

Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [I] Sandor, J

Reference Type: Parent - School

State or territory: WA

Serial Identification Number: 475236

Responses

Curriculum and assessment

The offering of a range of curriculum subjects is always a challenge in regional schools, and limits the choices of students who want to study subjects they are more gifted in or prefer, to set them on their way.

An approach could be additional funding for staff in Year 11 and 12 so a wider choice can be offered.

Providing staff that can be sent to schools to help moderate student work would also alleviate the need for teachers here to travel so much to ensure student work is at the right standard. Also, allowing WACE exams such as practical music assessments to take place here would put our kids on a level playing field with their city peers.

Rating: 7

Teachers and teaching

Excellent teachers are a gift to our students. Helping teachers to pursue excellence by offering more Professional Learning opportunities in regional areas would be beneficial. Also, placing more programs in place which reward excellence in teaching, where parents can nominate teachers, would encourage teachers to continue to strive for excellence.

Also, offering teachers incentives to stay for at least a 3 year period in regional schools would limit transient teaching, which can interrupt student learning.

Rating: 7

Leaders and leadership

Opportunities for students to meet with high profile leaders is essential. An incentive for celebrities/high achievers across a range of fields could be offered in return for them visiting and being key note speakers at assemblies for regional schools.

More frequent competitions which encourage opportunities to be mentored or meet up with leaders in a range of careers would be great too. E.g. essay comp to meet a politician at parliament house for lunch, race winners to qualify to train with state sport stars etc.

Rotary exchange programs - more positions available to encourage students to apply. Such a great opportunity for them to prepare for the interview, be interviewed and then represent our region when they are away.

Rating: 7

School and Community

It takes a village to raise a child. I believe the more connected our students are to our community, the better their overall educational outcomes will be.

Challenges here involve a broad community base where students travel a long way from different directions to attend school functions. An approach to overcoming this could be funding to build overnight accommodation and staffing allowances on campus grounds. That way, students from far away can attend things like drama nights and discos, as well as school fetes and other events that start early or finish late. Reduced cost of accommodation in Perth would help too, as sometimes carnivals start so early that there is a need to go up the night before or drive very very early the next day.

Rating: 7

Information and Communication Technology

It would be great to have more incursions featuring external specialists across many fields, namely IT.

Rating: 7

Entrepreneurship and schools

Innovation is a skill students need for an ever changing world. Programs that encourage mentoring, work experience and lateral thinking are necessary for this.

For example, setting up a 'meet your mentor' program where students in Year 10 are given the opportunity to meet with and liaise with business leaders in areas that are continually evolving, would be worthwhile. Like for example theatre directors, medical engineers, fashion designers, IT networkers, marine biologists, politicians etc.

Rating: 7

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

Enrolments at our school mean more subjects offered, more resources generally. To attract enrolments though, you need good programs and resources - so it is a vicious circle. If schools in regional areas could be provided with excellent state of the art training and resources in the Early Childhood area of the school, this would encourage numbers to flow through after that. E.g. Nature playgrounds, Undercover areas, Learning Difficulty resources including staff funding.

By increasing enrolments, the schools resources increase and the students benefit from this.

Rating for enrolments: 0

Rating for clusters: 7

Rating for distance education: 3

Rating for boarding: 0

Diversity

Offering scholarships and support services/staff for indigenous students would be fabulous. Indigenous students bring diversity which is necessary to improve a student's world view. These programs would need intense involvement of the indigenous community to develop effective ones that consider cultural issues like cultural isolation in being away from familiar peers etc.

Rating: 7

Transitioning beyond school

It would be great to know there were safe, reliable, affordable and comfortable accommodation options for my daughter if she chooses to go to university in the city. Especially one that encourages peers well known to each other to have preference of staying together as a support network while at university. A program that rewards achievement while at university by providing housing/board at a minimal cost would be excellent.

Rating: 7

Additional Comments

I think country students are disadvantaged over city students in the ATAR assessments mainly due to not knowing the standard expected. Anything that can contribute to greater fairness with this, whether it be more support for teachers needing time to moderate work or programs where students discuss their work with city peers, would be beneficial. Even being sent samples of what is expected more regularly and attending workshops locally for each ATAR subject (during holidays) would be excellent too. Placing excellent, professional, innovative teachers in remote areas would also work.