



Australian Government  
Department of Education

# The National School Reform Agreement

**Making sure school works well across Australia**

We want to know what you think

Easy Read version



## How to use this paper



The Expert Panel for the Review to Inform a Better and Fairer Education System wrote this paper.

We call them the Panel.



The Panel is a group of experts who are making sure education works well across Australia.



When you see the word 'we', it means the Panel.



We wrote this information in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

# **Bold** Not bold

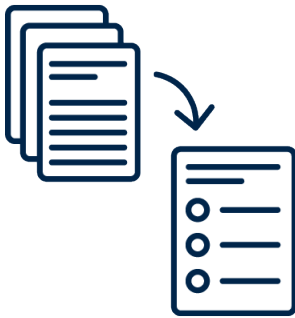
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 38.



This is an Easy Read summary of another paper.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other paper on our website.

**[www.education.gov.au/review-inform-better-and-fairer-education-system](http://www.education.gov.au/review-inform-better-and-fairer-education-system)**



You can ask for help to read this paper.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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## About this paper



The **education system** is an important part of making sure Australia is a good place to live.



The education system is made of different parts that work together to teach students.

For example, it includes teachers and schools.



When people have a good education, it supports them to:

- live a good life
- take part in the community.



So it's important that the education system is fair and supports everyone.



We want to know what the community thinks about the education system.



This includes:

- what issues there are
- what needs to improve.



We will help guide the next National School Reform Agreement (NSRA).



The NSRA is an agreement between the:

- Australian Government
- and
- state and territory governments.



The NSRA explains what governments can do to make the education system better.



We want the next NSRA to support children and young people to do as well as they can at school.

## How to tell us what you think



We will share ideas about how to make the education system better.

We will share ideas in 5 key areas.



In this paper, we explain:

- our ideas for the NSRA
- the 5 key areas.



We also ask you some questions.

You can answer:



- all our questions



- some of our questions.



You can also share other ideas you think are important.



You can fill out this paper and email it.

**[NSRA.submissions@education.gov.au](mailto:NSRA.submissions@education.gov.au)**



If you want to keep your name private, you need to include this in your email.



Or you can fill out a survey on the Australian Government website.

**[submit.dese.gov.au/jfe/form/  
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You will need to share what you think before 11:59 pm on 2 August 2023.



You can find more information on how to share what you think on this website.

**[www.education.gov.au/review-inform-better-and-fairer-education-system/consultations/review-inform-better-and-fairer-education-system-consultation](http://www.education.gov.au/review-inform-better-and-fairer-education-system/consultations/review-inform-better-and-fairer-education-system-consultation)**

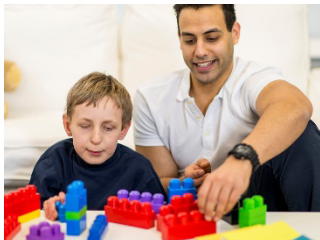


Some students face challenges that stop them from doing as well as they could at school.

These students include:



- First Nations children and young people



- children and young people with disability



- children and young people who live very far away from cities and towns.



This includes children and young people with parents or carers who:

- have low levels of education
- didn't finish school.



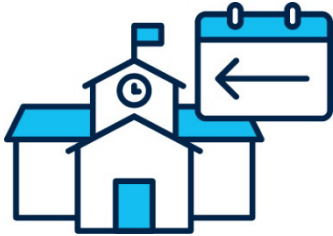
It also includes children and young people who have other things in their life that affect how they learn.



The next NSRA will focus on actions that:

- reduce how these challenges affect students
- improve how well students do at school.

We want to know the best ways to support students who:



- are behind when they start school



- have fallen behind in school



- are at risk of falling behind in school.



The next NSRA will also aim to provide extra support for students who need it.

## Questions for you



What should the NSRA focus on to measure how well students in Australia are doing?



Should the NSRA only focus on how well students do in tests?

Or should it focus on other things as well?





What should the next NSRA aim to achieve?

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Should the NSRA have different goals for students in:

- primary schools?
- secondary schools?

If you think 'Yes', how should they be different?

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How should the NSRA change the way we measure how well students are doing?

Does the NSRA need any new ways to measure this?



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What can the education system do to improve how well students do at school?

This includes the students who are most at risk of falling behind at school.



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Should the education system have different ways to support different students?

If you think so, what do different students need?



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When students have support to take part in school, they have a better chance of doing well at school.

This includes when students get support to have:



- good wellbeing



- good **mental health**.



Your mental health is about how you:

- think and feel about yourself
- deal with things in your life
- manage your feelings.



But research shows the wellbeing of students is getting worse.



There are different groups working on ways to support the mental health and wellbeing of students.

These groups are part of the education system.



But this work doesn't always work well for:

- students
- schools.



There is also not enough support for teachers to help students with their wellbeing.



For example, there is not enough training that helps teachers share information about wellbeing supports outside of school.



Things outside of school can often cause issues with mental health and wellbeing.

This makes it harder for teachers to support students.



The next NSRA should focus on ways to help mental health and wellbeing get better for all students.

This will support students to do better at school.



The next NSRA should also focus on ways to make supports work well across the education system.



This will help improve the wellbeing of students.

And help to stop things that affect the mental health and wellbeing of students.

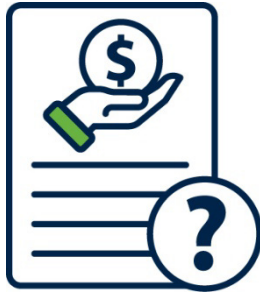
## Questions for you



How can we tell when a school does a good job of supporting the mental health and wellbeing of students?



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What actions in the NSRA will support this?

For example, what do we need from:



- schools?
- the education system?
- governments?
- the community?



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Should we ask students about their experiences to understand their safety and wellbeing at school?

How would this help us?



Should we add these questions to other surveys we already do?

For example, NAPLAN.

This is a test that students do each year to work out their level of learning.





Do school leaders and teachers have the right skills to support students who are struggling with their mental health and wellbeing?



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How can we tell when teachers and school leaders do this well?



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What can governments do to help schools and organisations work together to support student wellbeing?

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How can governments support schools and teachers to help students?

For example, helping students find services outside of school without giving teachers more work to do.

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It's important to have good teachers to help students do as well as they can at school.



Good teachers are also important for supporting students who are the most at risk of falling behind.



But it's hard to get enough teachers across schools in Australia.



This happens when there are more children and young people who need to go to school.

But it also happens when not enough people become teachers.



The job that teachers do has become harder over the years.

And some teachers need more support to keep them in their job.



It's also been harder for some schools to find teachers with the skills they need.

For example, schools very far away from cities and towns.



And it's been harder for schools to find more teachers who come from different backgrounds.



There are many different ways to support people to become teachers.

They might include:



- changing how people become teachers
- giving more support to teachers
- making it easier for teachers to work in different places.

## Questions for you



What would support:

- people to become teachers?
- teachers to stay in their job?



What can we change so schools that need more support can keep good teachers?





Should good teachers get more chances to work in other teaching roles?

How do we make sure good teachers have the right skills for these roles?



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Some jobs have a national list of everyone who works in that job.

Would this be a good idea for teachers?

If you think 'Yes', how would this help?



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Collecting and sharing **data** helps make sure that governments support students to do as well as they can at school.



When we talk about data, we mean:

- facts
- information
- records.



This includes data that explains:

- what's working in the education system
- what's not working in the education system.



Without this data it's harder to know what needs to change to support students at school.

For example, changing government plans.



Lots of groups collect data about students.

But it's not always easy to find and use.



The next NSRA should find out how to improve how the education system:

- collects data
- shares data.



This means making sure that data includes important information.



This also includes using data to understand how government plans affect how well students do at school.

And how governments can use this information in new plans.

## Questions for you



What data is most important to you?



How easy is it for you to:

- find and use this data?
- understand this data?





What data do we need to start collecting that's important to understand education in Australia?



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Why is this data important?



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How should the next NSRA share information about what governments are doing?



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Sharing information about **funding** is important in building the community's trust.

Funding is money from the government that pays for services and supports in schools.



This includes information about how funding affects how well students do at school.



And how schools get funding for students who need more support.

Sharing this information will support the community to understand:



- how governments decide how much funding schools get
- what schools use the funding for
- how funding supports students to do well at school.



The next NSRA will help to change the education system.

And it will help students do well at school.

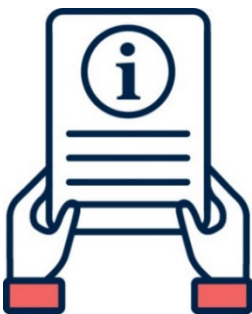
The NSRA can do this by making sure:



- schools tell the community about how they use funding to support students

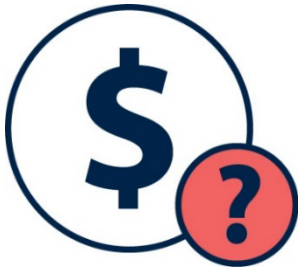


- governments share information with each other about how funding helps students do well



- governments share information about how they choose what funding schools will get.

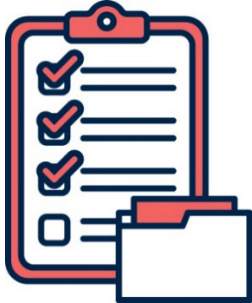
## Questions for you



Are there other actions about funding we've missed?



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How can governments use data to better achieve their goals?



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What other information would you like to know about funding for schools?



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## Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.

### **Data**



When we talk about data, we mean:

- facts
- information
- records.

### **Education system**



The education system is made of different parts that work together to teach students.

For example, it includes teachers and schools.

### **Funding**



Funding is money from the government that pays for services and supports in schools.

### **Mental health**



Your mental health is about how you:

- think and feel about yourself
- deal with things in your life
- manage your feelings.

## Contact us



You can call us.

**1300 566 046**



You can send us an email.

**[NSRA.submissions@education.gov.au](mailto:NSRA.submissions@education.gov.au)**



You can write to us.

Department of Education

GPO Box 9880

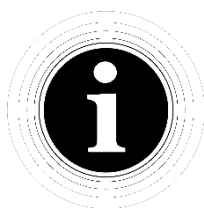
Canberra ACT 2601

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**[www.education.gov.au/review-inform-better-and-fairer-education-system](http://www.education.gov.au/review-inform-better-and-fairer-education-system)**



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