



Youth Parliament of Western Australia

Regional Education Advancement Fund Bill 2024

Explanatory Memorandum:

The Regional Education Advancement Fund Bill 2024 seeks to remedy disparity in the delivery of education across Western Australia. Evidence demonstrates that students in regional and disadvantaged areas receive a lower standard of education compared to their metropolitan peers. In 2022, Year 12 certification was received by 75.3% of Year 12 students in metropolitan areas, whereas only 64.4% of Year 12 students in remote/very remote areas received certification. This is again reflected regarding socio-economic status, as 77.9% of Year 12s in high socio-economic areas received certification while only 66.9% did in low socio-economic areas.

The REAF aims to address this discrepancy by establishing a grant scheme to fund a variety of advancements that foster quality educational outcomes for primary, secondary and tertiary students. It recognises the diversity of students across WA and aims to remove any additional barriers they may face in becoming confident, creative individuals, successful lifelong learners and active, informed members of the community.

This bill elevates regional teaching incentives through the establishment of a Regional Teachers' HELP Relief Program. The program encourages teachers with HELP debts to seek employment in regional areas, ensuring quality education delivery and the reduction of staff shortages.

The REAF is an instrumental step towards a future where every student in Western Australia has equitable educational and professional opportunities.



Western Australia

Regional Education Advancement Fund Bill 2024

Contents

Explanatory Memorandum:	i
Part 1 — Preliminary	
1. Short Title	2
2. Commencement	2
3. Interpretation	2
Part 2 — Establishment and Operations of Grant and the Board	
Division 1 — Eligibility	
4. Eligible applicants	8
5. Grant eligibility for the REAF	8
6. Priority Tier System	8
Division 2 — Application	
7. Where to apply	9
8. Application	9
9. Application obligations	10
10. Approval and transaction of funds	10
11. Additional applications	10
12. Transaction errors	11

	Division 3 — Board	
13.	Board members	11
14.	Board membership	12
15.	Terms of membership	12
16.	Duration of invite	13
17.	Roles	13
18.	Meetings	13
19.	Remuneration eligibility	14
20.	Remuneration	14
21.	Travel expenses	14
	Part 3 — Education Advancement in Regional Areas	
	Division 1 — Primary Education	
22.	Technological advancements	15
23.	Infrastructure development and renovation	15
24.	Climate control	15
25.	Specialised facilities	16
26.	Outdoor and recreational infrastructure	16
27.	Cultural and community engagement	17
28.	Professional development for staff	17
29.	Other advancements	17
	Division 2 — Secondary Education	
30.	Advancements	17
31.	TAFE	17
32.	University immersion	18
33.	ATAR revision seminars	18
34.	Career expositions	18
35.	Senior school study spaces	18
	Division 3 — Distance Education	
36.	Advancements	19
37.	Student resources	19
38.	Partner schools	19
39.	Homeschooled students	20
	Division 4 — Tertiary Education	
40.	Applications	20
41.	Transaction of funds	20
42.	Online student resources	21
43.	Student relocations	21

Contents

44.	Online and regional university students	21
	Part 4 — Regional Teaching Incentives	
45.	Establishment	22
46.	Eligibility	22
47.	Provisional eligibility	22
48.	Application	23
49.	Payment	23
50.	Transaction of funds	24
51.	Relocation	24
	Part 5 — Obligations and Reporting	
	Division 1 — Reporting	
52.	Reporting requirements	26
53.	Documentation of process	26
54.	In the case of surplus funds	26
55.	Financial acquittal	27
56.	Submission	27
57.	Disciplinary actions	27
	Division 2 — Disciplinary Actions	
58.	Offences of the Board	27
59.	Offences of schools	28
60.	Investigation process	28
61.	Penalties	29



Youth Parliament of Western Australia

Regional Education Advancement Fund Bill 2024

No. 2 of 2024

**A Bill for –
An Act to fund advancements that seek to remedy disparity in the
delivery of education across Western Australia.**

[Assented to 29 JULY 2024]

The Youth Parliament of Western Australia enacts as follows:

Part 1 — Preliminary

1. Short Title

This is the *Regional Education Advancement Fund Bill 2024*.

2. Commencement

This Act comes into operation on the day on which this Act receives the Youth Governor's Assent.

3. Interpretation

In this Act —

Accessible means being able to be used by all individuals;

Adequate means satisfactory or acceptable in quality;

Advancements means any activity, improvement, development, or enhancement that seeks to remedy disparity in the delivery of education across Western Australia;

Aims means the desired outcomes;

ATAR means Australian Tertiary Admission Rank;

ATAR Revision seminar means any group session that seeks to enhance students' knowledge of a Western Australian Year 11-12 ATAR curriculum;

Board means the group of selected individuals responsible for running and facilitating the REAF;

Career exposition means any event that educates and exposes students to a variety of career pathways;

CCC means Corruption and Crime Commission;

Civil means a polite and formal manner;

Conflict of interest means a situation in which an individual is to derive personal gains from their actions or decisions;

Corrupt practices means conduct that is not honest or impartial or knowingly breaches public trust or involves the misuse of information, or impairs public confidence in administration;

Deteriorated means infrastructure that has decayed to the point of being unusable and no longer functional;

Distance education means education between teachers and students when they are separated by a geographical distance and communication is achieved over forms of media;

Diverse means supplying a range of resources on a various topics;

DOE means the Western Australian Department of Education;

Education means the transmission of knowledge, skills and character traits that are delivered in various forms;

Effective means successful in producing a desired outcome;

Environmentally friendly means not harmful to the environment;

Evidence means documentation and other materials to prove something is authentic, true and valid;

False means something is not in accordance with verifiable fact;

Fund means a sum of money provided for a particular purpose under the REAF;

s. 3

Grant means a sum of money provided for a particular purpose under the REAF;

HELP means a Higher Education Loan Program;

HVAC means heating, ventilation, and air conditioning;

ICSEA means the Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage;

Inclusive means able to be used by all individuals;

Individual means a single human being;

Inner regional means areas classed as inner regional in Western Australia by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard Edition 3;

IRSD means the Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage;

Long-term advancement means any advancement that takes longer than 6 months to complete;

Negligence means a breach of care which results in some form of damage;

Online schools means schools that deliver education through primarily online classes;

Other means those different to stated items;

Outer regional means areas classed as outer regional in Western Australia by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard Edition 3;

Parties means a group of individuals;

Partner school means any school that works in conjunction with an online school to deliver education, at a geographically preferred location;

Personal benefits means non-transferable privileges provided to individuals by an organization, not directly related to their job performance;

Personal gains means advantages or profits that relate specifically to a person, not to a business or group;

Primary school means any school that delivers education from Kindergarten to Year 6 in Western Australia;

Quote means the estimated price of a job, advancement or service;

REAF means the Regional Education Advancement Fund 2024;

Regional means areas classed as outer regional, inner regional, remote or very remote in Western Australia by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard Edition 3;

Remote means areas classed as remote in Western Australia by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard Edition 3;

Relocate means to move to a new location;

Safe means free from potential dangers;

School means any institution that facilitates learning of primary, secondary, or tertiary education;

School representative means an individual who is nominated by a school to handle REAF interactions and lodge grant applications;

s. 3

Secondary School means any school that teaches up to Year 12 in Western Australia;

Senior School means students in Year 11 or Year 12;

Short-term advancement means any advancement that can be completed in under 6 months;

Student means any individual enrolled or accepted into primary, secondary, online or tertiary education in Western Australia;

Study space means an area dedicated to individual or group academic advancement;

Sustainable building upgrades means changes that make infrastructure more environmentally friendly;

TAFE means Technical and Further Education;

Teacher means any individual who is employed at a school and is registered with the TRBWA;

Tertiary education means education at a university level;

Transportation means any method of moving people or items between several locations;

TRBWA means the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia;

True means in accordance with verifiable fact;

University immersion means any activity that exposures students to university pathways;

Updated means containing the most accurate and recent

Information;

University means a high-level educational institution in which students study participate in degrees and academic research;

Very remote means areas classed as very remote in Western Australia by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard Edition 3;

WA means the state of Western Australia;

Part 2 — Establishment and Operations of Grant and the Board

Division 1 — Eligibility

4. Eligible applicants

- (1) All parties eligible to access the REAF include:
 - (a) Primary schools;
 - (b) High schools;
 - (c) Individuals enrolled in tertiary studies;
 - (d) Individuals with evidence of acceptance in tertiary studies, and;
 - (e) Teachers who are full-time or part-time employed in regional areas.
- (2) All parties must reside in WA to be eligible for the REAF.

5. Grant eligibility for the REAF

The grant must be for an educational advancement.

6. Priority Tier System

- (1) A priority tier system will be established in which schools will be considered for and allocated funds at the discretion of the Board in the following order: Tier 1 schools, Tier 2 schools, and then Tier 3 schools;
- (2) Schools applying for the REAF will be categorised into Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 priority applicants as specified below:
 - (a) Tier 1 schools include:
 - (i) Schools with a ICSEA value below 900;
 - (ii) Schools in quintile 1 or 2 of the IRSD;
 - (iii) Schools located in remote or very remote areas, and;

- (d) A quote for the advancement, and;
- (e) Application obligations outlined in Part 2, Division 2, Clause 6.

- (2) Applications must be lodged by a school representative on behalf of the school.
- (3) Applicants can only lodge one application at a time.

9. Application obligations

- (1) Applicants are obliged to:
 - (a) Disclose any personal gains or conflicts of interest;
 - (b) Sign a declaration that they agree to and understand the possible disciplinary actions, and reporting obligations outlined in Part 5, and;
 - (c) Sign a declaration that all information submitted is true.
- (2) Failure to fulfil the outlined obligations will result in the dismissal of the application.

10. Approval and transaction of funds

- (1) The grantee will be informed of their application outcome within 1 month of submission;
- (2) If an application is approved, the applicant's payment details will be requested by the Board via email or phone call;
- (3) Funds will be sent by a transfer payment within 3 weeks of the Board's receipt of the applicant's payment details;

11. Additional applications

- (1) Schools can lodge an additional application after the following time periods:
 - (a) Tier 1 schools can lodge an additional application 2 months after the approval of their previous application;

- (b) Tier 2 schools can lodge an additional application 4 months after the approval of their previous application, and;
 - (c) Tier 3 schools can lodge an additional application 7 months after approval of their previous application.
- (2) If a grant is not approved, the applicant can lodge an additional application 2 months after the disapproval of their previous application;
 - (3) Additional applications for an advancement of a similar nature can only be lodged 9 months after the approval of the previous grant.

12. Transaction errors

- (1) Errors concerning the transfer of grant funds must be reported to the Board within 1 month of the receiving the payment;
- (2) Error reports can be completed via:
 - (a) The DOE website;
 - (b) WA Local Government administration buildings;
 - (c) Members of WA Parliament offices;
 - (d) DOE regional offices, and;
 - (e) Australia Post offices.

Division 3 — Board

13. Board members

The Board will consist of:

- (a) The WA state Minister for Education;
- (b) The Director General of the DOE;
- (c) Two WA teachers;
- (d) One representative from the CCC, and;
- (e) The Directors of Education for the following education regions:

- (i) Goldfields;
- (ii) Kimberley;
- (iii) Midwest;
- (iv) North Metropolitan;
- (v) South Metropolitan;
- (vi) Pilbara;
- (vii) Southwest;
- (viii) Wheatbelt.

14. Board membership

- (1) Board membership will be obtained through invitation from the Minister for Education, representative of the CCC and the Director General of the DOE;
- (2) If the invitation is accepted, a membership form must be completed which will outline the following:
 - (a) The name of the Board member;
 - (b) Contact and residential information of the Board member;
 - (c) Details concerning the occupation of the Board member, and;
 - (d) A signature agreeing to the terms of membership outlined in *Part 2, Division 3, Clause 12*.

15. Terms of membership

The terms of board membership include:

- (a) Keeping board matters confidential;
- (b) Agreeing to make any conflicts of interest or personal benefit known to the board;
- (c) Keeping board meetings civil and respectful;
- (d) Understanding their dismissal can occur at any time as outlined in *Part 5, Division 2, Clause 58, Subclause 3*;

- (e) That the information given on the membership form is true;
- (f) Agreeing to the remuneration terms outlined in Part 2, Division 3, Clause 19; and
- (g) Agreeing to abide by the outlined roles in Clause 17.

16. Duration of invite

Invitees have 1 month to accept their invitation.

17. Roles

The roles of the Board include:

- (a) Reviewing grant applications;
- (b) Reviewing applications for the Regional Teachers' HELP Relief Program;
- (c) Selecting successful applicants;
- (d) Establishing a governance framework, including a compliance framework to ensure the grantee meets its obligations;
- (e) Overseeing the performance of the successful applicants;
- (f) Initiating investigations of grantees and teachers who commit an offence, and;
- (g) Operating within its statutory powers, responsibilities, and policies.

18. Meetings

- (1) The Board will meet every two weeks;
- (2) Additional Board meetings can occur subject to application demand; however, these meetings are at the discretion of the Board and cannot exceed two meetings per week.

19. Remuneration eligibility

- (1) Board members are eligible for remuneration if it is demonstrated to the Minister for Education and the representative of the CCC that:
- (a) Potential conflicts of interest will be appropriately managed, and;
 - (b) The Board member is not a full-time public sector employee.

20. Remuneration

If eligible for remuneration, Board members are paid \$50 000 per year.

21. Travel expenses

Board-related travel and hospitality expenses will be covered by the WA Government if:

- (a) The Minister for Education has approved the travel expenses, and;
- (b) The distance travelled to meetings exceeds 50kms.

Part 3 — Education Advancement in Regional Areas

Division 1 — Primary Education

22. Technological advancements

Schools can apply for a grant to fund the following:

- (a) Acquisition of adequate computer hardware including laptops, desktops computers, and tablets;
- (b) Installation and upgrade of interactive whiteboards and projectors;
- (c) Purchase of specialised educational software to enhance learning;
- (d) Development and maintenance of adequate network infrastructure including Wi-Fi and secure internet access, and;
- (e) Professional development surrounding the effective use of technology in teaching.

23. Infrastructure development and renovation

Schools can apply for grants to fund the following advancements:

- (a) Construction of new classrooms and expansion of existing facilities;
- (b) Renovation of deteriorated infrastructure.
- (c) Construction of adequate bathrooms, including gender-neutral options, and;
- (d) Installation of energy-efficient lighting and other sustainable building upgrades.

24. Climate control

Schools can apply for grants to fund the following:

- (a) Installation of air conditioning systems in classrooms and common areas;
- (b) Installation of environmentally friendly air quality systems, and;
- (c) Regular maintenance and upgrading of HVAC systems.

25. Specialised facilities

Schools can apply for grants to fund the following:

- (a) Enhancement of accessibility features including ramps, lifts, and adapted restrooms for students with disabilities;
- (b) Creation of dedicated spaces for arts and music education, including soundproof rooms and performance stages;
- (c) Establishment of science laboratories equipped with adequate scientific equipment and safety features;
- (d) Development and improvement of libraries with diverse and updated resources, including digital media centres, and;
- (e) Establishment of woodwork and metalwork facilities.

26. Outdoor and recreational infrastructure

Schools can apply for grants to fund the following:

- (a) Development of playgrounds equipped with safe and inclusive equipment;
- (b) Construction of sports facilities including basketball courts, football fields, gymnasiums, and cricket nets;
- (c) Installation of outdoor learning environments including gardens and vegetable patches, and;
- (d) Security enhancements, including fencing and surveillance systems.

27. Cultural and community engagement

Schools can apply for grants to fund the following:

- (a) Spaces for cultural learning and community gatherings, including auditoriums and multipurpose rooms;
- (b) Facilities to support community-based learning programs and after-school activities, and;
- (c) Engagement initiatives that connect schools with local artists, experts, and cultural organisations.

28. Professional development for staff

Schools can apply for grants to fund the following:

- (a) Funding for workshops, seminars, and training programs, and;
- (b) Provision of resources for mentorship programs and peer learning opportunities among educators.

29. Other advancements

Schools can receive funding for any other advancement approved by the Board.

Division 2 — Secondary Education

30. Advancements

Secondary schools can apply for a grant to fund any of the advancements outlined in Part 3, Division 1.

31. TAFE

Regional schools with students enrolled in TAFE can apply for grants to pay for TAFE-related costs including:

- (a) Transportation and accommodation to attend their nearest TAFE centre, and;
- (b) Necessary personal protective equipment.

32. University immersion

Secondary schools can apply for a grant to fund the following:

- (a) University immersion camps;
- (b) Transportation and accommodation for senior students to attend university programs and open days, and;
- (c) University application and scholarship information seminars.

33. ATAR revision seminars

Secondary schools can apply for a grant to provide the following:

- (a) Transportation and accommodation for students to attend ATAR revision seminars, and;
- (b) Scholarships for students to apply for to cover the ATAR revision seminar's course fee.

34. Career expositions

Schools can apply for grants to enable their students to attend career expositions if the distance travelled to participate exceeds 50kms.

35. Senior school study spaces

- (1) Schools can apply for a grant to fund the construction of senior school study spaces.
- (2) Senior school study spaces can include—
 - (a) senior school “Common Rooms” with facilities such as charging points, interactive whiteboards, stationery, electronic devices including laptops and headphones available for borrowing;
 - (b) upgraded furniture and amenities in pre-existing study spaces for senior school students;

- (c) designated quiet study areas equipped with resources conducive to focused learning;
- (d) collaborative workspaces to facilitate group projects and discussions;
- (e) access to online databases and educational software to support research and learning, as well as access to required reading materials such as course textbooks; and
- (f) flexible seating arrangements to accommodate different learning preferences and needs.

Division 3 — Distance Education

36. Advancements

Online schools can apply for a grant to fund any advancement outlined in Division 1.

37. Student resources

- (1) Online schools can apply for a grant to supply the following resources to their students:
 - (a) Laptops;
 - (b) Portable Wi-Fi devices;
 - (c) Webcams, and;
 - (d) Any other resource deemed appropriate by the Board.
- (2) Online schools can apply for a grant to pay for the insurance and postage of these resources.

38. Partner schools

WA partner schools can apply for a grant for their students studying via distance education to visit the online school's campus.

39. Homeschooled students

Online schools can apply for a grant on behalf of homeschooled students studying via distance education in WA to visit the school's campus.

Division 4 — Tertiary Education

40. Applications

- (1) Regional and online tertiary students can apply for a grant via an application form available through mediums outlined in *Part 2, Division 2, Clause 7*;
- (2) Application forms will require the following:
 - (a) The contact details of the applicant;
 - (b) Evidence of enrolment or acceptance into tertiary studies;
 - (c) Evidence of relocation from a regional area and/or online enrolment in tertiary studies;
 - (d) An outline of the rationale and aims of the advancement;
 - (e) A quote for the advancement, and;
 - (f) Application obligations outlined in *Part 2, Division 2, Clause 9*.
- (3) Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within 1 month of submission;
- (4) Applicants can lodge an additional application 2 months after they have been notified of the outcome of their previous application;
- (5) A maximum of 3 application can be lodged per year.

41. Transaction of funds

- (1) Funds will be transferred as specified in *Part 2, Division 2, Clause 10, subclause 2 and 3*;

- (2) Transaction errors can be reported as outlined in *Part 2, Division 2, Clause 12*.

42. Online student resources

- (1) Students enrolled in tertiary education online can apply for a grant to purchase the following resources:
- (a) Laptops;
 - (b) Portable Wi-Fi devices;
 - (c) Webcams, and;
 - (d) Any other resource deemed appropriate by the Board.
- (2) Online tertiary students can apply for a grant to pay for the insurance and postage of these resources.

43. Student relocations

Students who must relocate from a regional area can apply for a grant to cover:

- (a) The cost of initial transportation from the residence that they are relocating from to their new residence, and;
- (b) The cost of transporting items deemed essential by the Board from the residence that they are relocating from to their new residence.

44. Online and regional university students

Online and regional university students can apply for grants to cover the cost of transportation to attend compulsory activities and assessments that take place over 50kms away from their residence.

Part 4 — Regional Teaching Incentives

45. Establishment

- (1) A Regional Teachers' HELP Relief Program will be established to provide an incentive for teachers to relocate to regional areas;
- (2) The Program will be separate from the REAF grant.

46. Eligibility

- (1) In order to be eligible to apply for the Program, a teacher must:
 - (a) Have the right to work in Australia;
 - (b) Possess a HELP debt;
 - (c) Reside in WA;
 - (d) Be registered with TRBWA, and;
 - (e) Be employed part-time or full-time as a teacher at a regional school.

47. Provisional eligibility

Applicants can be considered for a provisional application at the Board's discretion if:

- (a) An individual is:
 - (i) In the last year of their teaching degree at an accredited Australian or New Zealand University, or;
 - (ii) Registered to teach in an Australian State or Territory, other than WA, with their state or territory's teacher registration authority.
- (b) Applicants must also fulfil the requirements outlined in *Part 4, Clause 49, subclauses a and b*, and;
- (c) Provide adequate evidence of employment subject to their relocation or completion of their teaching degree as outlined in *Part 4, Clause 51, Subclause b*.

48. Application

- (1) Teachers will apply to be a part of the Program via an application form available through mediums outlined in *Part 2, Division 2, Clause 7*.
- (2) Application forms will require the following:
 - (a) The contact details of the applicant;
 - (b) Evidence and details of part-time or full-time employment as a teacher at a regional school;
 - (c) Application obligations outlined in *Part 2, Division 2, Clause 9*.
- (3) Teachers will be notified of the outcome of their application within 1 month of submission;
- (4) Teachers can reapply if there is a change in their employment status.

49. Payment

- (1) If an application is approved, compensation will be provided in the form of a payment that is additional to the successful teacher's salary before taxation;
- (2) Payments will be made every three months once four months of work at a regional school have been completed;
- (3) Payments cannot be made retrospectively;
- (4) For the first two years of part-time or full-time work at a regional school, payments will be made according to the location of the school that they work at:
 - (a) Teachers working at inner and outer regional schools will be paid per year an additional 1.75% of their salary pro rata;
 - (b) Remote teachers will be paid per year an additional 2.5% of their salary pro rata, and;

s. 50

- (c) Very remote teachers will be paid per year an additional 3.5% of their salary pro rata
- (5) After the completion of two years of work at a regional school, payment will increase accordingly:
 - (a) Teachers working at inner and outer regional schools will be paid per year an additional 2.5% of their salary pro rata;
 - (b) Remote teachers will be paid per year an additional 3.75% of their salary pro rata, and;
 - (c) Very remote teachers will be paid per year an additional 5% of their salary pro rata.

50. Transaction of funds

- (1) Payments will be transferred from the REAF to the Australian Taxation Office, on the employee's behalf, towards the repayment of their HELP debt.
- (2) Employees must communicate consent of participating in program through signing a tax declaration form granting permission for HELP repayments to be made on employees' behalf.
- (3) Employees are not required to meet legal HELP repayment threshold to participate in the program.

51. Relocation

- (1) If a teacher's employment is discontinued at a regional school or the teacher relocates to a non-regional school, they must notify the DOE via email or phone call to ensure no further compensation is transferred;
- (2) If a teacher relocates to another regional school, they must notify the DOE via email or phone call to ensure correct compensation;

- (3) If a teacher undertakes unpaid leave, they must notify the DOE via email or phone call to ensure temporary suspension of compensation;
- (4) Failure to notify the DOE will result in disciplinary actions outlined in *Part 5, Division 2, Clause 61*.

Part 5 — Obligations and Reporting

Division 1 — Reporting

52. Reporting requirements

- (1) When funding is used for short-term advancements, grantees must submit a progress report within a month from completion;
- (2) When funding is used for long-term advancements, grantees are required to submit a progress report at monthly intervals, commencing from fund receipt and continuing until advancement completion
- (3) Progress reports must respond to the following prompts:
 - (a) Outline the status of the relevant advancement described in the application;
 - (b) Outline the resources and assets that have been purchased, or will be purchased, using the grant money, and;
 - (c) Outline the advancement's progressing achievement of the aims that were stated in the application.

53. Documentation of process

- (1) All grantees must thoroughly document the outcomes of the advancements undertaken with grant funding;
- (2) These documents must be submitted 1 month after undertaking the outlined advancements, unless agreed otherwise by the Board at the time of application approval;
- (3) All required forms and documents will be provided, with instructions, by the Board;

54. In the case of surplus funds

- (1) All surplus funds must be returned to the REAF within 1 month of advancement completion;

- (2) Recipients must provide an explanation if there are surplus funds following completion. The explanation form will be provided by the Board;
- (3) Failure to comply with these conditions, grantees will be subject to disciplinary actions outlined in *Part 5 Division 2, Clause 61*.

55. Financial acquittal

Recipients are to complete a financial report at the end of the relevant advancement which:

- (a) Outlines the use of grant funding;
- (b) Declares any surplus funds.

56. Submission

Progress reports and financial acquittals are to be submitted through an online portal provided by the State Government or via letter report. Further details will be provided by the Board after applications are approved.

57. Disciplinary actions

Failure to submit progress reports, required documentation or financial reports will result in disciplinary actions outlined in Part 5, Division 2, Clause 61.

Division 2 — Disciplinary Actions

58. Offences of the Board

Offences of the Board include:

- (a) Engaging in corrupt practices regarding fund allocation;
- (b) Unauthorised disclosure of confidential information;
- (c) Interference with audits or investigations conducted by the CCC or obstructing the due process of law enforcement;
- (d) Failure to disclose conflicts of interest;

- (e) Negligence for Board duties outlined in *Part 2, Division 2, Clause 17*, resulting in financial loss or harm of grantees;
- (f) Providing false information on the membership form.

59. Offences of schools

- (1) Offences of schools include:
 - (a) Using funds for non-approved purposes that deviate from the stipulated guidelines and intended use outlined by the Board;
 - (b) Fraudulent activities;
 - (c) Providing false or deliberately misleading information during audits or investigations;
 - (d) Non-compliance with specific conditions attached to the use of funds;
 - (e) Intentional misrepresentation of student enrolment numbers or academic performance data to secure additional funding;
 - (f) Exploitation of authority in fund allocation procedures to gain unauthorised benefits or advantages, and;
 - (g) Retaliation against individuals reporting suspected offences is prohibited.

60. Investigation process

- (1) The CCC will undergo investigations on the advice of the Board;
- (2) The CCC shall have the authority to:
 - (a) Conduct inspections;
 - (b) Interview relevant personnel, and;
 - (c) Review all necessary documentation.
- (3) The CCC must be provided access to all relevant materials and facilities;

- (4) If the CCC's initial investigation finds majority of the Board has committed an offence, REAF will be suspended until the conclusion of the investigation, and;
- (5) During this investigation:
 - (a) Any evidence obtained shall be handled per legal standards to maintain integrity;
 - (b) Regular updates on the progress of the investigation shall be provided to relevant parties to ensure transparency and accountability;

61. Penalties

- (1) Non-compliance confirmed by the CCC will result in a withdrawal of all current and future funding opportunities relating to the REAF;
- (2) Any party found guilty of committing an offence outlined in Part 5, Division 2, Clauses 58 and 59 will face penalties decided by the relevant Australian court that align with the Western Australia Criminal Code;
- (3) Any member of the Board found guilty of an offence will result in the automatic termination of their Board membership;
- (4) The suspension of teacher licences or school accreditations are at the discretion of the TRBWA and the DOE;
- (5) Failure to notify the DOE of changes in employment statuses as specified in clause will result in an investigation by the CCC;
- (6) Failure to return surplus funds to the Board will result in penalties decided by the relevant Australian court that align with the Western Australia Criminal Code;
- (7) Failure to submit required documentation or progress and financial reports will result in the suspension of additional funds until submission. If a period of 2 months has passed without submission an investigation will be initiated by the CCC.