

Changes to Schools Reporting

October 2004

parents



communities



students



employers



Improved school reporting

The Government has endorsed changes to the way that schools report on student and school performance. The changes are outlined below.

1 Principles

A set of principles to guide school reporting practices in all Queensland schools (see back page) has been introduced to provide parents with a guarantee of comprehensive and regular information about their child.

2 A Unique Student Identifier

Every child at every school in the state will be assigned a unique student identifier. This will assist schools to have better knowledge of students who have moved schools and will assist them to tailor services to each child's individual needs. It will also be a valuable tool for evaluation of educational programs. This system will be managed by the Queensland Studies Authority. Public consultation supported this initiative.

From 2005, all Year 10 students will have a unique student identifier as part of the Education and Training Reforms for the Future. The timing of implementation of the unique student identifier for all students will be negotiated between the Queensland Studies Authority and each of the three school sectors. Privacy protocols will be observed to prevent misuse of information.

3 New format for Years 3, 5 and 7 test reports from the Queensland Studies Authority

From November 2004, parents will receive a new report for Years 3, 5 and 7 literacy and numeracy tests from the Queensland Studies Authority. The new reports will be easier to read and understand and will show how students perform in comparison to national benchmarks for reading, writing and numeracy.

The new reports received overwhelming support from the public consultation.

4 Written student reports at least twice per year

From 2006, parents of every child in every school in Queensland will receive a written report card, either in hard copy or on-line at least twice a year.

Most schools already provide written reports at least twice each year. This new policy will ensure that this reporting is a basic right of parents and will occur in every school. These changes received overwhelming support from the public consultation.

5 A common framework for written student reports, with a common scale

Decisions relating to a common framework for school report cards with a consistent five-point results scale will be the subject of further consideration in the context of aligning activities across curriculum, teaching, assessment and reporting in Queensland.



At present, there are no common categories of information (e.g. areas of learning, social development, how parents can help) or a consistent result scale in student report cards across schools. Greater consistency in these processes will assist parents and students in understanding student progress, particularly when students transfer between schools.

The consultation process showed that many people would like more consistency across schools in what is taught and how it is assessed, supporting a common framework for school reports.

Work is continuing on how schools could be more consistent in the way they report to parents.

6 Parent–school relationship, with interviews each semester

From the beginning of 2006, every school will have processes to establish positive relationships with parents early each year, and offer parent–teacher interviews each semester. Parents have the right to decline an interview if their needs have been met in other ways.

Most schools currently have positive reporting relationships with parents. Improved parent–teacher processes, including ways to improve parent satisfaction with interviews and encouraging greater parent involvement in schooling, are encouraged. This proposal received overwhelming support from the public consultation.

7 Annual reporting by schools, accessible on the web

By mid-2005, every school will be required to publish information about the school and its outcomes. This may be a paper or website publication. The information will include contextual information such as the curriculum taught, opportunities for parental involvement and extra-curricular activities, as well as outcomes data such as summary information in the literacy and numeracy tests and retention rates. From mid-2006, each school will be required to publish annual reporting information on its school website.

Currently all state schools and many non-state schools provide descriptive and performance data to their communities through a School Annual Report or other documents to support continuous improvement and enhanced accountability. The public consultation showed that most people want more information on schools.

8 Annual publication of Year 12 data by school, plus a destination survey

In Term 1 2006, the Queensland Studies Authority will release 2005 summary information on each school that has students in Year 12. The data will include the breadth of subjects offered, the number of students studying vocational subjects and the number who gained vocational qualifications or an Overall Position (OP) sufficient to gain entry to tertiary studies. This data will be published in Queensland newspapers, subject to conditions. Early in 2005, each school will receive its 2003 and 2004 Year 12 data.

The Government is also considering a proposal to conduct an annual statewide survey of the study, employment and other destinations of Year 12 students in the year after leaving school.



School Reporting Principles

1. School reporting is part of a cooperative relationship between school staff, parents, students and the community, which involves mutual responsibility, respect and trust.
2. All students and parents are entitled to confidential formal and informal school reporting that is responsive to individual needs and used to plan future learning.
3. School reporting acknowledges student achievement over the reporting period.
4. School reporting identifies students' strengths and areas for improvement across a broad range of indicators, including curricular, other activities and social development within the school context.
5. All parents should have the opportunity to be involved in the development, implementation and review of reporting practices at their school.
6. All parents should receive regular and clear reports on their child's progress and have opportunities to discuss their child's progress with teachers, from early in the school year.
7. Each school community should have access to regular and easy-to-understand reporting on its school's performance against its mission, goals and educational programs.
8. School communities have access to information about school performance that uses clear, broad, agreed-upon indicators that avoid superficial comparisons of schools or sectors.

Reporting	the communication of information on student achievement to a variety of audiences in a variety of styles for a variety of purposes.
Report	a summary statement of student achievement (in whatever media, genre or format) at a point in time.
Goal	Common principles for effective reporting about students and schools underpin policies and procedures across all Queensland schools.

This document is available at: www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/reporting