



Department of
Education

STRATEGIC OUTLINE

The Department of Education ensures a high quality education for all Western Australian students.



From the Director General

On 1 July 2017, a new Department of Education was created which brought together the former Department of Education and the former Department of Education Services.

In addition, staff of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority became Department of Education staff. The Authority continues as a statutory authority.

We now have a role in influencing the education of all students in Western Australia and enact this in different ways in line with the relevant legislation – directly through a system of public schools and indirectly through regulation and funding of Independent and Catholic schools.

Regardless of these differences, the aim is the same: to deliver a high quality education to all students in all learning environments. We are committed to all students achieving their best and being lifelong learners who contribute actively to their communities and to society.

We seek to ensure all schools adopt a contemporary curriculum that fosters high achievement; have high quality teaching that delivers the curriculum; and have strong and effective leadership that is committed to improving student outcomes.

We promote effective governance of the education sector in Western Australia; and the policies and processes that support safe, healthy and resilient learners.

We value the importance of partnerships and collaboration to share best practice, research and ideas that improve student outcomes.



We recognise and respect the independence of Independent and Catholic schools. We undertake our responsibilities to all schools, systems and sectors with diligence and integrity, and are impartial in our role as a regulator and funder.

This strategic outline articulates our commitment to six objectives. It details the different approaches we adopt to achieve these objectives as the deliverer of public school education and as a regulator and funder for Independent and Catholic schools.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. McGrath'.

Jennifer McGrath
Acting Director General

August 2018

Our vision

All students in Western Australia, regardless of background and across all schools and learning environments, reach their learning and achievement potential.

To achieve this vision, we work to deliver our aspirations across six key objectives. The tools and approaches we use to deliver these aspirations are different for the provision of public education and for the regulation and funding of public, Independent and Catholic schools.

Objectives	Contemporary curriculum and assessment	High quality teaching	Effective leadership	Good governance	Safe, healthy and resilient learners	Strong partnerships and collaboration
Aspirations	Curriculum and assessments meet the needs of students and deliver contemporary learning experiences for students to become confident, creative learners and active, informed citizens.	All teachers are supported, developed and challenged to be their best and to deliver differentiated curriculum to students that enhances their learning experiences.	School leaders have high aspirations for their students and teachers, and drive improvement in student outcomes using evidence-based practice.	Schools and school systems are governed effectively to ensure appropriate standards are delivered.	Students are healthy and resilient, and all schools and learning environments are child safe organisations.	Schools, school sectors and systems work together to improve outcomes for all students.

Our values

Learning We have a positive approach to learning and encourage it in others. We advance student learning based on our belief that all students have the capacity to learn.

Excellence We have high expectations of students and ourselves. We set standards of excellence and strive to achieve them. The standards and expectations challenge all of us to give our best.

Equity We recognise the differing circumstances and needs of students and are dedicated to achieving the best possible outcomes for all. We strive to create workplaces and learning environments that are free of discrimination, abuse and exploitation.

Care We treat all individuals with care. Our relationships are based on trust, mutual respect and the acceptance of responsibility. We recognise the value of working with parents/carers and the wider community to provide a high quality education for students.

Integrity We act with integrity, responsibility and transparency in all that we do.

Respect We treat everyone fairly, and we treat all schools, school systems and school sectors with respect.

As the provider of public education

Contemporary curriculum and assessment

We support public schools to achieve positive learning outcomes for their students. We set high expectations of success for every student in every public school to best prepare them for life.

High quality teaching

We prioritise high quality teaching across public schools. We articulate high expectations and standards of teacher performance and assist teachers to attain these through professional learning and support. We support the physical, mental and social welfare of our staff.

Effective leadership

We understand the importance of strong, empowering leadership in public schools. We identify and select talented school leaders to develop and put in place support and accountability mechanisms to drive school improvement.

Good governance

At the system level, we support public school leaders and staff while maintaining transparent accountability, governance and funding frameworks. At the school level, we support governance mechanisms that ensure public schools are responsive to the needs of their communities and students.

Safe, healthy and resilient learners

We are committed to ensuring students in public schools feel safe, connected and able to contribute to their communities. We encourage public schools to provide student wellbeing and support services to deliver mental health, pastoral care and psychological support. We expect our school leaders to develop a safe and friendly school culture for all.

Strong partnerships and collaboration

We expect public school staff to develop positive, respectful relationships with students, parents and each other as part of caring learning environments that support student wellbeing. We work with families and communities early to give their children the best start to learning. We build partnerships between our schools – and across sectors and systems – and other agencies to improve student outcomes.

As a regulator and funder

Contemporary curriculum and assessment

We provide services and support to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority to ensure it can deliver its functions of developing and maintaining the K-12 curriculum and syllabuses; assessments, examinations, reporting and certification; and monitoring and reporting on standards of student achievement. We maintain internal systems and processes that ensure the Authority receives independent advice and support from our staff, and that the data it collects and manages are protected.

High quality teaching

We regulate Independent schools, and audit and review the regulation of Catholic schools, against standards set by the Minister and other legislative requirements. These emphasise the responsibility of Catholic and Independent schools to provide a satisfactory standard of education which aims to make continuous improvements in student learning outcomes.

We provide services and support to the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia for it to deliver its functions, including to register teachers and accredit initial teacher education programs. We maintain internal processes and systems that ensure the Board receives independent advice and support from our staff; the data it collects and manages are protected; and investigations remain confidential, noting that the best interest of children is the paramount consideration.

Effective leadership

The standards and legislative requirements for Independent and Catholic schools stipulate they are to have policies to provide for students' education and care, and review them regularly.

Good governance

Independent and Catholic schools are required by legislation to implement good governance and accountability. Governing body members must be fit and proper persons to operate a school. We maintain procedural safeguards to ensure our regulatory functions are transparent, and that regulatory and delivery functions are appropriately separated. We provide funding to Catholic and Independent schools based on a formula set by the Minister.

Safe, healthy and resilient learners

The standards and legislative requirements for Independent and Catholic schools prioritise student safety and the prevention of bullying, harassment and abuse. Requirements include an expectation that Catholic and Independent schools implement a relevant child safe organisation framework. We assist all schools to provide a safe environment for children by ensuring that child welfare concerns are referred to relevant authorities and that the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia is supported to undertake its regulatory functions.

Strong partnerships and collaboration

We work with all schools to share new ideas, research and best practice. We recognise the benefits that can accrue to all students through collaboration and sharing across schools, sectors and systems.

Find out more

To find out more about each of the areas covered in this strategic outline, visit:

Public schooling	education.wa.edu.au
Catholic education	cewa.edu.au
Independent schools	ais.wa.edu.au
Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia	trb.wa.gov.au
School Curriculum and Standards Authority	scsa.wa.edu.au

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