# Parent and community engagement in rural and remote state schools

A key priority of the [*Advancing rural and remote education in Queensland state schools action plan*](https://education.qld.gov.au/schools-and-educators/other-education/Documents/advancing-rural-education-qld-state-schools-action-plan.pdf) is to place successful school, community and key stakeholder partnerships at the centre of every rural and remote school’s improvement agenda.

All state schools are required to highlight their parent and community engagement strategies within their school annual reports, which are publicly available on their school websites. A range of exceptional parent and community engagement strategies are being implemented in rural and remote state schools which clearly articulate commitment to all five of the key elements in the Department of Education’s [Parent and community engagement framework](https://education.qld.gov.au/parents-and-carers/community-engagement).

Whilst an individual school is best placed to implement engagement strategies that fit their school context, the following have been identified as effective strategies for parent and community engagement in rural and remote state schools and may serve to assist other schools to adopt similar strategies to improve parent and community engagement.



[COMMUNICATION](https://education.qld.gov.au/parents-and-carers/community-engagement/schools/communication): *Effective communication is an exchange between students, parents, communities and schools that is inclusive and involves information sharing and opportunities to learn from each other.*

* Engaging in regular communication with the community through fortnightly newsletters, the school sign, social media and school website.
* Hosting community forums to discuss significant school issues and include participation of parents and community members in weekly assemblies.
* Providing opportunities for families to observe student learning and celebrate student achievement.
* Utilising the QParents app to support connection and communication with parents.

[PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS](https://education.qld.gov.au/parents-and-carers/community-engagement/schools/partnerships): *Partnerships between parents, students and schools promote student wellbeing, learning and high expectations for student success.*

* Involving parents in the review of their child’s performance in reading, spelling, numeracy and other core priorities including the setting of individual student goals.
* Involving parents in culminating activities for units of work, career planning and subject selection interviews.
* Creating capability workshops to train parents as volunteers to address areas of need or interest such as student resilience, literacy and numeracy.
* Organising parent-teacher meet and greet information sessions throughout the year.



[COMMUNITY COLLABORATION](https://education.qld.gov.au/parents-and-carers/community-engagement/schools/collaboration): *Relationships between the school and wider community strengthen the ability of schools and families to support student wellbeing, learning and development outcomes.*

* Establishing and developing partnerships with local businesses and community members and hosting community events such as ANZAC Day services, the Variety Bash, Australian Business Week activity and local sporting events.
* Supporting a weekly playgroup for local pre-school aged children.
* Establishing traineeships and work experience opportunities for students with local industry organisations.
* Involving community volunteers in student mentoring programs, classroom support, reading and excursions.



[DECISION-MAKING](https://education.qld.gov.au/parents-and-carers/community-engagement/schools/decision-making): *Parents, students and community members play meaningful roles in school decision-making.*

* Involving the local community in the development of the school’s vision, values and annual planning.
* Supporting the school’s Parents and Citizens’ Association and engaging with them when reviewing school policies.
* Providing parents and community access to training and workshops such as those hosted by P&Cs Queensland.
* Building the capability of students to be leaders in the decision-making process.



[SCHOOL CULTURE](https://education.qld.gov.au/parents-and-carers/community-engagement/schools/school-culture): *Respectful relationships between students, parents and the school community are valued and enhance the promotion of student learning and wellbeing.*

* Ensuring respectful relationships between students, parents and the school community are valued.
* Encouraging the school community to embrace their indigenous heritage and cultural traditions such as engaging in NAIDOC week and connecting with local Elders.
* Supporting student wellbeing through engagement with local sports stars, police, youth officers, motivational speakers and community leaders.
* Building networks to establish a community integrated student support/health/early childhood services hub.