

January 2010

BER Primary School Classrooms (New Build Projects)

What determines classroom size?

The Department of Education and Training has two standard classroom designs – the single and double classroom design. The classroom design offered to schools depends on how many students are currently enrolled at the school and any expected increases or decreases in enrolments.



MDR Classroom

Classroom quality

The component (CDR) and modular (MDR) standard classroom designs comply with the Schools Facilities Standards, which are developed with input from Principals, representatives from the P&C and NSW Teachers Federation and technical and maintenance experts.

The minimum quality requirements set by the Department of Education and Training's Schools Facilities Standards mean school projects can initially be more expensive than domestic or commercial projects. Incorporating this quality upfront saves money in the long run. The Standards ensure school classrooms are fit for purpose and strike the right balance between the upfront cost of a building and the long-term cost of maintenance and cleaning.

Inclusions in classroom standard designs

Projects delivered through the BER program comply with the Schools Facilities Standard (SFS). The SFS for new classrooms does not require installation of an Interactive Whiteboard (IWB), but it does require classrooms to be capable of supporting an IWB if one is installed in the future. For new classrooms this means that the front wall will be reinforced and that an input and output panel will be installed along with sufficient data points.

The standard designs for classrooms include some features or optional extras that can be added or removed to bring the project within the school's budget. The number of optional features which can be included are limited by each school's BER funding allocation.

For example, if the school's existing classroom, which is being replaced under P21, contains new furniture, it may be more sensible to re-use this furniture rather than replace it.



MDR Classroom



CDR Classroom

Classroom standard design inclusions

Component	Single Classroom	Double Classroom
Enrolment numbers	1-149 students	150 or more students
Floor space	95m ²	92m ² (per classroom)
Carpet	Yes	Yes
Chairs	Optional	Optional
Tables	Optional	Optional
Shelves	Yes	Yes
Blinds	Yes	Yes
Notice Board	Optional	Optional
Interactive whiteboards - infrastructure only	Yes	Yes
Wireless capability	Yes	Yes
Data connections	Yes	Yes
Practical Activities area	Yes	Yes
Withdrawal space	Yes	Yes
Personal effects storage	Yes	Yes
Store	Yes	Yes
Operable wall – classroom divider	No	Yes
Landscaping	Optional, if included in the IPO Project Brief	Optional, if included in IPO Project Brief
Walkways	No	Optional, if included in the IPO Project Brief
Security key locks	Yes	Yes
Air conditioning	No – Unless required under DET Policy (hot zone)	No – Unless required under DET Policy (hot zone)
Heating	Yes	Yes
Ceiling fans	Yes	Yes
Water tank*	Optional	Optional
Solar panels*	Optional	Optional

* The BER standard designs only include one rainwater tank and one solar panel per school. Schools with two Australian Government approved projects are only entitled to one rainwater tank and one solar panel. Schools with a student population of fewer than 50 students are not entitled to a rain water tank as part of a P21 project.