

Independent Public Schools

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YOUR SCHOOL'S
FUTURE**



Independent Public Schools

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- The Independent Public Schools initiative honours the State Government's commitment to hand greater control to schools
- Independent Public Schools remain part of the public school system. They retain the benefits of being part of a bigger system and operate within relevant legislation and industrial agreements
- In collaboration with their school community, they set their own strategic directions and have authority for day-to-day decisions that best cater for their students.

What if my school is selected to become an Independent Public School?

- If your school is selected to become an Independent Public School, a comprehensive transition program will be provided for your school leaders, registrars, business managers and school council members.

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What happens to schools that choose not to become Independent Public Schools?

- These schools will continue to operate as usual
- Over time, all public schools will be given more authority to make decisions that best meet the needs of their school context and community.

How will my school change if it becomes an Independent Public School?

- There will be more freedom to make changes that reflect the needs and expectations of your school community
- The school will be able to make decisions about important matters that impact on your child's education, such as the curriculum, student support, staff recruitment, financial management, governance and accountability.

What will it mean for the school council?

- The school council will be referred to as the school board
- Stronger community and industry representation will ensure that the board makes a significant contribution to the development of the school
- Comprehensive training will be available for new and existing school board members.

Can Independent Public Schools select their own staff?

- Yes. They have greater control over the types of positions that exist in the school, and are able to select staff who best meet the needs of that school
- The school board is represented in the selection of a new principal, should a vacancy arise.

Will enrolment procedures change?

- Enrolment procedures will not change
- Independent Public Schools will continue to provide education to students in their local intake area. Parents and guardians will have the right to enrol their children in their local school
- Enrolment procedures for Gifted and Talented programs will remain the same.

Are there fees and charges associated with being an Independent Public School?

- Independent Public Schools are bound by the *School Education Act 1999* and the *School Education Act Regulations 2000*
- The structure for contributions, fees and charges remains the same as all public schools.

What are the uniform requirements of an Independent Public School?

- Uniform requirements are determined by the school board, in consultation with the school community.

What is taught in Independent Public Schools?

- Independent Public Schools have the flexibility to adopt a range of curricula, providing they meet legislated curriculum requirements.

What are the requirements of Independent Public Schools?

- To comply with all legislation, industrial agreements and financial audits
- To sign a Delivery and Performance Agreement (DPA) with the Director General, Principal and Chair of the school board
- To be part of an independent review in the final year of the DPA
- To produce an annual report, Business Plan and Strategic Plan, which are co-signed by the school board.

What will it mean for my Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C)?

- The important role and functions of the Parents and Citizens Association will not change.

Will Independent Public Schools become an elite group of schools?

- Independent Public Schools represent a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds, and reflect the diversity of public education in Western Australia
- They include primary, secondary, district high, education support schools in metropolitan and regional areas, as well as clusters of schools and schools from low and high socio-economic communities.

Further Information

visit:

- [The Department of Education Independent Public School site](#)
- [Information for parents and communities](#)

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