FUNDING ALLOCATION STATEMENT AND POLICY

1. STATEMENT PURPOSE

1.1 This statement outlines how Indie Education allocates Commonwealth recurrent funding across its multiple Schools and campuses.

1.2 While not recognised as an approved system authority under Section 78(5)(c) of the *Australian Education Act 2013*, the authority operates with transparency and accountability in alignment with Section 77 of the Act and related obligations, under the *Australian Education Regulation 2023*.

2. FUNDING PRINCIPLES

2.1 Funding allocations are based on student needs, enrolment data, school capacity, equity considerations and site-specific context.

2.2 The intent is to provide a fair and equitable distribution of resources that reflects the complexity and diversity of the student cohort, across Indie Education.

3. METHOD OF ALLOCATION

3.1 Each school and associated campus receives a base allocation aligned to its certified enrolment and Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) profile.

3.2 Additional discretionary allocations may be distributed to sites based on indicators such as student wellbeing presentations, re-engagement complexity, attendance patterns, or operational necessity.

3.3 Shared services (e.g. executive management, compliance, professional learning) are centrally funded and apportioned across sites as needed.

4. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

4.1 All allocation decisions are tabled at Board and Executive meetings.

4.2 Site leaders receive allocation breakdowns and are invited to engage in ongoing review processes.

4.3 There is no pooling of Commonwealth funds in breach of funding obligations.

4.4 Any shared financial responsibilities are documented internally.

5. POLICY PURPOSE

5.1 To maintain compliance with the *Australian Education Act 2013* and the *Australian Education Regulation 2023* by ensuring that all Commonwealth funds are used solely for the purpose of school education and are managed in a transparent, responsible and auditable manner.

6. GOVERNANCE

6.1 Indie Education has formal Governance mechanisms in place to ensure that financial decisions reflect both educational intent and legislative compliance. These include internal budget approvals, Board oversight, and site-based accountability measures.

6.2 The Executive Manager for Corporate Services (reviewed by an external accounting auditor), provides annual funding certification, via the SchoolsHub portal.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 Heads of School are responsible for tracking how funding is utilised at the site level.

7.2 The Executive Team provides strategic oversight and operational supports, while Indie Education Corporate Services co-ordinates acquittals and ensures supporting documentation, aligns with certification requirements.

7.3 All staff with budget responsibility must follow internal financial procedures.

8. INTERNAL CONTROLS

8.1 Budget reviews are conducted each month.

8.2 Expenditure approvals are tiered by role and dollar amount (Authorities Matrix).

8.3 Central documentation is maintained for all funding decisions.

8.4 Cross-campus spending (e.g. IT infrastructure or shared curriculum initiatives) must be approved and justified in writing, with annually updated (5 year) Business Plans.

9. NON-COMPLIANCE

9.1 Instances of funding misuse or noted delays in acquittal, will be escalated to the Executive and Board.

9.2 If mutually agreed, rectification processes will be initiated, including possible repayment of uncommitted funds under Regulation 64 of the *Australian Education Regulation 2023.*

10. POLICY REVIEW

10.1 In accordance with Indie's policy review protocol, this Policy will be reviewed annually. If there are material changes to circumstances before the 12-month review period, this Policy will be reviewed immediately to ensure its contents remain effective and up to date.

11. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Australian Education Act 2013
- Australian Education Regulations 2023

12. AUTHORISATION

12.1 This Policy has been reviewed and approved in accordance with the delegations set out in the Chief Executive Officer Limitations Policy and is available to the Board and the Chief Executive Officer for ongoing consideration.