





The Queensland Government is dedicated to ensuring Queensland's education system continues to be world-class.

Through our Advancing Education action plan, we're employing more teachers, providing better training, building better facilities and ensuring schools have the resources they need to deliver an outstanding education.

School reviews are a key part of our government's forward-thinking approach. Under the review system, every Queensland state school benefits from a tailored review every four years.

The reviews are an opportunity for all members of the school community — parents, teachers and staff, school leaders, students and community members — to have their say about what makes their school great and where it can improve.

The reviews are not about rating schools or assessing the performance of staff. Rather, they are focused on helping schools to continue to improve by giving them quality, independent feedback on their performance and where they can best direct their efforts in the future.

I have consistently heard praise for the process and the quality of the review findings from principals, teachers and parents. This annual report is testament to that quality.

I thank everyone who contributed to school reviews in 2015. Your support is valued and is helping to strengthen our local schools.

The Honourable Kate Jones MP
Minister for Education



In 2015, the Department of Education and Training introduced new performance reviews for Queensland state schools to help all students to receive the best possible start in learning and life.

All schools can benefit from receiving meaningful feedback from independent reviewers about what they are doing well and where they need to focus their efforts to improve outcomes for all students. Equally, school leaders invest in both their own professional growth and in the future of our system when they nominate to become reviewers of their peers' schools.

Importantly, school reviews do not prescribe answers or assume responsibility for a school's improvement agenda. Rather, they provide school leaders with a rich and valuable source of information to consider in consultation with their school community and region.

The School Improvement Unit's (SIU) first annual report, *Queensland: A State of Learning*, gives schools further evidence to support their work.

The report is a thorough analysis of the 369 reviews — more than a quarter of all Queensland state schools — conducted by the SIU in 2015. It marks the beginning of our efforts to build a relevant and contextualised evidence base that will provide clear information, standards and priorities to help shape local practice in all Queensland state schools.

The report identifies key themes and trends that emerged across the 2015 school reviews. It also includes a series of case studies which profile those schools that are making progress in particular areas of teaching and learning.

A great school needs a great school down the road. While we look to support teachers to teach and we empower principals to be high-performing leaders, we must also share best practice, inspiration and ideas that will lift the performance of the whole system. I believe the SIU's first annual report gives schools the tools to do this by providing valuable perspectives from their own classrooms, other Queensland schools and other high performing systems.

I encourage all staff to discuss the findings described in this report with their colleagues and to consider what they might mean for their classroom, school, region and the system more broadly. Feedback on the report is welcomed at siumb@dete.qld.gov.au.

Dr Jim Watterston
Director-General

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With continued support from the system, yet more Queensland state schools will be able to continue on their developmental journey and lift the educational outcomes for every child and young person that they are responsible for.