**ROUND THREE, INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS FUND MARCH 2017**

Launched in 2015 as part of the Special Needs Plan, 74 successful schools have received funding in rounds one and two, with round three applications open in March 2017.

The Inclusive Schools Fund is a $20 million fund over four years, established to help Victorian government schools implement innovative projects that promote best practice inclusive school environments and support the educational and social needs of children and young people with disabilities.

**About the Fund**
Applications for the Inclusive Schools Fund are open to all Victorian government schools. Applications should demonstrate how proposed projects will support students with disabilities to better participate and engage with learning at their school, based on evidence and research. Projects should create a more inclusive environment for both students with disabilities and the whole student population.

**Types of projects**Schools are encouraged to come up with innovative projects based on their existing facilities and the needs of students with disabilities attending their school. The value of projects is expected to be up to $200,000.

Example projects include:

* Indoor inclusive learning spaces
* Outdoor sensory areas
* Quiet and supportive re-engagement spaces

All works under the Inclusive Schools Fund adhere to the Disability Standards for Education (the Standards) which seek to ensure that students with disability can access and participate in education on the same basis as other students.

Successful projects from previous rounds are listed here: <http://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/Pages/Inclusive-Schools-Fund.aspx>

**How to apply**Applications should be made online via the Smarty Grants system [here](https://depteduearlychilddev.smartygrants.com.au/InclusiveSchoolsFundRound3)

Applications should address each of the criteria and include the following:

* Criteria responses and Principal endorsement
* School map indicating the spaces and/or locations relating to the application
* Reference materials relating to the proposed project

For any enquiries, please email inclusive.schools.fund@edumail.vic.gov.au

**Accessible Buildings Program**The Inclusive Schools Fund is in addition to the funding to make school infrastructure compliant to relevant legislation and standards. The Accessible Buildings Program funds infrastructure upgrades to provide access to education facilities for students, parents and staff members with disabilities.

For more information, see the Department’s [Accessibility Policy](https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/sc/sites/Infonline/Policies%20Guidelines%20and%20Procedures/Accessibility_Policy.docx) or [Accessible Buildings Program Guidelines](https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/sc/sites/Infonline/Policies%20Guidelines%20and%20Procedures/Accessible%20Buildings%20Program%20Guidelines%20-%20July%202014.pdf?Web=1) (restricted access) see: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/needs/Pages/programsupp.aspx>

For more information about the Inclusive Schools Fund please visit: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/specialneedsplan>