

Accreditation and government funding eligibility for new non-State school

Fact sheet: NSS-FS13

This fact sheet provides information about applying for accreditation for a new non-State school and government funding eligibility for the school.

General information

Queensland non-State schools are established under the [Education \(Accreditation of Non-State Schools\) Act 2017](#) and the [Education \(Accreditation of Non-State Schools\) Regulation 2017](#).

In order to operate and be eligible for government funding in this State:

- the non-State school must be accredited by the independent Non-State Schools Accreditation Board (the 'Board'), and
- the school's governing body must be approved by the Board as eligible for government funding for the school.

An application from a school's proposed governing body for accreditation and for eligibility for government funding for the school is lodged directly with the Board. There is no fee for lodging or assessing an application.

The Board is required to make a decision on an application within six months of lodgement.

The application process

Step 1

Download and review the application form [EFGF-F] from the [Board's website](#)

Step 2

Prepare the required documentation, as detailed in the application form

Step 3

Complete the application form and attach all of the required documentation

Step 4

Submit the application and documentation

- If an **existing** governing body, submit the application and documentation via [NSSAB Online Services](#)
- If a **new** governing body, email the application and documentation to nssab.admin@qed.qld.gov.au.

The following is a summary of the requirements for accreditation and government funding eligibility and is general in nature. Corporations applying to establish a new non-State school are advised to refer to the legislation at www.legislation.qld.gov.au.

Accreditation requirements

To be eligible to apply, the proposed governing body must be a corporation and each director must have a current positive notice (blue card) or exemption notice issued by Queensland's Blue Card Services under the [Working with Children \(Risk Management and Screening\) Act 2000](#) (Qld).

The Board must consider the suitability of the governing body in terms of:

- its relationships with other entities
- whether the governing body has appropriate guiding principles and procedures for identifying, declaring and dealing with any conflict of interest a director may have in relation to the operation of the school
- conduct of the governing body and its directors
- if the governing body or any director has a conviction for an offence – the nature and circumstances of the offence.

The Board must be satisfied that the school will comply with the prescribed accreditation criteria from the student-intake day. The accreditation criteria include:

- administration and governance arrangements
- school's financial viability
- school's educational program
- schools student welfare processes
- school's resources
- school's improvement processes.

Government funding eligibility requirements

The Board must be satisfied:

- if the proposed governing body is a company, it must be a company limited by guarantee
- the school must not be operated for profit
- the governing body must not be a party to, and not intend to enter into, a prohibited arrangement
- there is no direct or indirect connection between the governing body and another entity that could reasonably be expected to compromise its independence when making financial decisions.

For further information, refer to the [NSSAB website](#).