# Merri-bek North Education Plan

**This is the plan for the Merri-bek North community to improve opportunities and outcomes for young people.**

In October 2022, an Education Plan involving Coburg High School, Glenroy Secondary College, John Fawkner Secondary College and Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary College was announced.

The Merri-bek North community is deeply committed to its young people and their future. Together over the next 10 years, we will increase opportunities for students, improve community confidence in the schools, lift student outcomes and increase collaboration between the schools and the community.

We will also ensure that every student feels they belong and has exciting and varied learning opportunities and experiences.

Over the next 10 years, you can expect to see new opportunities and ways of working together. Every year, we will continue to learn from what is working best for the schools and community.

We had a record level of community feedback about what education in the Merri-bek North area should look like. A Strategic Advisory Committee was also established from the outset, made up of people with expert knowledge and experience in education and the local area.

Feedback from the community and our Strategic Advisory Committee shaped the plan’s shared vision:

***a collaborative learning community where students are confident, active and informed learners who experience a broad range of engaging and inclusive learning opportunities in school and the wider community.***

This vision is supported by 6 key aims, explained below.

## Merri-bek North Education Plan: Aims

### All staff are supported to deliver excellence in teaching and wellbeing

Quality teaching plays an important role in influencing positive outcomes for students. Ensuring that all staff have the knowledge and support they need to teach and assist students will be critical to fulfilling each aim, strategy and the broader vision of the MNEP.

Schools will work together in the most effective ways possible. This could include sharing skills and resources, and observing and learning from teaching practices in different classrooms and at different schools.

What this will mean for schools and students from 2024:

* Department staff will work with leaders and teachers at Glenroy and John Fawkner Secondary Colleges to continue to embed learning that is challenging and engaging
* the department will establish cross-school collaborative networks building on the success of the Merri-bek wide VCE Vocational Major teachers’ network
* the department and school staff will work together to identify and deliver appropriate and effective professional learning.

### There is strong engagement between families, the broader community and MNEP schools

Through this aim, the Merri-Bek North community will be increasingly involved in education. At the same time, schools will be more involved with their local communities.

Students will learn from their communities, as well as in their communities. Closer ties with primary schools, local council and community organisations will encourage sharing of skills, resources and facilities, for the benefit of all.

What this will mean for schools and students from 2024:

* RMIT has established a Masters of Teaching hub at Glenroy Secondary College and will work with other MNEP to create closer ties between teaching students and schools
* MNEP schools will create opportunities to learn with students and teachers at the local primary schools
* schools will promote and celebrate quality learning experiences across and within MNEP schools
* schools will create opportunities for the community to see student learning and success
* schools will make available facilities to more community organisations, and have students participate in their local communities.

### Every student has broad and engaging learning experiences

This aim will deliver opportunities that spark student engagement. Across all year levels in each MNEP school, students will have diverse learning experiences, both in terms of subject offerings and extra-curricular activities.

Opportunities will support critical thinking and resilience and students will have more real world and hands-on experiences. This will build academic excellence and enrichment.

What this will mean for schools and students from 2024:

* students will be able to choose from a wider selection of VCE/VET subjects available through ‘joint provision’ arrangements. This will start in 2024 when Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary College offers VCE Sociology Units 1 and 2 to students from the other MNEP schools – we will expand these offerings in future years
* schools will develop students’ critical, design thinking and resilience skills, working in partnership with others such as the STEM Centre of Excellence at the University of Melbourne and the future Hume Tech School
* we will work with MNEP schools to enrich learning and challenge of all students
* there will be great opportunities to learn outside the school including with organisations like the National Gallery of Victoria, Zoos Victoria, Museums Victoria, RMIT and the Merri-bek City Council.

### Every student feels included and is supported in their wellbeing

Student wellbeing and student learning outcomes are mutually reinforcing.

All students need to feel they belong – and we want students to *want* to be at school every day. Inclusion and positive behaviour will be the foundation of everyday life at school.

In particular, our schools will have strongly embedded gender, cultural, religious, disability and neurodiverse inclusive practices. Culturally inclusive teaching and learning will be part of this. We will also create new learning opportunities for girls at Merri-bek North schools.

What this will mean for schools and students from 2024:

* an inclusion coach will be funded to work in classrooms with students, teachers and leaders. The coach will identify supports that students need and model how teaching can be adjusted so that all students can learn effectively
* MNEP schools will work with a department coach to create positive and safe learning cultures through implementing the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support program
* the department will work with schools to deliver a safe, empowering and inclusive curriculum to meet the needs of all learners
* schools will partner with organisations such as Merri-bek City Council and Merri Health to support inclusivity and student wellbeing.

### Every student is confident in their future pathways and careers

From Year 7, students will learn about and experience different industries and careers.

This will help them reflect on their ambitions, interests and strengths to make confident, well-informed decisions about subjects, courses and careers in the later years of school and beyond.

Partnerships with industry, particularly growth industries, and tertiary education providers are important to achieving this aim.

What this will mean for schools and students from 2024:

* careers teachers from MNEP schools, together with teachers from other Merri-bek secondary schools, will collaborate to share skills and knowledge, learn about growth industries and meet with local employers to expand opportunities to students
* students will learn about and have experiences with various industry and tertiary education providers – at school and outside of school
* we will help families build up-to-date knowledge about industry needs, the many job opportunities available, and the pathways to succeed in these careers
* schools will make better use of existing programs that introduce students to local industry and the world of work.

### Every MNEP school has access to facilities that meet student needs and community expectations.

Facilities that meet the needs of students are important. Partnerships, and sharing across schools and with the community, can support access to a broader range of facilities.

Through recent State Budget announcements, the Victorian Government has funded:

* $14.5 million for John Fawkner Secondary College for a new science and visual arts building and a new food technology building
* $17.8 million for Coburg High School for a double-storey technology building, and space for 250 additional students
* $11.944 million for Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary College for a new arts and technology centre
* $9.215 million for Glenroy Secondary College for a new senior and junior school, learning resource centre, administration centre and staff hub.

What this will mean for schools and students from 2024:

* Glenroy Secondary College will receive funding to update its masterplan and ensure that future buildings at the school meet the needs of students and the community
* Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary College will open its new facilities in 2024
* John Fawkner Secondary College and Coburg High School will work with their architects, the Victorian School Building Authority and the school community to deliver their new buildings in 2026.

### Next steps

Each year the department will undertake an implementation planning process. To achieve our shared vision, our actions will be timed, planned and reviewed carefully. There will be opportunities for new strategies to be identified and pursued as the local context changes.

We will work to continuously improve what we’re doing – always focusing on the best possible outcomes for students.

We will also continue to engage with the community about progress of the MNEP.

To read the plan in detail please visit: [Education Plans | Victorian Government (www.vic.gov.au)](https://www.vic.gov.au/education-plans)

To keep up to date with the infrastructure works please visit: [Merri-bek North Education Plan | Victorian School Building Authority (schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au)](https://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/merri-bek-north-education-plan)