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showcase⁰⁹

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOLS

STATE FINALIST AND WINNER PROFILES



Queensland Government

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PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools is an annual awards program that rewards and recognises schools that are significantly improving student learning outcomes through excellent teaching practices.

The awards program has been running since 2000 and it is the Queensland Government's highest accolade for state schools.

Below are the 2009 State Finalist and Winner profiles and their contact details.

State Award winning programs/initiatives are marked with *.

The Network Ten Showcase Award for Excellence in the Early Phase of Learning

Bald Hills State School

Kick Start to Learning

Youngsters who start school with literacy, numeracy and motor skills difficulties are reaping the rewards of this initiative. Kick Start to Learning is improving academic results in the early years, while helping build a strong foundation for the middle phase of learning and beyond. With the help of the learning support teacher, parents and community members are being trained to help with a range of activities including projects that boost phonological awareness, develop reading and language skills and offer additional specialist support to Indigenous students.

Contact details

Principal: Mr Keith Warwick

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***Loganholme State School**

Transitions of Trust – Cultivating the Confidence of Success

In 2007, Loganholme State School began challenging its school culture and embarked on a journey that is improving results. The new-look, individualised approach to teaching, learning and assessment includes focused early intervention and screening for students that need extra support or extension, along with strategies that ease the transition between home and school.

Contact details

Principal: Mr Victor Graham

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Miles State School

All the Small Things

Under the guidance of a speech language therapist, Miles State School's early years teachers and aides have been steadily improving the oral skills of children entering Year 1, which also bolsters student performances in later grades. Since 2005, staff have become self-sufficient in their delivery of speech and language support, successfully striking a balance between systemic requirements and students' individual needs. Fun games and everyday props such as cereal boxes and shopping dockets are helping build vocabulary and language skills.

Contact details

Principal: Mr Adam Myers
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The Commonwealth Bank of Australia Showcase Award for Excellence in the Middle Phase of Learning

Chancellor State College
6Rs for the 21st Century

Since its establishment as a middle school in 2004, Chancellor State College has embraced its research-based whole child culture with a philosophy underpinned by relevance, rigour and relationships. Daily physical activity and the choice of more than 70 different enhanced learning opportunities, such as courses in fashion and marine biology, give students the chance to experience challenging 21st century curriculum.

Contact details

Executive Principal: Mr Bevan Brennan
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Corinda Cluster – Corinda State School, Corinda State High School, Indooroopilly State School, Ironside State School, Kelvin Grove State College, Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology, Royal Children’s Hospital Special School and Sherwood State School
Kids’ STEM Convention: Inspiration, Investigation, Celebration!

Focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), this unique student-focused conference is the brainchild of the teachers of Corinda Cluster, who have been working in partnership with The University of Queensland and the Department of Environment and Resource Management over the past three years. Keynote speakers, workshops, a scientific investigation and a forum for sharing ideas are features of the practical learning experiences, covering relevant subjects including urban sustainability and new technologies.

Contact details

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Ironside State School
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***Town High TEACH Cluster – Townsville State High School, Townsville South State School, Townsville West State School, Magnetic Island State School, Garbutt State School and Townsville Central State School**
Successful Transition Through Middle School Science

Since 2003, students and teachers have been enjoying a scientific learning curve that is boosting confidence, while bridging the gap between the cluster of primary schools and Townsville State High School. Studying the elasticity of snake lollies and the chemistry of chewing gum are among the practical experiments linking students’ work with the real world and improving academic outcomes across all year levels. In the last four years, tertiary science enrolments from Townsville State High School have increased by almost 60 per cent.

Contact details

Principal: Mr Scott Stewart
Townsville State High School
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The RACQ Showcase Award for Excellence in the Senior Phase of Learning

Alexandra Hills State High School

Engagement for Success

Engagement for Success focuses on a quality curriculum, student-focused support and diverse extracurricular activities that have resulted in significantly improved academic outcomes and increased retention rates. A wider choice of subjects and flexible timetables for students undertaking vocational education and university subjects has proven successful. Last year, the school's Year 12 students became one of South East Brisbane district's highest achievers, with 80 per cent of students receiving a Queensland Certificate of Education, which is above the state average.

Contact details

Principal: Mrs Gail Armstrong
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Centenary Heights State High School

Flexi School – Changing Lives by Breaking the Cycle

Over the past six years, the Flexi School, an annexe of Centenary Heights State High School, has given disengaged and troubled students a second chance. The unique facility uses intensive case management strategies to support goal-setting and individual needs, while building relationships among staff, students and the community. Ninety-five per cent of last year's graduates have jobs or are enrolled in further study.

Contact details

Principal: Ms Maryanne Walsh
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***Tagai State College**

Navigating YUMI to a Successful Future

Across 18 campuses covering 48,000 square kilometres, the college operates a 'service guarantee' meaning every Year 12 graduating student must — within six months — be employed or in university or a vocational education and training program. In response to community demand, the college undertook a curriculum overhaul, and within two years, the number of students going on to university has doubled. Since the program's inception in 2007, a total of 75 per cent of Year 12 students have gone on to university, vocational education and training or being employed.

Contact details

Executive Principal: Mrs Judith Ketchell
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The Showcase Award for Excellence in Inclusive Education

Goodna Special School

Learning to Work, Working to Learn

Life beyond school is being made easier for students at Goodna Special School, thanks to a host of programs that are building vocational and social skills. In consultation with parents and caregivers, training covers practical lessons including babysitting courses, working in the tuckshop, etiquette and anger management. Self-sufficient, revenue raising activities allow programs to be sustainable, and retention rates have increased by 30 per cent over the past six years.

Contact details

Principal: Mr Michael Brett

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Toowong State School

Cool Hands: Learning Language at Toowong

Visitors to Toowong State School often can't tell the difference between students and staff who can hear and those who can't, which is one of the reasons why its bilingual, bicultural co-enrolment program is regarded among the world's best. Growing from a single Year 1 class in 2001, the school now offers four multi-age classes for 110 students who learn through both English and Auslan (Australian Sign Language), and every student has equal access to the regular curriculum.

Contact details

Principal: Mr Brendon Madden

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***Woodridge State School**

We Are One in Woodridge

From around 30 nationalities, many of Woodridge's young students face significant language and socioeconomic challenges when it comes to learning. Students' wellbeing and academic results have been improving over the past decade, as teachers work in partnership with community agencies. Improving health care and social skills are key lessons, along with cultural celebrations and practical learning opportunities through the school's own thrift shop. The introduction of its Intensive English Language Centre and appointment of community liaison officers have improved literacy and numeracy results across all year levels.

Contact details

Principal: Mr Garry Molloy

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The Queensland University of Technology Showcase Award for Excellence in Leadership

Cannon Hill State School** ***Many Voices – One Vision

A year of research and consultation changed the way students, staff and parents work and learn at Cannon Hill State School. Drawing inspiration from best-practice models such as Reggio Emilia — an Italian community renowned for its early childhood education — the school has developed a ‘culture of thinking’ where students take greater responsibility for their own learning. The 2008 State and National Test in reading data showed significant improvements for the Year 7 cohort.

Contact details

Principal: Ms Christine Ling
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Cherbourg State School ***A Whole Village***

This program has increased academic student outcomes and school retention rates by cultivating strong leadership and relationships between staff members and the local community. It offers a broad range of tailored core and extracurricular activities and encourages students to become knowledgeable and proud of their Aboriginal heritage. This has led to significant results in academic, social and mental wellbeing by providing a safe and supportive place to learn and belong for all students, including a significant number of very high needs students.

Contact details

Principal: Mrs Jennifer Greenham
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Riverway Schools Cluster – Rasmussen State School, Kelso State School and Weir State School ***Let’s Stay Put: One Child, One School, One Year***

Schools in the Riverway Cluster may be within eight kilometres of each other, but the disruption of high student mobility levels was making both students and teachers cover great distances in learning and teaching. For the past three years, the schools have been working with researchers from James Cook University to encourage families to stay put for a year, and work through issues rather than change schools. Communication and service delivery has improved with consistent strategies across all three schools and as a result, there has been significant improvement in academic, social and behavioural outcomes.

Contact details

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Rasmussen State School
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The RemServ Showcase Award for Excellence in Innovation

Calen District State College

Radio Rocks

For the past three years, Years 6 to 12 students have been producing and presenting their own radio programs in Calen's own on-campus radio studio. Radio Rocks allows students to gain on-air radio presenting, sales and administration experience along with certificate-level broadcasting qualifications. Students have the opportunity to gain Certificates II, III and IV in Broadcasting (Radio) and earn credits towards their Queensland Certificate of Education. The program is increasing students' self-esteem and confidence and improving career pathways for senior students.

Contact details

Principal: Mr Brian O'Neill

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***Parkhurst State School**

Maintaining Innovation in a 21st Century Digital Learning Community

A technological overhaul in 2007 has turned Parkhurst into an Information and Communication Technologies leader and a centre of innovative thinking. The introduction of technologies, such as interactive whiteboards and exer-gaming devices has resulted in dynamic and engaging teaching and learning across the school. This has captured students' interest and dramatically changed their outlook to education, attitude and learning. Parkhurst has been invited to apply to become one of 30 worldwide Pathfinder Schools in Microsoft's coveted Innovative Schools Program.

Contact details

Principal: Mr Lyle Walker

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Virginia State School

Music: The Virginia Way

Since 2003, three generations in the one classroom have been taking part in the music program at Virginia State School. Families have learned music, stage management, developed performance skills and have toured nationally together. More than 70 per cent of the senior school learns musical instruments, and annual literacy and numeracy results have improved across all year levels. Students, families, staff and community members benefit from this program which unites families, encourages communication and provides students with support and role models. The school has mentored other music teachers from around Australia.

Contact details

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The Showcase Award for Academic Excellence

***Albany Hills State School**

You Don't Have to be Einstein to Know the Joy of Finding Things Out

Since 2000, the science program at Albany Hills State School has been engaging students in intellectually challenging experiments, talking with visiting scientists and exploring real-life applications. The program is highly inclusive to ensure Autism Spectrum Disorder students, non-English speaking students new to Australia and gifted students can all learn science that is fascinating and challenging. The success of the program has inspired other schools throughout Australia to improve science programs. Albany Hills State School staff regularly present workshops at district, state and national conferences.

Contact details

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North Lakes State College

'Literacy' e Nostra Potenza – Literacy is Our Strength

North Lakes State College's pursuit of academic excellence has seen the school shine in the 2008 National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Proactive teachers who track and support students' progress are central to its success. Since the school opened in 2002, literacy has been encouraged and rewarded, with youngsters recognised for reading and writing achievements with super hero capes, middle phase students receiving star awards, and older children hosting a community celebration luncheon.

Contact details

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Thornlands State School

Igniting Writing with SPARKS

Daily writing, oral language experiences and a 'grab bag' of creative techniques are among a range of successful strategies that are boosting students' confidence, self-esteem and literacy skills at Thornlands State School. Teachers now have greater confidence to help students and share their skills with other educators. The school has won a national literacy award and in 2008 the Year 7 NAPLAN writing test results were well above state and national averages.

Contact details

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The Showcase Award for Excellence in Community or Industry Partnerships

Mirani State High School

Partners in Education

As the only high school in the Pioneer Valley, Mirani's geographical isolation could be a barrier to learning, but teachers have developed multiple learning pathways that link with more than 90 business, industry and community organisations. Engineering, mining, tourism, early childhood and automotive studies are some of the pathways that are helping students specialise their learning experiences, and employers regularly contact the school seeking employees.

Contact details

Principal: Mr Scott Cage

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***Robina State High School**

League for Life Program

Aimed to inspire Years 8 to 10 students, particularly the disengaged or underachieving, the League for Life Program combines curriculum and life skills with the motivational power of sport. The program links with a range of community organisations including the Gold Coast Titans rugby league club, Griffith University, the Salvation Army and Queenslanders in the Community charity. Attendance and retention rates have improved alongside academic results, better health and fitness, and targeted post-school pathways.

Contact details

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Sunnybank Cluster – Sunnybank State School and Sunnybank State High School

SunnyStarters

Primary and high school students in Sunnybank have joined forces with Kyabra Limited Hours Childcare Centre to provide local families with a free, play-based developmental program that aids in the development of pre-literacy, social interaction and motor skills in three- to four year-olds. At Sunnybank State School, the high school students help deliver this program which results in improved student learning outcomes, retention rates and career pathways. The initiative has attracted attention from other South-East Queensland schools that want to adopt a similar program.

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