Priority Schools Programs provide additional funding, staffing and consultancy services to identified schools. The schools identified for Priority Schools Programs are known as Priority Schools.

Priority Schools are those which serve communities with the highest concentrations of low socio-economic status families. Priority Schools receive additional resources for literacy, numeracy and participation programs for students.

A new list of Priority Schools is identified every four years by a voluntary survey of families. The next survey of families will occur in March 2012 for the next funding period, 2013 to 2016.

**Features of the survey**

**Community**

The school community must be involved in the school decision to take part in the survey. The survey forms are completed by parents/caregivers.

**Confidential**

The survey forms are returned in a sealed envelope. No-one at the school can read the response of any family. No-one who opens the envelope at the scanning company knows which family it came from.

**Concise**

The survey form is short. It only takes up one side of a single piece of paper. Only essential questions are asked. It is easy to complete.

**High response**

Last time the survey was conducted, over 90% of families who were sent a survey form returned it. In many schools, 100% of families completed the form.

**What does the survey ask about?**

The survey measures:

- type of occupation of parents/caregivers
- educational qualifications of parents/caregivers
- proportion of sole parent families in the school community
- unemployment in families
- proportion of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander families in the school community

**Why use a survey?**

- Up-to-date information
- Direct information from school families only
- Confidential and accurate
- Strong data – over 90% response rate
- A number of variables which cross-check with each other
- Rigorous, high level, statistical analysis gives a highly accurate result

**Important survey dates**

- **29 July 2011**
  Schools invited to participate in the 2012 survey
- **9 September 2011**
  Due date for schools to nominate to participate in the survey
- **5-9 March 2012**
  Survey week – forms sent to parents/caregivers by schools. Parents/caregivers return forms to schools in a sealed envelope.
- **July 2012**
  Anticipated release of Priority Schools list for the period 2013 to 2016

**Further information**

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Or go to:
http://www.lowsesschools.nsw.edu.au