



School reviews – information for school staff

Approximately a quarter of all Queensland state schools are reviewed by the department each year. The reviews are an important part of how the department monitors and supports schools.

The reviews are about providing schools with quality and 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.

Each school is reviewed every four years, providing valuable opportunities for self-reflection and improvement. The reviews are conducted by the department's School Improvement Unit (SIU).

Types of reviews and timing

There are three types of school reviews:

- **full school**, which is the default 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.

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

Each review team generally consists of two to four reviewers, however, 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 each 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 outlines 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 another quiet area of the school.

Classroom visits are also conducted by reviewers. They provide teachers with an opportunity to speak with reviewers and offer feedback on the school.

Schools generally organise a staff member to accompany the reviewer to the classroom and to provide teacher relief so the teacher can talk with the reviewer. Reviewers are interested in the classroom atmosphere, presentation and student behaviour. It is not a formal assessment of teacher practice.

To register your interest in participating in the review, please speak with your principal or email the School Improvement Unit at siumb@det.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 phone the SIU on (07) 3035 2217.