

# Student and School Performance

## Fact Sheet

clever • skilled • creative

### Our students and schools

One of the seven key priorities for the Department of Education and Training is achieving the best possible performance among students and schools.

We deliver effective and engaging educational programs to ensure that every day, in every classroom, every state school student is learning and achieving. Our schools are monitored closely to identify ways we can continuously improve education for young people.

Essential to a strong performance is teaching literacy and numeracy skills in a way that students understand.

### Setting a new benchmark

We have high expectations for students and schools with regards to literacy and numeracy standards. A range of important programs specifically focus on improving teaching and learning of literacy and numeracy such as:

- Reforms in the \$138 million *Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership* focus on curriculum leadership and engaging school communities in education, professional development for teachers and setting targets for student progress
- School-based initiatives funded by the *Low Socio-Economic Status National Partnership* such as parenting programs, homework clubs, teacher induction programs, behaviour support programs and student wellbeing centres
- Investing almost \$73 million to employ literacy and numeracy coaches, offering summer school programs, and delivering intensive teaching for students in Years 3 and 5 who are in the most need of extra help.



### High-quality teaching

The Queensland Government invests heavily in attracting great people to the teaching workforce and providing ongoing training at all stages of their careers using strategies such as:

- Professional development for teachers during vacation breaks to boost their literacy and numeracy teaching skills
- Employing experienced teachers to be literacy and numeracy coaches who work with their classroom colleagues to improve teaching quality
- Testing aspiring primary teachers before they are registered to ensure they meet threshold levels of knowledge for teaching literacy, numeracy and science
- Scholarships and recruitment programs to retain high quality teachers, and comprehensive induction and support for beginning teachers
- Rejuvenating science teaching through the *Science Spark* initiative to improve students' interest and skills in science
- Creating a new structure of advanced professional development for primary school teachers in literacy, numeracy and science.



# Student and School Performance

clever • skilled • creative



## Strong support for students

State schools look for every opportunity to tailor education to the needs of individual students whenever possible. This is achieved through programs such as:

- Summer Schools across Queensland for students in Years 5–7 who need extra assistance with literacy and numeracy development
- Set Teaching Times which requires schools to spend a minimum of up to seven hours a week teaching English and up to five hours teaching Mathematics to Years 1–7 students
- Programs that encourage parents to become their child's first teacher through reading and recommended activities
- English as a Second Language (ESL) programs
- Early intervention programs to identify students in need of help with literacy and numeracy
- between 10 and 20 hours of intensive teaching for those Year 3 and 5 students not meeting national minimum standards in either literacy or numeracy
- More teacher aide time to allow classroom teachers to work more closely with each student.

## Focusing on results

The performance and monitoring of our schools is rigorous during the whole school year. We measure performance and achievement through:

- Turnaround teams that identify areas for improvement in teaching programs
- School-wide audits to assess curriculum, planning, teaching and learning
- Analysis of annual NAPLAN data which is given to classroom teachers so they can link it to their teaching strategies
- The *Closing the Gap* initiative to address the difference between the learning outcomes of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. It requires schools to embed programs that consider students' language backgrounds, attendance and mobility, and local community views
- Specific tools to monitor the learning progress of Year 1 students.

## Our priorities

The Department of Education and Training has seven over-arching key priorities that focus on:

1. Early Childhood Education and Care
2. Student and School Performance
3. Teaching and Learning
4. Training and Skilling Queensland
5. Infrastructure
6. Workplace Reform
7. Policy Development

For more information on each of the seven key priorities and other DET services please visit our website at [www.deta.qld.gov.au](http://www.deta.qld.gov.au) or email comments to [inquiries@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:inquiries@deta.qld.gov.au)