



School reviews – information for school staff

Reviews play an important part in how the department supports school improvement. They provide schools with independent feedback to help continue to improve learning outcomes for students.

All Queensland state schools undergo a review at least once every 4 years. Schools are generally reviewed in the year that they are due to update their 4-year strategic plan. Review findings and feedback help to inform this planning process.

The majority of schools are designated one of 2 types of review – either a school review conducted by the Department of Education’s School and Region Reviews (SRR) team or a school-led review which is conducted by the school and then validated by SRR.

A small number of schools may engage in a differentiated review type in consideration of their unique context. These reviews are conducted by SRR in collaboration with the school community.

Review process

Reviews are conducted by experienced educators trained in the use of the *School Improvement Tool*, an internationally recognised framework for reviewing practices that contribute to school improvement.

Review teams generally consist of 2 to 4 reviewers, but the number of reviewers and length of each review depends upon a range of factors, including the size and context of the school.

Reviewers look at each school’s performance data and speak with a wide range of staff, students, parents and community members to get an accurate picture of the school.

Schools are not ranked or given a performance rating, but are provided with a comprehensive report for consideration.

The report details key findings and recommended improvement strategies. The school publishes the executive summary or full report on its website. Principals are encouraged to share this information with their staff and school community to help shape the school’s strategic direction.

Staff participation

Feedback from staff is an important part of school reviews, with all staff encouraged to have their say. Conversations with staff generally take place outside, in an office or quiet area of the school. Teacher conversations are held close to their classroom to minimise disruption to learning, maximise conversation time and allow reviewers to speak informally with students afterwards.

Conversations with reviewers should not increase staff workload. They provide an opportunity for staff to talk about their school. Reviewers do not use checklists or a set list of questions. Review conversations are framed by the 9 domains of the *School Improvement Tool*. Participation is voluntary and all feedback remains confidential.

Additionally, all staff are invited to a whole staff briefing from the review team on the first day of the review, as well as an exit briefing at the end of the review.

To express your interest to participate in your school’s review, please speak with your principal.

More information

Visit the school reviews website at schoolreviews.education.qld.gov.au or phone (07) 3035 2217.