



School reviews – information for school staff

Every Queensland state school is reviewed by the School Improvement Unit (SIU) at least once every four years. The reviews are an important part of how the department supports and monitors schools.

The reviews provide schools with independent feedback to help them continue to improve learning outcomes for students. They are not used to compare schools or to rate the performance of school staff.

Schools are generally reviewed in the year that they are due to update their four-year strategic plan. Findings and feedback from the reviews are a valuable input into this process.

Types of reviews

There are three types of school reviews:

- **full school**, which is the standard review type for Queensland state schools
- **priority support** for schools identified as needing additional support
- **self-determined** for schools identified as having a trajectory of sustained improvement.

The SIU designates schools for the different types of review by first considering their performance data and then consulting with the school's regional office. Schools are only designated for review following input from their region.

Self-determined reviews give schools the autonomy to organise their own review. They may choose to engage the SIU.

The SIU conducts priority support reviews in the same way as full school and self-determined reviews, except that:

- it assigns its more experienced reviewers to the reviews
- it continues to monitor and check back in with the school for 12 months after the review to ensure the school receives the support it needs.

Review process

Reviews are conducted by experienced educators trained in the use of the *National School Improvement Tool*, a nationally recognised framework for reviewing teaching and learning practices.

Each review team generally consists of two to four reviewers, but the

number of reviewers and length of review depends upon a range of factors, including the size and context of the school.

Reviewers look closely at each school's performance data and speak with a wide range of staff, students, parents and community members to get an accurate picture of the school.

Unlike many other review systems, schools aren't ranked or given a performance rating. Instead, the school is given a comprehensive report for consideration.

The report details key findings and recommended improvement strategies to maximise student outcomes. Principals are encouraged to share this information with their staff and school community to help shape the school's strategic direction.

Staff participation in school reviews

Feedback from school staff is an important part of school reviews, with all staff encouraged to have their say. Interviews with staff generally take place outside, in an office or in another quiet area of the school.

Interviews with reviewers should not increase staff workload. They are professional conversations intended to give staff an opportunity to talk about their school. Reviewers do not use checklists or a set list of questions.

Schools generally organise a staff member to accompany reviewers to classrooms and to provide teacher relief so that teachers can speak with a reviewer. Reviewers are interested in the classroom atmosphere, presentation and student behaviour. The classroom visit is not an assessment of teaching practice.

To register your interest in participating in the review, please speak with your principal or email the SIU at siumb@qed.qld.gov.au. Participation in the review is voluntary.

More information

For more information about school reviews, including when your school will be reviewed, please visit the School Reviews website at www.schoolreviews.eq.edu.au or contact the SIU on (07) 3035 2217 or at siumb@qed.qld.gov.au.