



Reforming education in Queensland

Fact sheet

Education is the key to a bright future for Queensland children and the state government is investing strongly in education to help give them the best start to a full and enriching life.

In 2011, the department commenced the implementation of a package of reforms outlined in the *A Flying Start for Queensland Children – Education White Paper*.

These reforms are currently being delivered and are geared toward ensuring Queensland children are prepared for the start of school, that they're ready to make the transition to high school and that our schools and teachers consistently perform to a high standard.

The reforms are supported by a budget of almost \$640 million. This includes a capital investment of up to \$328 million for state school infrastructure, and an allocation of \$110 million to non-state schools.

The changes are supported by the state, Catholic and independent school sectors.

The move of Year 7 to high school

The centrepiece of the education reforms is the move of Year 7 to high school in 2015.

By 2015, just over half the students in Year 7 will be turning 13 and in their eighth year of school, which is the right time for high school to begin. Educators agree that young teenagers are ready for the greater independence and depth of learning that high schools provide.

Work is ongoing to ensure a smooth transition in 2015, including:

- promoting a strong culture of pastoral care and student wellbeing in Queensland secondary schools
- encouraging ongoing parent involvement throughout their child's education
- a focus on the provision of age-appropriate, quality teaching
- recruiting highly committed teachers to support Year 7 students in state secondary schools and ensuring they are well prepared to respond to the needs of these students
- rolling out a program of infrastructure works to ensure state schools have facilities for Year 7 students, and providing capital assistance for non-state schools.

The Year 7 pilot program

Twenty state schools piloted Year 7 in high school ahead of the statewide move. Insights from these schools have been shared with state and non-state schools.

The key insights our pilot schools shared include that:

- successful transition involves a combination of key events, held over an extended period of time, and for various groups including the 2015 Year 7 and Year 8 students, families, teachers, affiliate primary schools etc.
- the move of Year 7 to high school may create opportunities for schools to reinvigorate teaching practice
- a deep understanding of the adolescent learner needs to be reflected in the approach to teaching and learning in the Junior Secondary years, and more broadly, in the approach to student wellbeing and leadership
- seeking out and acting on feedback has been a key to success in our pilot schools.



Supporting students in the early years of high school

Many state and non-state schools in Queensland have a tailored environment for the early years of secondary schooling.

State schools are implementing a Junior Secondary phase of education for Years 7 to 9, which focuses on the academic, social and emotional wellbeing of young adolescents.

Junior Secondary is based on six guiding principles and is being implemented in a way that best suits the local context.

Non-state schools will continue to determine their own structures, span of year levels and care programs.

Six principles of Junior Secondary

1. Distinct identity
2. Quality teaching
3. Student wellbeing
4. Parent and community involvement
5. Leadership
6. Local decision-making



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100,000

students starting high school in 2015 (Years 7 and 8)



20 schools

piloted the move of Year 7 to high school



\$328 million

capital investment on state school infrastructure to support Year 7

Supporting your child's move to high school



If your child is one of the 100,000 students starting in Year 7 or Year 8 at a Queensland high school next year, there are many things you can do to help smooth their transition:

- ✓ attend a parent information event or open day, to get a better understanding of the school, their wellbeing and support systems and academic programs
- ✓ before they begin high school, be enthusiastic and talk positively to your child about the transition
- ✓ listen to any concerns or worries and reinforce the positive things your child is excited about
- ✓ visit the high school's website to find out more about the school's curriculum and activities
- ✓ provide a private and quiet space and the necessary equipment to support successful study out of school hours. Help your child to develop a study plan around their other commitments and activities
- ✓ encourage your child to use a diary to plan events and activities. Once something is scheduled, it becomes more real for them
- ✓ be sure you know how your chosen high school communicates with parents, so that you can stay up to date with how your child is settling into high school life
- ✓ check out our starting high school videos and other useful resources about the transition to high school by visiting www.flyingstart.qld.gov.au



For more information about Year 7 joining high school, including updates on state school infrastructure projects and resources to support parents and students, visit www.flyingstart.qld.gov.au