**Main Business Problem and Research Question**

What regional disparities exist in voluntary parental contributions to Victorian government schools, and what impact do these disparities have on funding equity and contribution growth from 2022 to 2024?”

**Problem:**

What disparities exist between metropolitan and regional Victorian government schools in terms of voluntary parental contributions, and how do these differences affect funding equity and contribution growth from 2022 to 2024?

**Why It Matters:**

Although government schools are designed to provide equitable education, varying parental contributions can lead to inequities in educational resources, extracurricular opportunities, and student outcomes. If these disparities continue to widen over time, schools in under-supported regions risk falling further behind—highlighting a need for policy attention.

**Data Evidence:**

* The dataset includes both regional classifications and contribution data from 2022–2024, enabling a multi-year analysis.
* Early trends show East/South schools generally receive more support, while growth rates vary by region.

**Possible Analytics:**

* Regional comparisons of total and average contributions
* Year-on-year growth trend analysis by region
* Regression or correlation analysis between region and contribution trends

**Please acknowledge that we have changed the years from 2011,2012,2013 to 2022,2023,2024 in the data to consider it latest and which has been approved by Indu.**

**Question 2**

**ICSEA and Contribution Disparities**

**“To what extent does a Victorian government school’s ICSEA (Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage) score influence the total and average voluntary parental contributions it receives, and how has this relationship evolved from 2022 to 2024? Does the data reveal a widening or narrowing equity gap in contributions between higher and lower ICSEA schools over this period?”**

🔹 *Why this question matters:*

It challenges the assumption that government funding alone ensures equity. If higher-ICSEA schools consistently attract more contributions, it implies socio-economic advantages compound educational resourcing — raising concerns about long-term fairness and performance outcomes.

🔹 *Analysis ideas:*

* Correlation and regression between ICSEA and contribution levels
* Time-series trend analysis by ICSEA brackets
* Box plots or quartile comparisons for equity distribution
* Contribution-per-student normalised by ICSEA

**Question 3**

**School Size and Funding Equity**

**“How does school size (as measured by enrolment numbers) affect voluntary parental contributions per student in Victorian government schools, and have smaller schools experienced proportionally lower contribution growth compared to larger schools between 2022 and 2024?”**

🔹 *Why this question matters:*

Smaller schools, especially in rural or low-density areas, may be structurally disadvantaged in generating additional funding from families. Understanding these patterns can guide policymakers toward equity-based adjustments or targeted support.

🔹 *Analysis ideas:*

* Normalised contributions per student across school size categories
* Growth rate comparison of small vs large schools over 3 years
* Visualisation via scatter plots, histograms, and grouped line graphs
* Possibly cluster analysis of schools by size and funding trends