

Every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student succeeding

We pay our respects to Elders past and present who guide us with their knowledge, memories, traditions and culture, and help us to achieve the best educational, wellbeing and life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and students.

Every day, in every state school, our teachers and school leaders are maximising outcomes for every student by engaging them in learning and developing their skills to prepare for the future.

Our shared vision is for every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student to be supported in their learning, experience academic success and feel a sense of belonging and connection to culture in their school community and classrooms.

“How do we create a system in which every student is understood, engaged and successful at school, going on to live a life of choice, not a life of chance?”

– Tony Cook, Director-General
Department of Education

Our priorities



Increase the proportion of students achieving C or above in English to 80% in 2022

Reduce the number of students receiving multiple school disciplinary absences by 2022

The foundations of a successful learning journey are built through support, encouragement, parent and community partnerships, and quality teaching. By lifting expectations of curriculum delivery and student achievement, we will engage students in opportunities that see them thrive at school and excel academically in a supportive and inclusive environment.



Improve the proportion of educators who strongly agree they are confident in embedding cultural perspectives in learning to 30% by 2022

Culture and community play an important role in shaping young people's lives. Through localised curriculum development and partnerships with local communities, we will continue to acknowledge and respect the histories, values, languages and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and place them at the centre of our work.



Increase the student retention rate from Years 10 to 12 to 90% by 2022

Confident and empowered students reach their full potential and contribute to a more prosperous Queensland through further education pathways and learning opportunities aligned to their aspirations. By building resilience, nurturing creativity and instilling a culture of lifelong learning, we will inspire students to successfully navigate the future of work and achieve their aspirations.

Our principles



Engagement

Active and genuine engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is integral to inform decisions and ensure initiatives value, support and uphold the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.



Partnerships

Community members, Elders and regional staff are critical partners and essential sources of knowledge on the needs, opportunities, priorities and aspirations of their communities, to inform initiatives.



Alignment

Our shared understanding of the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline, the Australian Curriculum, the senior syllabuses and the policies that govern our work.



Precision

How we use evidence to identify the 'right work' and do the 'work right' by planning, implementing, monitoring and reviewing.



Intentional collaboration

The deliberate actions we take to work, learn and improve together.

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High expectations

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Reduce the number of students receiving multiple school disciplinary absences by 2022

We will:

- Partner with Traditional Custodians, Community Elders and Leaders, to co-design local and sustainable trauma informed practices that support the learning needs of students with trauma-related behaviours
- Build the capability of our educators to identify students for whom English is an additional language or dialect (EAL/D) and teach Standard Australian English explicitly, actively and meaningfully
- Lift learning outcomes and extend high-achieving students through excellence programs.

Connection to culture

Improve the proportion of educators who strongly agree they are confident in embedding cultural perspectives in learning to 30% by 2022

We will:

- Integrate the cross-curriculum priority into classrooms across the whole curriculum, through improved cultural capability of our educators
- Provide traditional language programs and increase awareness of contemporary languages, valuing the traditions and cultural identity of our students
- Connect with parents and the community to co-design whole of school strategies and ensure students' wellbeing and cultural identity is nurtured, and localised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are embedded within the curriculum.

Meaningful pathways

Increase the student retention rate from Years 10 to 12 to 90% by 2022

We will:

- Implement innovative, data informed partnership models that strengthen the quality of support for early school leavers and school completers to access learning and employment pathways
- Support successful transitions to boarding, further learning and employment through better monitoring of students and line of sight
- Build the critical and creative thinking skills of high achieving students to prepare them for tertiary education, and encourage students to identify STEM as a preferred pathway.

Our commitment to protecting the rights of children and students

In everything we do, we will respect, protect and promote human rights, including the distinct cultural rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's first people.

[The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#) emphasise the importance of culturally safe environments and practices for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to improve the way we engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families, recognising the impact of intergenerational trauma, and respecting cultural diversity.

Strategies and initiatives

- [Alice Springs \(Mparntwe\) Education Declaration 2019](#)
- [Advancing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education action plan](#)
- [Strategic Plan](#)
- [Every student succeeding: State Schools improvement strategy](#)
- [Department of Education Commitment Statement to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples](#)
- [Engaging communities: Empowering futures framework for engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities](#)
- [We all belong – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce strategy](#)
- [Moving ahead](#)
- [Closing the Gap](#)
- [Path to Treaty](#)