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## Victorian Government Education System – an overview

Victoria has a world-class education system with a strong and vibrant government school system at its core.

Victorian government schools provide young people with the opportunities, choices, life skills and high-quality resources and programs they need to equip them for 21st-century living, including preparation for their chosen careers.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is responsible for administering the Victorian school system, which includes 1575 government schools, 540,000 students and 40,000 teachers.

The Victorian school system consists of two tiers – primary school for children aged 5 to 11 years and secondary school for children aged 12 to 18. Attendance at school is compulsory for children aged between 6 and 16 years.

The Department's work is guided by a vision to ensure every young Victorian thrives, learns and grows to enjoy a productive, rewarding and fulfilling life, while contributing to their local and global communities.

Every government school is supported by comprehensive reporting and testing systems providing information about how students' learning is progressing.

Parents play a vital role in their child's learning. The Victorian government school system is open and accountable to parents. Parents are informed about their child's strengths and interests. The Government encourages parents to become partners with schools, as children are more likely to do better at school when parents are involved.

Victorian schools have an approved curriculum, learning standards, assessment strategies and tools, teaching principles and an instruction model to meet the needs

of their students and support improved student outcomes.

Each school has the flexibility to tailor its programs to meet the individual needs of students and encourage independent learning.

The Department is currently focused on delivering a reform agenda, which embraces rebuilding Victorian government schools with improved school and classroom design, innovative new teaching and learning practices, and new learning and teaching technology, supported by school leadership initiatives and a model of effective schools.

Connections 2010 shows the elements of the agenda in action.

