



School reviews – an overview

All Queensland state schools are 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, tailored to their context and needs.

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.

Review process

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

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 but are supported with 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.

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 reviews by first considering their performance data and then consulting with the school's regional office.

Reviewers

There are three types of reviewers:

- **internal reviewers** — experienced state school principals seconded to the SIU for a term, semester or longer
- **external reviewers** — independent contractors engaged by the SIU
- **principal peer reviewers** — principals trained by the SIU in the use of the NSIT.

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.

More information

For more information about school reviews, 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.