

What is a Strategic Plan?

A strategic plan is a 3-4 page document that tells people what the school wants to achieve in the future and how it plans to get there.

The plan lets people know:

- Why your school exists (its purpose)
- How staff and students are expected to behave (the values)
- What is different or special about your school (the context)
- What you are going to focus on over the next four years to improve students' experience at school (the goals and targets), and how the school is going to do this (key improvement strategies)
- What actions you will undertake to implement your key improvement strategies and the milestones that will be used to identify progress in their implementation.

Does my school have to have one?

The School Strategic Plan is an essential component of the Department's *School Accountability and Improvement Framework* and provides a means for the school to clearly identify and communicate how the school is working to improve outcomes for its students.

All Victorian government schools are required to have a strategic plan as part of the registration requirements for the Victorian Qualifications and Registration Authority.

What must be in the Plan?

All plans must be about improving students' school experience and their outcomes.

Goals and targets will be different for each school, but every school must have at least one goal under each of the following headings:

1. **Student learning** - How the students will do better at literacy and numeracy, or other learning domains chosen by the school to focus on.
2. **Student engagement and well-being** - How the school will make sure that children are involved at school, are achieving academically and socially. This may mean not just attending school, but really being involved in their learning; and how the school will make sure that students are happy, safe and developing friendships.
3. **Student pathways and transitions** - How the school will make it easier for students to move from kindergarten to primary school, through the school, to secondary school and to higher education, employment or training after they leave school.

What is school council's role?

School council is responsible for ensuring that students are provided with the best educational opportunities possible.

The School Strategic Plan sets out the school's goals and targets for the next four years and the strategies for achieving those goals and targets.

To achieve the goals and targets school council develops an Annual Implementation Plan (one for each of the four years of the strategic plan) which is reported on in the Annual Report.

School council should also encourage input to the plan from parents, carers and students, as well as the wider community.

The strategic plan is signed by both the president of the school council and the school principal.

Where do I find out more?

For further information see:

School Strategic Planning Training Program

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/schacc/SCstrategicplanning.ppt>

The Department's School Accountability and Improvement website

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/schoolimprovement/default.htm>

for all strategic planning guidelines, templates and reports

Education and Training Reform Act 2006, Division 7 – Reporting and Accountability Requirements, section 2.3.24 School plan

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/directions/reviewleg.htm>.



Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development