

Australian Government requirements for reporting to parents

Reporting to parents: Excerpts from Australian Government Legislation

Schools Assistance (Learning Together-Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity) Bill 2004

General provisions relating to grants **Part 2**

Grants for government schools **Division 2**

Section 12 Agreement on conditions of financial assistance

(1) The Minister must not authorise a payment to a State under a provision of this Act for government schools for a program year unless the State has made an agreement with the Commonwealth that sets out:

(p) the commitment mentioned in section 13;]

Section 13 Further commitment student reports

For the purposes of paragraph 12(1)(p), the agreement must include a commitment by the State to ensure that each government school in the State gives the parents, guardians or other persons who have care and control of each child attending the school student reports, relating to the child, that:

- (a) use plain language and are able to be readily understood by the parents, guardians or other persons who have care and control of the child; and
- (b) are timely and given at least twice in any program year; and
- (c) give an accurate and objective assessment of the child's progress and achievement, including an assessment of the child's achievement:
 - (i) against national standards, if such standards are available; and
 - (ii) relative to the performance of the child's peer group at the school; and
- (d) are confidential and deal with the child's academic and non-academic learning; and
- (e) are followed by an opportunity for the child and the parents, guardians or other persons who have care and control of the child to meet with the child's teachers to discuss all aspects of the report and for the school to give constructive advice about supporting the child's further progress at school; and
- (f) meet any other requirements specified in the regulations.

From Schools Assistance (Learning Together — Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity) Regulations 2005 page 6

2.3 Reporting to parents: Excerpts from Australian Government regulations to the legislation

(1) For paragraph 15 (f) of the Act, a student report must specify, for each program year, a required framework for relative and comparative reporting of a child's progress and achievement against the performance of the child's peer group at the school.

NSW Department of Education and Training



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- (2) For subregulation (1):
- (a) if the child undertakes a standard assessment in reading, writing, spelling and numeracy at Year 3, 5, 7 or 9, one of the student reports for the program year must include the result of that assessment against appropriate national benchmarks; and
 - (b) if the child undertakes a standard assessment in reading, writing, spelling and numeracy at Year 3, 5, 7, or 9, one of the student reports for the program year must include the result of that assessment against achievement levels or bands; and
 - (c) if the child undertakes a standard assessment in reading, writing, spelling and numeracy at Year 3, 5, 7, or 9, one of the student reports for the program year must include the average achievement of the child's peer group at the school against achievement levels or bands; and
 - (d) the student report must include, for subjects studied, an assessment against achievement levels or bands defined by the education authority or school, being levels or bands that:
 - (i) must be labelled as A, B, C, D, E (or an equivalent); and
 - (ii) should be clearly defined against specific learning standards; and
 - (e) the student report must also include, for subjects studied, the child's achievement relative to the achievement of the child's peer group at the school by at least quartile bands.

(3) The information mentioned in paragraph (2) (e) must be presented in a way that does not interfere with the privacy of an individual.

Note The *Privacy Act 1988* and the related Information Privacy Principles should be consulted to ensure that information does not interfere with an individual's privacy.

(4) A student report is taken to comply with subregulation (1) if it is prepared in compliance with any arrangements approved by the Minister for this subregulation.

(5) In this regulation:

- (a) the **peer group** of a child in a school is all children at the school who are undertaking the same year level as the child in a year; and
- (b) a **standard assessment** is a standardised assessment program which can be included in an agreed national process to enable nationally comparable reporting of literacy and numeracy achievement against the national literacy and numeracy benchmarks.