

Strengthening discipline in Queensland state schools

Information for parents



Fact Sheet

While the majority of students come to school ready to learn, a small percentage do the wrong thing and misbehave, which is why the Queensland Government is strengthening discipline in state schools.

Strengthening Discipline in Queensland State Schools is the first of 15 strategies being introduced under the government's new *Great Teachers = Great Results* initiative to lift standards of teaching and give schools more autonomy so they can get on with the job of providing a safe and supportive learning environment.

Strategies include:

- giving principals greater powers to discipline students
- cutting red tape and streamlining processes for exclusions, suspensions and cancellations of enrolment
- developing more alternative learning environments for students with complex behaviour needs
- implementing new behaviour contracts with students and families.

Schools know what works best at a local level — cutting red tape, streamlining processes and increasing flexibility means that principals in consultation with school communities can determine the best range of consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

Schools want parents and carers to be aware of the behavioural expectations and the consequences for inappropriate behaviour and will talk about these at enrolment and throughout the student's schooling. At times a principal may need to develop a behaviour contract which students and parents are signatory to. These will outline clear expectations for improved behaviour and the consequences when those expectations are not met.

To ensure schools are safe and supportive environments for both teachers and students, options for students with complex behaviour needs will be explored and may include alternative learning environments and better access to specialist staff.

Looking ahead, the department will ensure discipline in all Queensland state schools is strong, fair and consistent by completing a discipline audit of all state schools by the end of 2014.

If you have concerns about your child's behaviour at school you should talk to your child's teacher or contact the school.

For more information on *Great Teachers = Great Results* visit the DETE website

www.dete.qld.gov.au/great-teachers