

External School Review

Port Augusta Secondary School

Across our education system, we seek growth for every student, in every class, and in every school. The external school review value-adds and supports schools to raise student achievement and sustain high performance by providing an expert external perspective on school performance by verifying or challenging:

- a school's improvement planning and processes and its impact on student learning
- the impact of previous external school directions
- the rigour of a school's improvement practices
- the school's capacity to achieve or sustain learning improvement over time.

The external school review lines of inquiry focus on:

- quality school improvement planning
- expert teaching
- quality leadership
- conditions for optimal learning.

The overarching question in every external school review is: How well does the school improve achievement, growth, challenge, engagement, and equity?

Reported impact of directions from the previous External School Review in October 2020.

Several contextual changes have impacted the school's ability to facilitate all aspects of the previous External School Review directions. This includes a year 7 cohort of students with new facilities, infrastructure and staffing, staffing changes and shortages, and leadership in acting positions for the past 2-to-3-year period.

Staff collaboratively developed the 2022-24 School Improvement Plan and informed the Governing Council of its progress late in 2021. Executive leaders regularly planned actions and agreements with Curriculum leaders to implement with their teams. Progress was monitored and recorded at Curriculum leadership meetings. Local Education Team provided support for staff in monitoring and reviewing processes.

Data and evidence have a more significant role in monitoring the progress of the development of the challenge of practice. A recently implemented school-based assessment tool identifies the impact of teaching practices in writing. The department data team has supported teachers in using data more effectively on student-free days and time at the beginning of the year. Teachers and leaders analyse data in faculty teams to know student strengths and gaps for planning. A data literacy Priority Action Team was formed to lead staff professional development.

A revised meeting structure has provided faculty teams time to regularly engage in evidence-based performance development processes and targeted professional learning to reflect on the impact of improvement actions in the classroom. These reflective practices are supported further by the Local Education Team and a Literacy consultant.

Student responses in the Wellbeing Engagement Collection data consistently show students' "sense of belonging" was rated low.

Several implemented strategies have provided better student support through individual learning pathways, learning styles and aspirations. There is some evidence that student leadership structures have evolved to support the improvement of student agency in learning.

Outcomes from the External School Review held in August 2023.

The principal will work with the education director to implement the following directions:

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| Direction 1 | Ensure consistency in quality teaching and learning by developing a coherent teaching and learning framework that is grounded in evidence-informed, high-impact teaching strategies and guides teacher practice. |
| Direction 2 | Ensure effective instructional leadership by clarifying roles and responsibilities, building cohesion and accountability, and developing coaching and mentoring capabilities of all leaders. |
| Direction 3 | Develop positive learning behaviours and high expectations by strategically engaging all stakeholders in the school's vision and values and reaching agreements to support all students. |

These directions are published on the school improvement plan and will support the school's ongoing improvement work. **Based on the school's current performance, Port Augusta Secondary School will be externally reviewed again in 2026.**



Debbie Grzczkowski
Acting Director
Review, Improvement and Accountability



Julia Oakley
Executive Director
System Performance

