

Report on a page

This report summarises the audit results of the entities in Queensland’s education sector. These include the Department of Education; the Department of Trade, Employment and Training; TAFE Queensland; 7 universities; 8 grammar schools; and other statutory bodies.

The entities’ financial statements are reliable

The financial statements of the education entities are reliable and comply with relevant reporting requirements. All education entities met the legislative deadlines for signing their financial statements.

The entities have resolved most of the deficiencies we identified in previous years, and we found fewer deficiencies across the sector this year. Most related to information security – specifically how they manage, secure, and restrict access to their systems. The entities must continuously strengthen all their information systems to respond to evolving cyber security risks.

The universities’ financial performance has improved

All but one university made a surplus this year. The universities reported overall operating results of \$533.1 million compared to \$465.5 million last year. In the 2025 calendar year, the total revenue for universities increased by approximately 5 per cent to \$7.8 billion. This is because of higher student enrolments from international students and increased Australian Government funding relating to domestic students. At the same time, costs continue to escalate, primarily due to increased wages.

The Australian Government is introducing major funding reforms for the university sector. A new ‘Managed Growth Funding System’ will be phased in during 2026 and fully implemented from 1 January 2027, subject to legislation. Demand-driven needs-based funding is also being implemented. Both aim to support students from under-represented backgrounds, including First Nations students, those from low socio-economic backgrounds, and regional and rural communities.

Wage underpayments for universities remain a risk

All universities are continuing to assess the extent of their historical underpayments of staff wages. They are taking steps to address them, including making remediation payments to affected staff.

Griffith University and Queensland University of Technology have entered an enforceable undertaking with the Fair Work Ombudsman to address the concerns raised and prevent future underpayments.

TAFE Queensland’s financial sustainability remains a risk

TAFE Queensland made its second consecutive surplus in 2024–25, because of new state government funding. It is forecasting a deficit in 2025–26 because it expects a significant reduction in student enrolments. TAFE Queensland is implementing strategies focused on its sustainability.

Departments are spending more money on maintenance

Departments have increased their spending on maintenance by 22 per cent during 2024–25 and continue to achieve their targets. Delivering their planned capital expenditure however has been an ongoing challenge for both departments for at least the last 5 years. The departments have improved their knowledge of their infrastructure by completing their detailed assessments of the condition of their assets. This helps inform future capital needs and maintenance programs.

