National School Reform Agreement

Western Australia Bilateral Agreement:   
2023 Progress Report

# Executive Summary

In 2023, Western Australia continued to meet its Bilateral Agreement commitments as part of the *National School Reform Agreement* (NSRA). The State’s public, Independent and Catholic school sectors worked collaboratively, supporting school principals, teachers and other support staff to progress implementation of Western Australia’s agreed reform actions.

In 2023, all agreed reform actions have been completed or are on track.

# Progress Against Each Reform Direction

## Reform Direction A - Support students, student learning and achievement

### Improving student engagement and wellbeing in schools

| **Actions** | **Sector(s)** | **Timing** | **Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Improved strategies to support positive behaviour consulting with key stakeholders, training for staff, changes to departmental policies, a positive parenting program for early intervention and a youth forum. | All sectors | Ongoing | **Public schools**  Ongoing   * Free [Triple P](https://www.triplep-parenting.net.au/au-uken/find-help/triple-p-parenting-in-western-australia/) (Positive Parenting Program) seminars continued to be offered to parents of students in the early years of school and during the transition into secondary schooling. In schools without a trained Triple P provider, parents can access live, online Triple P workshops or complete self-paced online modules with the Triple P Online program. * The School of Alternative Learning Settings (ALS) completed its expansion at the commencement of the 2023 school year, operating in all 8 educational regions across 12 individual sites. The ALS supports students with violent or aggressive behaviour to develop positive behaviour change and transition back to school or into a long-term education program. * Revised Student Behaviour in Public Schools Policy and Procedures were published for implementation in schools from Semester 2, 2023. * The Department launched online professional learning on trauma informed practice in July 2023, available to all public school staff.   **Catholic schools**  Ongoing   * Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) staff continued to access the 6‑hour Neurobiology of Trauma training delivered by the Australian Childhood Foundation. * The evidence-based Strategic Wellbeing Framework continued to be rolled out across CEWA schools – 100% coverage. * Team Teach training delivered to teachers and other appropriate staff, as requested and required by schools. * Behaviour guidelines, developed under close consultation with schools were implemented in 2023. * A second behaviour consultant, appointed in 2022, assisted schools during 2023 through school visits and central professional learning. * Purposeful initiatives in schools to note student voice to guide policy development.   **Independent schools**  Ongoing   * Over 400 staff at 62 schools participated in either professional development or one‑on‑one consultation on behaviour related concerns. This ranged from Emotional Regulation in Early Childhood to Adolescent Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). |
| Increase beginning teacher expertise in developing positive behaviour and incorporate de-escalation training into the Graduate Teacher Program. | All sectors | Ongoing | **Public schools**  Ongoing   * Mandatory training in de-escalation and positive handling of aggressive behaviour for all graduate teachers employed in public schools continued. * The Graduate Teacher Induction Professional Learning was revised to incorporate restorative approaches to increase teacher expertise. This complements the Western Australian Department of Education’s revised Student Behaviour in Public Schools Policy and Procedures.   **Catholic schools**  Ongoing   * The Early Career Teaching (ECT) Program includes modules on promoting and reinforcing positive student behaviours to create safe learning environments. In 2023, 94% of early career teachers were involved in the program which included central, regional and school-based mentoring. * A dedicated consultant continued to be involved in the program and liaised closely with CEWA’s wellbeing team to provide support to early career teachers. * As part of the ECT Program, experienced classroom practitioners are appointed as mentors – including training – with a focus on classroom behavioural management and including students with specific needs. * ECT training, in Kimberley schools in particular, continued providing teachers with trauma-informed pedagogy and approaches for promoting positive behaviour to support Aboriginal students. Training was also provided to mentors.   **Independent schools**  Ongoing   * The Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA) School Psychology Service delivered training to 60 beginning teachers on classroom positive behaviour, regulation and de-escalation. These teachers were enrolled in AISWA’s Early Career Teacher program and supported by experienced mentor teachers throughout the program. |
| Deliver professional learning to support student health and wellbeing in schools. | All sectors | Ongoing | **Public schools**  Ongoing   * A range of professional learning opportunities were provided to teachers, school leaders and other community members working with young people, to increase their capacity to support student health and wellbeing, including: * Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention training to 1,024 school staff. * Youth Mental Health First Aid training to 635 school staff. * Student Services online professional learning modules are under review to strengthen their alignment with the Department of Education’s revised Student Behaviour in Public Schools Policy.   The refreshed modules will be available to staff during Semester 2, 2024.  **Catholic schools**  Ongoing   * Professional learning continued to be delivered within the context of CEWA’s new Strategic Wellbeing Framework, which was developed in collaboration with schools and strategic tertiary partnerships. * Partnership with U R Strong continued and provided student connectedness and peer relationships training to 50 additional schools. * In partnership with Berry Street Education, a 4-day training course on trauma informed practices, delivered to half of CEWA schools in 2022, was delivered to the remaining 50% of CEWA schools in 2023. * Personalised training in ‘Why Wellbeing’ and strength-based education delivered across multiple schools to staff. * Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention training and Youth Mental Health First Aid training continued to be delivered to staff with an additional 70 schools involved.   **Independent schools**  Ongoing   * In 2023, Youth Mental Health First Aid training was delivered to staff from 49 schools. * Staff from 41 schools participated in Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention training. Many Independent school staff also attended cross-sector Gatekeeper courses held in partnership with CEWA and the Department of Education under the Mental Health Commission School Response Program. * School psychologists provided training directly to schools on trauma aware practice, anxiety and other mental health and wellbeing topics. |
| Publish planning guides and fact sheets for schools and their communities to reduce bullying and violence. | All sectors | Ongoing | **Public schools**  Ongoing   * Schools continued to access online resources to assist them to implement processes to manage and reduce bullying. * The revised Student Behaviour in Public Schools Policy and Procedures were published for implementation in schools from Semester 2, 2023.   **Catholic schools**  Ongoing   * The Strategic Wellbeing Framework continued to be rolled out in all schools and includes specific reference to bullying and violence amongst students. * The Child Safe Framework implemented in all schools, continued to be supported by in situ and centrally delivered professional learning. * Behaviour guidelines developed in 2022 were fully implemented in all schools in 2023. Schools integrated these into their internal policy guidelines. * Resources on anti-violence distributed to all schools in 2022 were used as a focus for school visits and centralised professional learning in 2023.   **Independent schools**  Ongoing   * Schools promoted and participated in the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. * Schools continued to have access to information, resources and support regarding the prevention of bullying and violence in schools. |
| Deliver professional learning to promote improved student health, well-being, and engagement in schooling. Share successful models of student engagement programs across schools and regions. | All sectors | 2019 (early mid) to 2020 | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Publish planning guides and fact sheets for schools and communities to support re-engagement programs. | All sectors | 2019 (early mid) to 2020 | * N/A - completed in 2020. |

### Improving classroom practice and virtual learning opportunities

| **Actions** | **Sector(s)** | **Timing** | **Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Deliver professional learning for the Vision for Learning and Five Teacher Practices to ensure consistency of approach across the system in classroom practice. | Catholic schools | 2019 (late) to 2020 | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Continue to design and develop ViSN (virtual learning platform) extending the range of subjects available to Year 11 and 12 students and extending the number of enrolments. | Catholic schools | 2019 to 2020 | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |

### Senior secondary transition

| **Actions** | **Sector(s)** | **Timing** | **Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Investigating university pathways, and trialling and implementing portfolio entry into university to evaluate the effectiveness pathways and outcomes for students in the first year of university. | Independent schools | 2019 (late) to 2020 | * N/A - completed in 2020. |
| Contribute to national effort and discussion regarding the review of senior secondary education, pathways to work, further education and training and consideration of prerequisites for university entry. | All sectors | 2019 (early – mid) onwards | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |

### General Capabilities (Australian Curriculum)

| **Actions** | **Sector(s)** | **Timing** | **Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Enhance the focus on General Capabilities, as outlined in the Australian Curriculum, for the various learning areas. | All sectors | 2018 to 2020 | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Continue to support the use of formative assessment tools, such as Brightpath. | All sectors | 2018 to 2020 | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |

# Reform Direction B – Support teaching, school leadership and school improvement

### Public School Review Process

| **Actions** | **Sector(s)** | **Timing** | **Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Public School Review (PSR) will provide assurances to the Minister, Director General and school communities that public schools are operating effectively and delivering high quality education to its students. | Public schools | 2018 to 2023 | Implemented and ongoing.   * Two hundred and ninety PSRs were conducted in 2023. * For 215 of these schools this was their second cycle of PSR. |
| School principals, in collaboration with school staff, will critically assess data and other evidence related to student achievement and school operations, as a basis for decisions about the actions required to maximise achievement across all student cohorts, including priority equity cohorts. | Public schools | 2018 to 2023 | Implemented and ongoing.   * School and student data systems continued to be maintained and enhanced to support public schools with key data and analytics for self-assessment and reporting, including regional and network analytics. * Public schools continued to assess their performance against the Standard for Public School Review, based on the 5 domains of the School Improvement and Accountability Framework, in addition to student achievement and progress. |
| Public schools will undertake and submit a school self-assessment using an educative electronic school assessment tool (ESAT) that provides verifiable judgments about student achievement and school operations. | Public schools | 2018 to 2023 | Implemented and ongoing.   * All 290 schools that underwent a PSR conducted a school self‑assessment using the ESAT. |
| Public schools will make student achievement, both academic and non-academic, the central priority of school self-assessment, including a focus on priority equity cohorts, where applicable. | Public schools | 2018 to 2023 | Implemented and ongoing.   * In the context of all schools, the PSR process continues to validate the school’s effectiveness in creating and sustaining the conditions for student success, including for priority equity cohorts. |
| Performance validation will be identified through a subsequent report that includes the school’s responsiveness to key elements of school effectiveness and will reflect the school’s compliance with corporate reporting requirements. | Public schools | 2018 to 2023 | Implemented and ongoing.   * Reports on performance were provided to all 290 schools that underwent a PSR. |
| All public schools will be reviewed on a continuing three-year cycle using both system and school-based information | Public schools | 2018 to 2023 | Implemented and ongoing.   * At the end of 2023, 796 (97%) of the State’s 817 public schools have been reviewed. |
| A PSR implementation review will be undertaken at the conclusion of 2021 (i.e., first year of cycle). | Public schools | 2018 to 2023 | Ongoing in 2023.   * The Office of the Auditor General undertook a performance audit on the Effectiveness of Public School Reviews, which was tabled in the Western Australian Parliament on 24 May 2023. The Department continues to use the audit findings and recommendations to support ongoing improvement. |

### Support for school leaders

| **Actions** | **Sector(s)** | **Timing** | **Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Improved talent identification and selection through better-targeted and differentiated leadership development and support programs. | Public/Catholic schools | 2019 (early/mid) to 2020 | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Introduction of a new leadership talent identification process. Review principal selection processes and trial alternative resources. | Public schools | 2019 (early/mid) to 2020 | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Implement self-assessment development analysis using the Principal Performance Improvement Tool. | Public and Independent schools | 2019 (early/mid) to 2020 | * N/A - completed in 2021 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Introduction of a new leadership program where aspiring leaders are encouraged to self-select into the relevant programs. | Public and Independent schools | 2019 (early/mid) to 2020 | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Develop and implement a ‘Transition Support program’ for new principals | Public and Independent schools | 2019 (early/mid) to 2020 | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Support for the ‘WA Public School Leadership Strategy 2018-2021’ that will comprise 10 projects, with each of these projects having a focus on supporting leaders from diverse backgrounds and different school contexts. One project has as its explicit focus a suite of early identification and development opportunities tailored for Aboriginal people who aspire to school leadership. | Public schools | 2018 to 2021 | * Nine of the 10 projects have been implemented. * The following project was delayed due to COVID-19 and commenced early in 2023: Leading cultures of teaching excellence. |
| Implement the ‘Aspirant Aboriginal Leaders’ project that includes the Department co-developing:   * an aspirant Aboriginal statement with key stakeholders, current and aspirant Aboriginal leaders; * a suite of development opportunities with Aboriginal leaders, including a career pathway program that is specifically targeted to the needs of aspirant Aboriginal leaders; and * a mentoring and coaching support structure contextualised to support aspirant Aboriginal leaders. | Public schools | 2018 to 2021 | * N/A - completed in 2021 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Enhance the Leadership Development program focused on ‘Building Cultures of Teaching Excellence’. | Independent schools | 2019 (early/mid) to 2020 | * N/A - completed in 2021 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Introduction of the Lead Principal role to ensure all principals receive professional and personalised support from a highly credible colleague. | Independent schools | 2019 (early/mid) to 2020 | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Early Career Teachers program to provide opportunities for teachers in their first and second year of practice to network and develop their capabilities | Independent/Catholic schools | 2019 (early/mid) | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Implement the School Climate Survey to provide leaders with information regarding the cultural climate of their organisation. | Catholic schools | 2019 (early/mid) | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |

### Recruitment and management of staff in remote areas

| **Actions** | **Sector(s)** | **Timing** | **Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Development of professional teaching and leadership networks in remote schools across regions and sectors via remote school conferencing, social media, and video conferencing. | Independent schools | 2019 (mid/late) to 2020 (mid) | * N/A - completed in 2019 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Establishment of a process for remote teachers and leaders to undertake the certification at Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher level. | Independent schools | 2019 (mid/late) to 2020 (mid) | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |

### Teacher workforce

| **Actions** | **Sector(s)** | **Timing** | **Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Support national discussion and effort related to initial teacher education and the teacher workforce, including future arrangements to contribute to the Australian Teacher Workforce Data Strategy. | All sectors | 2019 (mid/late) onwards | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |

### Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework

| **Actions** | **Sector(s)** | **Timing** | **Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Provide professional learning and evidence-informed resources to increase the capacity of teachers to embed Aboriginal histories, cultures and languages into their classroom practice. | Public schools | Ongoing | Ongoing   * The Department continued to provide professional learning, advice and guidance to build the cultural responsiveness of staff, driven by the Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework. * In 2023, the Department delivered 98 professional learning workshops to 4,700 principals, teachers, undergraduate teachers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education officers, graduate school psychologists, central and regional office staff, and external providers to support the creation of culturally responsive schools. * There has been a significant rise in staff numbers and workshops due to the increased demand in online and blended professional learning due to COVID-19. * An online self-paced Culturally Responsive Pedagogies professional learning course was launched in 2023 and was run above capacity with 607 participants. |
| Undertake case studies with a sample group of schools, in a range of contexts to capture promising practices on the use of the Framework in their local context, for sharing across schools and networks. The case studies will be used to inform the Department’s approaches to supporting schools with implementation. | Public schools | Ongoing | * N/A - completed in 2021 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Provide targeted support to build the capability of school leaders to use the Framework to develop and sustain an individual and school-wide focus on improving the participation, engagement and achievement of Aboriginal students and drive improvement planning. | Public schools | Ongoing | Ongoing   * The Department continued to prioritise system change by creating a culturally responsive public schooling system through the provision of professional learning, advice and guidance for school staff to:   + strengthen the delivery of culturally responsive pedagogies that respond to the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal students   + support school staff to create culturally safe and engaging learning environments for Aboriginal students and provide opportunities for meaningful and successful pathways through and beyond school   + to use the Framework in school improvement planning. * The Culturally Responsive School Leadership program, a one-year program to develop the cultural responsiveness of public school principals, continued in 2023. |
| Implement the Transforming Lives strategy to ‘close the gap’ between the achievement and retention of Aboriginal students and their non-Aboriginal peers. | Catholic schools | 2019 to 2020 | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Investigate opportunities to extend Cultural Competency online professional development from initial trial with Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) office staff to all state-wide CEWA employees. | Catholic schools | 2018 to 2019 (early) | * N/A - completed in 2019 and activities will be ongoing. |

### Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM)

| **Actions** | **Sector(s)** | **Timing** | **Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Professional learning and the levels of teaching resources are being enhanced through service arrangements with SciTech to build capacity of teachers to implement STEM education. | Public schools | 2018 to 2021 | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Targeted program for low socio-economic schools to build STEM interests, aspiration and capability in STEM | All sectors | 2018 to 2019 | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Develop a ‘Pick and Buy’ list of endorsed resources to support STEM programs in schools. | All sectors | 2018 to 2019 | **Public schools**   * N/A - completed in 2019 and activities will be ongoing.   **Catholic schools**   * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing.   **Independent schools**   * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |
| Publish advice on age-appropriate pedagogy, skills and capabilities for STEM and on-line resources, including KodeKLIX. | All sectors | 2018 to 2019 | * N/A - completed in 2020 and activities will be ongoing. |

## Reform Direction C – Enhancing the national evidence base

### Nationally Consistent Collection of Data for Students with Disability (NCCD)

| **Actions** | **Sector(s)** | **Timing** | **Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reporting in a nationally consistent manner on students with disability and the adjustments these students receive to enable schools to evaluate their learning and support systems. | All sectors | 2019 to 2023 | **Public schools**  Ongoing   * School staff continued to be provided with professional learning on the phases of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) on School Students with Disability with Introduction, Moderation and Review sessions hosted online. * By the end of 2023, 769 staff had completed the Department’s self-paced online module on supporting students with an imputed disability under the NCCD since it was made available in May 2021.   **Catholic schools**  Ongoing   * School leadership and teaching staff were provided with professional learning on the NCCD in 2023, which included a full-day regional professional learning and moderation session (13 schools), individual whole-school professional learning (6 schools) and NCCD information webinar (72 participants). * Professional learning continued to be promoted through the NCCD portal e-learning modules. * The NCCD Guidelines 2023 were promoted to schools to support accurate data reporting. * NCCD data continued to be analysed to highlight trends and significant data variations of individual schools and system wide. The analysis informed and guided follow-up discussions and further professional learning for individual schools.   **Independent schools**  Ongoing   * NCCD information and professional learning continued to be provided to school leaders and teachers through webinars, face‑to‑face sessions and the e‑learning modules on the NCCD portal. * AISWA Inclusive Education Consultants provided support and professional learning to schools to improve teacher and leader understanding of the NCCD and improve the consistency of data. * 2022 NCCD data was used to support schools on specific matters and for targeted professional learning. |
| Teachers make evidence-based decisions about the level of adjustment being provided for each student with disability, and the broad category of disability, to achieving quality teaching for all students. | All sectors | 2019 to 2023 | **All sectors**  Ongoing   * Online professional learning and supporting materials specific to the Western Australian context continued to be delivered. * Moderation sessions for all school settings continued to be delivered to increase consistency of understanding and reliability of teacher’s professional judgments. * AISWA provided school consultancy and professional learning to Independent School staff to improve their understanding of their obligations under the Disability Standards for Education 2005 in providing reasonable adjustments and high‑quality teaching for students with disability. |
| Regular collection of data to assist with the evaluation and adjustments to learning and support systems. | All sectors | 2019 to 2023 | **All sectors**  Ongoing   * Guidance materials and professional learning continued to be provided to support schools with data collection, reporting processes and evaluation of adjustments. |

### Enhancing the evidence base

| **Actions** | **Sector(s)** | **Timing** | **Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Contribute to national discussion and efforts relating to a national unique student identifier, an independent national evidence institute, and improving national data quality, consistency, and collections. | All sectors | Life of the Agreement | **Public schools**  Ongoing   * The Department was represented on national working groups, including for the development of the unique student identifier (USI), National Formative Assessment Resource Bank, post school destinations, student attendance reporting, interstate student data transfer and major national data quality, collection and reporting endeavours such as the National School Statistics Collection and Report on Government Services. * Representatives were participants in the School Policy Group and the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority’s National Assessment, Data and Reporting Reference Group (NADAR) and the Annual National Report (ANR) Working Group.   **Catholic schools**  Ongoing   * CEWA continues to collaborate on this policy initiative. * CEWA introduced common assessments at agreed times enabling rigour in the data quality, consistency and collection. * All CEWA schools are now on a common data analytics platform ensuring measures and reporting are systematic with professional dialogue centred on student learning.   **Independent schools**  Ongoing   * Continued to regularly consult with and provide feedback to national data initiatives through Independent Schools Australia. * Continued to be represented on various national committees and working groups, as well as state-wide cross-sectoral groups related to national data improvements. |