

Schools to lose up to \$250,000 each

■ Glenn Cordingley

The State Government will cut \$250,000 from five high schools in the Kimberley next year.

Broome Senior High School, Derby Senior High School, Fitzroy Valley District High School, Halls Creek District High School and Kununnurra District High will all be hit.

Nearly one in three WA schools will suffer funding cuts as a result of the Government's new funding model.

Almost eighty WA high schools will lose \$250,000 in funding next year with further cuts likely in coming years.

Kimberley MP Josie Farrer said the schools were getting less under the new model than they would have under the old system.

"Many are in low socio-economic areas," she said.

"Students should be getting extra help — not less — to ensure they have an opportunity to succeed in life.

"It's an insult for Education Minister Peter Collier to say these schools are 'getting what they deserve'."

Ms Farrer supported a simpler funding model but she said ripping money out of schools had a direct negative effect on students' education.

Education Minister Peter Collier said the new funding model was fair and equitable, and reflected the central findings of a



Education Minister Peter Collier with Year 1 students on the day he made a funding announcement at Victoria Park Primary. Picture: Michael Wilson

review of the WA public school funding system by Melbourne University.

"Every school will get the same amount of funding for each student depending their year level," he said.

"On top of this will be funding for students who need extra support."

He said incredibly complex budget formulae had led to inexplicable and often massive differences in funding for very similar

schools in the past. "The new budget model will ensure the funding goes where the students are, and to the students who need it most," he said.

Mr Collier said a five-year transition period would ensure schools have time to adjust to their new budgets.

"Where schools need to make adjustments to programs, it will be up to the principal and the school board or community to decide what is best," he said.