

AIEF Program Definitions and Counting Rules (updated: 28 September 2026)

The purpose of the AIEF Program Definitions is to supplement information about AIEF, including the AIEF Annual Report with a detailed explanation of terms used when referring to AIEF programs, data and outcomes.

Adjustments

Adjustments to Scholarship Student data reported in a prior year are made when events occur after the date of that prior Annual Report which retrospectively change the data in that prior Annual Report. Adjustments are made to program data in the following circumstances:

- (i) *Return:* a Scholarship Student who was an Attrition at the time of a previous Annual Report returns to a Partner School and is a Retention or Completion in the year they return. On their return that Scholarship Student is reclassified from their previous status as an Attrition to a Retention or Completion (as the case may be) in the relevant year. Their classification from then on as a Retention, Completion or Attrition operates the same way in the current and future years.
- (ii) *Unwind Ab Initio:* A Scholarship Student is by agreement, transferred from the AIEF Scholarship Program to another scholarship program (which may include the student staying at the same school), and as part of that transfer agreement the scholarship funding previously paid by AIEF to the Partner School on account of that Scholarship Student is refunded to AIEF. In this case the relevant student is transferred from the AIEF data to the data of the other scholarship program and is therefore treated as a student of that other scholarship program *ab initio*.
- (iii) *Double Scholarship:* A Scholarship Student who was a Completion from a Partner School in a previous year and therefore included in the annual data for the relevant year as a Completion and later receives an AIEF tertiary scholarship. In this case the student should not be double counted in both the school scholarship data and the tertiary scholarship data when school data and tertiary data is combined. Therefore, an adjustment is made so they are not counted twice.

AIEF Pathways

AIEF Pathways complements the AIEF Scholarship Program by providing practical guidance to support AIEF Scholarship Students and Alumni as they transition from school into further studies or employment and on an ongoing basis after Year 12 as needed.

Alum

A Scholarship Student who was a Completion (i.e. finished Year 12 and/or university on an AIEF Scholarship), participated in AIEF Pathways and is not deceased. The plural of Alum is Alumni and the number of Alumni is a cumulative count of every Alum (i.e. Completions in previous years).

Attrition	A Scholarship Student who was a Retention in the previous year but leaves the school or during the current year (but is not a Completion or Transfer).
Career Status	The type of Engagement an AIEF Alum is participating in. Career Status types include: (i) University; (ii) TAFE; (iii) Registered Training Organisation; (iv) College; (v) Employment; (vi) Apprenticeship; (vii) Traineeship; (viii) Maternity/Paternity; (ix) Full Time Carer (x) Full Time Volunteering; and (xi) Transition Management.
Completion	A Scholarship Student who completes Year 12 or university that year (but is not a Repeat).
Graduate	Scholarship Student who have completed Year 12 or tertiary studies in the current year.
Graduate not in AIEF Pathways	A Scholarship Student who was a Completion (i.e. finished Year 12 or university study) in a previous year who is not an Alum. This could occur in the following circumstances: (i) The Scholarship Student received an AIEF Scholarship prior to the establishment of AIEF Pathways; (ii) The student is a Zero Funded Student and did not participate in AIEF Pathways; (iii) The partnership with the school has concluded by mutual consent and the Scholarship Student did not participate in AIEF Pathways; or (iv) The Scholarship Student is now deceased. A 'Graduate not in AIEF Pathways' is not contacted by AIEF on completion of school or university and is not counted in AIEF's Productive Engagement rate.
Parent Contribution	A contribution by the parents of a Scholarship Student towards the cost of the student's enrolment and attendance at a Partner School based on their financial means and capacity.

Productive Engagement Meaningfully occupied in a constructive activity including employment, further study or other pursuits that positively contribute to society. Categories of Productive Engagement include:

- (i) University;
- (ii) TAFE;
- (iii) Registered Training Organisation;
- (iv) College;
- (v) Employment;
- (vi) Apprenticeship;
- (vii) Traineeship;
- (viii) Maternity/Paternity;
- (ix) Full Time Volunteering;
- (x) Full Time Carer; and
- (xi) Other Productive Engagement

AIEF attempts to contact Alumni each year to confirm their current Productive Engagement type and identify opportunities for engagement and support. AIEF encourages Alumni to reach out for further support when needed.

Productive Engagement Rate The percentage of Alumni engaged in University, TAFE, a Registered Training Organisation, College, Employment, an Apprenticeship, Traineeship, Maternity/Paternity, Full-Time Caring or Other Productive Engagement during the year, based on a minimum sample size of 281 Alumni.

Repeat A Scholarship Student who chooses to repeat Year 12 or complete Year 12 over two years. Such students are counted as a Retention in the first year of their Year 12 study (i.e. like they were in Year 11 in that year) and as a Completion in the second year of their Year 12 study.

Retention A Scholarship Student who is progressing through school or university towards Completion that year (e.g. a student in Year 11 or below for school).

Retention and Completion Rate The sum of Retentions and Completions in the year divided by the sum of Retentions, Completions and Attritions in the year.

Scholarship Student A student who has been awarded scholarship funding from AIEF in any year (but is not an Adjustment).

Shortfall	The scholarship amount paid by AIEF to the relevant Partner School on behalf of a Scholarship Student each year calculated as A+B-C where: A = the standard boarding and tuition fees for the Scholarship Student, including any discounts or deductions applied in accordance with the usual fee discount policies at the Partner School; B = incidental expenses up to an agreed maximum; and C = funds committed or available from other sources including ABSTUDY, Parental Contributions, and other sources to reduce the overall cost.
Transfer	A Scholarship Student who leaves one Partner School and continues their schooling at another Partner School. (Transfers get counted as a Retention, Completion, Attrition or Alum as the case may be in the same way as if they had not changed schools).
Zero Funded Student	A Scholarship Student who is not eligible for AIEF funding in the relevant year but is still at the school or undertaking tertiary study and has been eligible and funded by AIEF in a previous year. This could occur in the following circumstances: (i) ABSTUDY: Due to a change in circumstances the student is no longer receiving ABSTUDY and is receiving a different support payment instead. (ii) Day Student: The student has moved out of boarding and becomes a day student. (iii) Educational Partner Status: AIEF is no longer funding scholarships at the relevant Partner School or university due to an agreed change in the partnership. (iv) Changes to Mode or Course of Study: The student defers their course of study, travels overseas to participate in an international exchange program or changes their courses of study to a non-eligible degree. (v) Changes to University: The student continues their course of study at a different university (not an Educational Partner). A Zero Funded Student gets counted as a Retention, Completion, Attrition or Alum as the case may be in the same way as if they had an AIEF Scholarship in the relevant year.
Zero Shortfall Student	A Scholarship Student who has no Shortfall in the relevant year. This occurs when a Scholarship Student was funded by AIEF in a previous year but then in a subsequent year that student has no Shortfall due to lower school fees, higher ABSTUDY, a higher Parental Contribution, other funding available for that student from another source or any other reason that leads to no Shortfall that year. A Zero Shortfall Student might also not be a Zero Shortfall Student in a subsequent year (i.e. have a Shortfall funded by AIEF again). A Zero Shortfall Student gets counted as a Retention, Completion, Attrition or Alum as the case may be in the same way as if they had a Shortfall.