



## School reviews

Reviews play an important part in how the department supports school improvement. They provide schools with independent feedback, tailored to their context and needs.

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 or a school-led review which is conducted by the school and then validated by the department.

A small number of schools may engage in a differentiated review type in consideration of their unique context. These reviews are conducted by the department 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.

Through meaningful engagement and input from school staff, students and communities, reviews involve the evaluation of evidence and practice.

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

The report details key findings and recommended improvement strategies to lift the educational achievement, wellbeing and engagement of all students, as well as strengthen the culture and inclusion in the school. 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.

### Reviewers

There are 4 types of reviewers:

- **senior principals, reviews** — experienced state school principals appointed to the department's School and Region Reviews team to lead training and oversee all aspects of school reviews
- **principals, reviews** — experienced state school principals seconded to School and Region Reviews for a period of time
- **principal, peer reviewers** — principals trained in the use of the *School Improvement Tool*
- **external reviewers** — experienced educators from outside the department who join review teams to bring additional independence and expertise to the review process.

A senior principal, reviews or principal, reviews chairs each review and is the key contact for the principal. The review chair also liaises with the school's school supervisor.

Review teams usually consist of 2 to 4 reviewers. The number of reviewers and length of each review depends upon a range of factors including the size and context of the school. A review team may include one or 2 principals, reviews, a peer reviewer and an external reviewer.

### More information

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

