



School-led reviews

Every 4 years, as part of the school planning, reviewing and reporting cycle, schools are designated a school or a school-led review. Schools generally have a review the same year they are due to update their 4-year strategic plan.

School reviews are delivered by the School and Region Reviews (SRR) branch.

A school-led review consists of 2 phases:

- evaluation conducted by the school
- validation conducted by SRR.

School-led reviews aim to harness schools' drive for continuous improvement through collaborative inquiry. This evidence-based approach empowers school leaders, in partnership with their community, to lead aspects of the review process.

Evaluation

Schools undertake a school-led evaluation tailored to their needs and context using the 9 domains of the *National School Improvement Tool* (NSIT).

As part of their evaluation, schools undertake the following key activities to understand the current state of their students' learning and wellbeing:



Scan and assess – gather rich information, through the lens of the National School Improvement Tool (NSIT), about what is working well, the factors impacting on educational achievement, wellbeing and engagement and culture and inclusion, identify specific problems of practice that, when addressed, would make a significant difference to student outcomes



Review performance data – analyse the school's data to interpret impact on student achievement, wellbeing and engagement including consideration of system measures



Consider lines of inquiry – review practices in the department's priority areas and school's explicit improvement agenda, with consideration of Equity and Excellence system priorities



Engage community voice – seek input and feedback from the school community, including staff, students, parents and partners, to inform, sustained school performance, school improvement and planning



Incorporate collegial feedback – consider ways to seek an external, peer and/or expert lens.

After an evaluation

The school produces an evaluation report using the template provided by SRR. The report provides feedback on the school's progress including affirmations, as well as recommendations to inform the school's next steps.

The school sends a copy of the report, including supporting data and artefacts to SRR one month before their scheduled validation visit.

Validation

After the school-led evaluation, SRR leads a validation process to confirm the school's findings and recommendations.

Chaired by an SRR senior reviewer, the validation team comprises of 3 to 5 departmental staff from a range of school, region and corporate roles. The composition of the team is determined by the school's context and the lines of inquiry of the school-led evaluation.

The validation team will conduct a desktop analysis and consider the report, data and artefacts provided by the school.

Validation school visit

At the start of the validation, the school leadership team will meet with the validation team to unpack their report. The school is also required to provide the team with a list of school staff they can speak to as part of the validation. The validation team will also speak with students, parents and community members to gain a deeper understanding of the school. The team will meet with the school leadership team and staff at the end of the visit for an exit briefing.

Validation report

Approximately 2 weeks after the validation process, SRR will send a validation report to the school, confirming the school's next steps and/or providing additional feedback.

Schools are required to publish the executive summary of the validation report on their website and explore ways that effective practices captured in the report can be shared more broadly.

The school's region will partner with the school to respond to the validation report.

More information

In preparation for their school-led review, schools will be provided with the school-led review toolkit and invited to an induction and information session.

For more information, visit schoolreviews.education.qld.gov.au or email reviews@qed.qld.gov.au.

