School education: a quick guide to key internet links

Marilyn Harrington
Social Policy

This Quick Guide provides links to:

- information about the policy and administrative framework for school education
- individual school information
- school funding information
- statistics—including student achievement statistics
- indigenous education
- Australian organisations
- international organisations and education departments and
- state and territory government websites.

Note: administrative arrangements announced on 18 September 2013 have altered departmental responsibility for school education. Therefore, links to Australian Government websites listed below may change as new arrangements take effect.

Policy and administrative framework for school education

- The Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians agreed to by the Australian Government and state and territory government education ministers in 2008, sets the goals and directions for Australian schooling.

- The Department of Education (DoE) provides access to information about Australian Government school education policies and programs. At the time of writing, the DoE website was being updated to reflect the Machinery of Government changes following the 2013 federal election.

- The Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC) is a standing council of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). Its membership includes Australian Government and state and territory government education ministers. Communiqués summarise key agreements made at SCSEEC meetings.

- The SCSEEC replaced the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEEECDYA) in January 2012. Information and publications released by MCEEECDYA remain on its archived website.

- The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is responsible for the development of the national curriculum, the National Assessment Program and national data collection and reporting.

• The annual *Report on Government Services*, published by the Productivity Commission, provides an overview of school education in Australia, key statistics and funding information.

• The *Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership* (AITSL) provides ‘national leadership for the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments in promoting excellence in the profession of teaching and school leadership’. Its work includes the development of *professional standards*, *national registration* and *professional learning* for teachers.

**Information about schools**

• **School term dates**

• The *My School website*, managed by ACARA, provides information about all schools in Australia, and includes key statistical data, financial information and school-wide National Assessment Program (literacy and numeracy) results.

• M Harrington, *Schools by Commonwealth Electoral Division, 2012*, Parliamentary Library, Canberra, 2013. The information for individual schools includes school name, location and school type. For non-government schools, campus information, affiliation and Commonwealth funding arrangements under the socioeconomic status (SES) system are also provided. The website includes a list of school enrolments by electorate.

**School funding**

**Australian Government funding for schools pre-2014**

• COAG’s *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations* (IGA) provides for the Australian Government’s National Schools Specific Purpose Payment (SPP) for government schools. Funding is provided according to the terms of the IGA’s *National Education Agreement* (NEA).

• The COAG Reform Council reports annually on the Agreement’s progress—the latest available report is for 2012.

• The *Schools Assistance Act 2008* provides funding for the non-government school component of the National Schools SPP and the *Schools Assistance Regulations 2009* specify the performance and accountability requirements under the Act.

• The *Schools Assistance Act 2008 Administrative Guidelines: Commonwealth Programs for Non-government Schools, 2009 to 2013/2014: 2013 Update* includes program funding information.

• The *Schools Assistance Act 2008: Report on Financial Assistance Granted to each State in Respect of ...* This annual report provides funding information by program and a summary of general recurrent and capital grants for individual non-government schools. Latest issue is 2010. [Not currently available online.]

• The Department of Education’s *SES Funding Help website* provides the per capita funding rates for non-government schools.

• Other targeted funding for schools has been provided through a number of COAG National Partnerships and the Australian Government’s school education programs.

• M Harrington, *Australian Government funding for schools explained: 2013 update*, Background note, Parliamentary Library, Canberra, 8 March 2013. Explains the current funding system in detail and includes a brief history of Australian Government funding for schools and historic funding and statistical information.

**Government funding for schools from 2014**

• From 2014, Australian and state and territory government funding for government and non-government schools will be provided according to the terms of the COAG *National Education Reform Agreement* (the NERA). At the time of writing, the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australian governments are ‘non-participating’ education systems. (Note: non-government schools and school systems are not required to sign the NERA.)
Australian Government funding for NERA-participating government education systems, non-government education systems and schools and non-participating government education systems will be provided under the Australian Education Act 2013 and the Australian Education Regulation 2013.

M Harrington, *Funding the National Plan for School Improvement: an explanation*, Background note, Parliamentary Library, Canberra, 26 June 2013. Provides a detailed explanation of the National Plan for School Improvement as it was called at the time of writing.

**Statistics**

- **Australian Bureau of Statistics**—key statistics about schools are provided in *Schools, Australia*, published annually.
- The annual *Report on Government Services*, published by the Productivity Commission, provides an overview of school education in Australia, key statistics and funding information.

**Student achievement statistics**

- The *National Assessment Program* (NAP), managed by ACARA, includes the annual *National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)* for students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 and three-yearly *NAP Sample Assessments* in Science Literacy, Civics and Citizenship, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Literacy.
- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) *Programme for International Student Assessment* (PISA) is a three-yearly international survey of the reading, mathematics and science capabilities of 15-year-old students.
- *Progress in International Reading and Literacy Study* (PIRLS), a project of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), is a five-yearly international assessment of the reading ability of students in Year 4.
- The *Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study* (TIMSS), an IEA project, is a four-yearly international survey of the mathematics and science achievement of students in Year 4 and Year 8.

**Other international statistics**

- *UNESCO Institute for Statistics*

**Indigenous education**

- The *National Indigenous Reform Agreement (Closing the Gap)* sets out the education targets for Indigenous Australians. The COAG Reform Council reports annually on the Agreement’s progress—the latest report is for 2011–12.
- The Closing the Gap Agreement is supported by the *National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory, Schedule B* sets out the Schooling Implementation Plan.
- The *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000* (IETA Act) provides funding for some Australian Government targeted programs for Indigenous schools students. The *IETA Act Program Guidelines* provide information about these programs—latest issue is 2013.
Australian organisations
The following are some educational organisations that represent the interests of school education stakeholders and/or undertake research relating to school education. The Australasian Education Directory provides a comprehensive listing of educational organisations.

- Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia
- Australian Council for Educational Research
- Australian Council of Deans of Education
- Australian Council of State School Organisations
- Australian Education Union
- Australian Parents Council—represents the interests of parents of non-government school students.
- Australian Primary Principals Association
- Australian Secondary Principals Association
- Independent Education Union of Australia
- Independent Schools Council of Australia
- National Catholic Education Commission
- Save Our Schools—a public education advocacy organisation.

International organisations and overseas education departments

International organisations
- The European Community’s Eurydice Network provides information and analysis of European education systems and policies.
- Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD)—Early Childhood and Schools

Overseas education departments
- Great Britain: Department for Education.
- United States:
  - Department of Education—includes links to state education departments.
  - Education Commission of the States provides access to information about federal and state education policies, legislation, research and statistics.

State and territory government websites

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
- Find an ACT school
- Education and Training Directorate
- Board of Senior Secondary Studies

New South Wales (NSW)
- Find a NSW government school
- Find a NSW non-government school
- Department of Education and Communities
- Board of Studies NSW—has responsibility for non-government schools.

Northern Territory (NT)
- Find an NT school
• Department of Education

Northern Territory Board of Studies

Queensland

• Find a Queensland school
• Department of Education, Training and Employment
• Queensland Studies Authority

South Australia (SA)

• Find an SA school
• Department for Education and Child Development
• South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE Board of SA)

Tasmania

• Find a Tasmanian school
• Department of Education
• Tasmanian Qualifications Authority

Victoria

• Find a Victorian school
• Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
• Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority

Western Australia (WA)

• Find a WA government school
• Find a WA non-government school
• Department of Education
• Department of Education Services—has responsibility for non-government schools.
• School Curriculum and Standards Authority

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