

UNLOCK YOUR SCHOOL'S FUTURE

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Compliance and legislative requirements

Although Independent Public Schools have more flexibility to set their own strategic direction and authority for day to day decisions, they remain part of the public school system.

Modification, replacement or opting out of Departmental policy, procedures and compliance processes are subject to:

- compliance with all legislation including, but not limited to, *School Education Act 1999*, *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, *Financial Management Act 2006*, *School Curriculum and Authority Act(1 March 2012)* as well as all industrial instruments
- compliance with whole of Government policies and initiatives that apply to all public schools
- compliance with all agreements between the Australian and WA Governments as outlined in the National Education Agreement
- provision of relevant data to enable the Department to meet State-wide reporting obligations (for example, suspensions, exclusions, attendance, critical incidents and finance)
- compliance with the Department's School Audit program
- application of the *Plan for Public Schools in Western Australia 2012-2015*.

Delivery and Performance Agreement

All Independent Public schools must negotiate a Delivery and Performance Agreement (DPA) which is signed by the Principal, Chair of the school board and Director General. This agreement identifies the resources the school will receive; support that will be provided, programs it will be contracted to deliver; student achievement and how it will be monitored; and the performance and accountability of the school over the life of the agreement (3-5 years).

The DPA outlines the requirement to develop an effective Business Plan. This three-year strategic plan aligns with, and has the same time span, as the Delivery and Performance Agreement.

The DPA and Business plan also forms the basis of the Principal's Professional Review.

Please refer to the [Delivery and Performance Agreement and Business Plan](#).

Public Accountability

- All public schools, including Independent Public Schools, must provide parents and community members with transparent information about school and student performance. Information about the school priorities, programs, reports, student numbers, staff information student attendance, and achievement is available on [Schools Online](#).
- Schools also display information on their own websites.
- Further information is available on the national Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) [My School](#) website.

Each Independent Public School:

- has an external review in the final year of its Delivery and Performance Agreement, with the report made public, (as the focus of the review is on educational performance, the independent review team will be predominantly educators);
- produces a three-year Business Plan;
- produces an annual school report which is signed by the School Board chair; and
- undertakes an annual self assessment, which is presented to the School Board.

The range of accountabilities for Independent Public Schools can be found in the [accountability instruments and processes](#).

Governance

The principal is responsible for the educational leadership, operation and management of the school. Each Independent Public School must have an effective school board that includes community and business/industry representation. To maximise the input of the school board in developing school policies the principal seeks advice and receives recommendations from the school board.

The school board participates fully in

- endorsing the Delivery and Performance Agreement;
- endorsing and regularly reviewing the one-line school budget and business plan;
- processes to review the school 's performance through receiving regular reports and data on student achievement;
- processes to determine satisfaction levels of parents, staff and students during the life of the DPA, with results reported in the annual school report;
- endorsing the annual school report; and
- selecting the principal when a vacancy arises.