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## **SCHOOLS ENJOYING RECORD INVESTMENT AND REFORM**

Students and schools across NSW are benefitting from a record investment and reform agenda.

In the 2021-22 NSW Budget more than \$20 billion is being invested into NSW students - driving evidence-based reform, building new and upgraded schools and reaching record staffing levels.

Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning Sarah Mitchell said this budget is a holistic approach to education that invests in both bricks and mortar and quality teaching.

“The 2021-22 budget doubles down on the government’s education agenda, with a record investment of more than \$17.5 billion to lift standards and grow the system to support families across NSW,” Ms Mitchell said.

“Public schools have never been better funded than they are now – nor have they ever had the continuous year on year increases in funding that the NSW Liberals and Nationals government have provided. This is only possible due to this Government’s strong financial management.”

The NSW Government’s record school building program also continues to grow with an additional \$2.1 billion over the next four years going towards new and upgraded schools.

“Since 2019, we have delivered 108 new and upgraded schools, and this trend continues thanks to this year’s school infrastructure budget of \$2.1 billion including funding to deliver 30 priority planning projects and additional funding to deliver 14 new projects, growing the pipeline to deliver 215 new and upgraded schools,” Ms Mitchell said.

“Our high growth areas are seeing more investment than ever before, with Western Sydney alone seeing \$2 billion investment and over \$1 billion in growing regional areas over four years.

“This investment takes our historic school building program to new heights with \$7.9 billion being spent over the next four years on top of the \$7 billion already invested since 2017.”

Students in NSW will also benefit from a reform agenda ensuring schools leverage maximum value out of every dollar spent in education.

“A new curriculum is being built from the ground up, and we are ensuring the quality of this once in a generation reform through a \$196.6 million over four years investment,” Ms Mitchell said.

“The new curriculum will benefit students; it will streamline their classroom content and it will be taught in a way we know works.

“Teachers will also benefit from explicit guides, professional learning, training and resources created by curriculum experts and tested in the field.”

Ms Mitchell said this record investment is not a spend and forget, but a targeted approach solely focused on our students.

“Through the new School Success Model, we are setting unique targets for every school. For the first time their success in multiple areas can be monitored allowing the experts to make sure every dollar is spent in a way that helps students,” Ms Mitchell said.

“We know good teachers make the biggest difference to a student’s outcomes, which is why we are employing more teachers than ever before and funding new ways to help them be the very best.

“As well as supporting our existing workforce we are investing \$125 million into growing the pipeline of new teachers through the Teacher Supply Strategy.

“The strategy includes innovative ideas for boosting the profession and is due for release later this year.”

“This Budget is turbo charging education in NSW, we are building more schools, creating a world-leading curriculum, upskilling and expanding our teaching workforce and ensuring every dollar goes towards students and their education.”

**MEDIA: Michael Fairbairn | 0417 785 910**