



# School-led reviews

All Queensland state schools undergo a review at least once every 4 years, generally undertaken in the year that they are due to update their 4-year strategic plan.

School-led reviews aim to harness the efforts of schools to use cycles of inquiry to review their performance and progress, and collaboratively identify next steps for improvement. This evidence-based approach empowers school leaders, in partnership with their community, to lead aspects of the review process.

A school-led review consists of 2 phases:

- evaluation conducted by the school
- validation conducted by School and Region Reviews (SRR).

## Evaluation

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

As part of their evaluation, schools undertake the following activities to understand the current impact of school practice in supporting student learning and wellbeing.



**Scan and assess** – gather information through the lens of the SIT to identify what is working well within the school environment. Examine the factors influencing educational achievement, student wellbeing, engagement, as well as culture and inclusion. Assess any specific problems of practice that, when addressed, could lead to significant improvements in 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 school practices including improvement agenda, with consideration of system priorities.



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



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

## Evaluation report

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 reviewer, the validation team comprises of 2 to 4 departmental staff from a range of school, region and corporate roles. The composition of the team is determined by the school's context and priorities.

Prior to and during the visit the validation team will consider school data as well as the school's evaluation report and any artefacts provided.

## Validation school visit

At the start of the validation, the school leadership team will meet with the validation team to unpack their evaluation report. The validation team will meet with staff individually or in groups to aide in validating the process and evaluation report. The validation team will also speak with staff, students, parents and community members to gain a deeper understanding of the school. These discussions may be individually or in groups to aide in validating the process and evaluation report. The team will meet with the school leadership team and staff at the end of the visit for an exit briefing.

## Validation report

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.

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

## More information

Visit the school reviews website at [schoolreviews.education.qld.gov.au](https://schoolreviews.education.qld.gov.au) or phone (07) 3035 2217.

