reform the [capital funding] system to protect public schools from the expansion of private institutions’.</p>

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Targeted funding	Delivered through National Partnership Agreements	NPAs ended and rolled into existing and expanded programmes.	Not specified, however subject to general funding limitations described elsewhere.
Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting	<p>Expanded the MySchools website.</p> <p>Continue to roll out Australian Curriculum on the existing timetable.</p> <p>Develop the Australian Baccalaureate.</p> <p>Develop a <i>National School Improvement Framework</i> and <i>Office of National School Evaluation</i>.</p> <p>Financial reward for schools that show improvement in targeted areas such as attendance, retention, literacy & numeracy.</p>	<p>Revise MySchool to show improvement instead of raw NAPLAN data.</p> <p>Examine expansion of NAPLAN to Y3 and Y10.</p> <p>Review the national curriculum to encourage choice and diversity.</p> <p>Additional funds for teacher PD to implement Australian curriculum.</p>	
Vocational Education	<p>New National Trades Cadetships developed by ACARA.</p> <p>Trade Training Centres continue.</p>	<p>Reintroduce Australian Technical Colleges.</p> <p>Create a network with 30 new ATCs, integrating existing TTCs and pre-existing ATCs.</p>	VET should primarily be provided through existing TAFE network.

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Rewarding Teachers	<p>A national performance measure to be developed.</p> <p>Salary bonus for the ‘very best classroom teachers’ as a one-off bonus of 10% starting 2014.</p> <p><i>Teach Next</i> will provide incentives for other professionals to train as teachers.</p>	<p><i>Better Teacher Reward Fund</i>. Schools would nominate excellent teachers for reward funds.</p> <p>Fund overseen by independent trustees.</p> <p>Preference given to teachers of disadvantaged, special needs and remote area students.</p>	<p>‘Performance payments are not an alternative to properly funded career path.’</p>
Education Tax Rebate	<p>No indication of change to current arrangements.</p>	<p>Increase the rebate to \$500 (P) and \$1000 (S).</p> <p>Expand eligibility to include (among other things) school fees.</p>	
Computers and IT	<p>Digital Education Revolution programme</p>	<p>DER programme to be replaced by a Schools technology Fund. Schools would apply for grants for a range of technology improvements inc. smart boards, an LMS, PD, infrastructure etc</p>	