



A Flying Start for Queensland Children

Introducing Junior Secondary in state high schools

Starting high school is an exciting time for teenagers. They make new friends, meet new teachers and broaden their learning through a range of subjects. Parents and teachers are partners in helping students adjust to these new challenges.

Focusing on young teens in their first years of high school is essential for them to feel supported. From 2013 we are establishing Junior Secondary in state schools for Years 8 and 9, adding Year 7 in 2015 when this year becomes part of high school.

In preparation for the introduction of Junior Secondary, state schools will assess their readiness against the following six guiding principles:

1. Distinct identity

Junior Secondary students will be encouraged and supported to develop their own group identity within the wider high school. This can involve dedicated school areas and events.

2. Quality teaching

Teachers working with students in the Junior Secondary years will be given the skills they need through additional professional development, so they can support young teens through these crucial early high school years.

3. Student wellbeing

We will meet the social and emotional needs of Junior Secondary students with a strong focus on pastoral care. For example, schools could provide a home room to support students as they adjust to new routines and greater academic demands.

4. Parent and community involvement

We want parents to stay connected with their students' learning when they enter high school. Parent involvement in assemblies, special events, award ceremonies and leadership presentations will be welcomed.

5. Leadership

Schools will be encouraged to create leadership roles for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. Dedicated teachers experienced with teaching young adolescents will lead Junior Secondary supported by the principal and administration team.

6. Local decision-making

The needs of each school community will influence how Junior Secondary is implemented in each school.

Visit www.qld.gov.au/flyingstart to find out more.