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Tasmania's Education Performance Report 2007

Tasmania's first *Education Performance Report on Government schools* has been released. It reports data on 15 measures of educational performance for the State and each Learning Service.

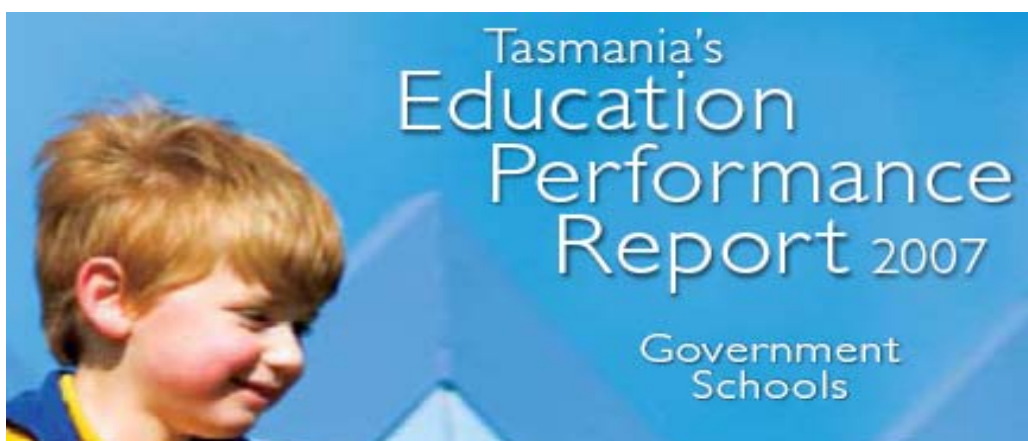
The report gives schools, parents and the wider community information on the Government's priority areas of the early years, literacy and numeracy, student retention, school improvement and equity.

The second phase, to be released later this year, will enable individual schools to share their performance data with their community.

This edition of *Curriculum Matters* includes a focus on using data to help achieve school improvement in identified priority areas.

The 2007 report and supplementary notes can be accessed at:

<http://www.education.tas.gov.au/dept/reports/edureport2007>



National Curriculum Board – website now live: <http://www.ncb.org.au/default.asp>

“The National Curriculum Board is responsible for developing an Australian national curriculum for all students from Kindergarten to Year 12, starting with English, mathematics, the sciences and history.

National curriculum will be developed collaboratively. It will be the product of Australians working together to develop a world-best curriculum.”

Visit the website for updates on progress with the development of the National Curriculum. Points of interests for Tasmania will be highlighted in future editions of *Curriculum Matters*.

Curriculum Resources <http://www.ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/default.aspx>

Curriculum resources to help teachers implement the revised K-10 Tasmanian Curriculum are being progressively added to the Curriculum Centre at: <http://ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/default.aspx>

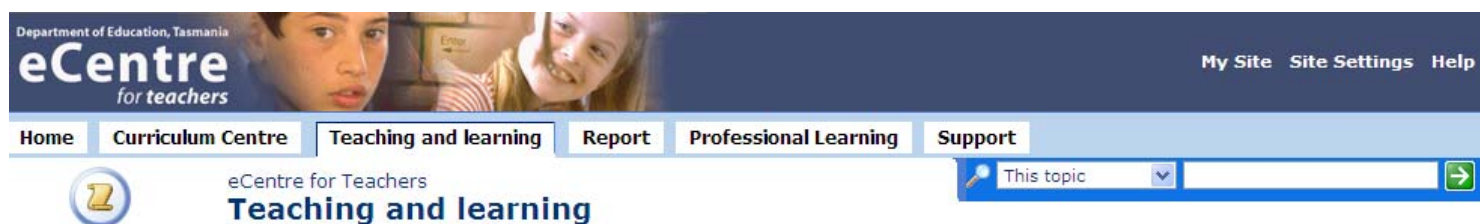
The LTAG (Learning, Teaching and Assessment Guide) Essential Learnings resource has been removed as Tasmania now has a revised K-10 curriculum.

If there is any specific information or resources you need from the LTAG, please let us know and we will attempt to provide it through the web.

If you have a resource to share, have found a particular resource to be useful, or would like specific resources developed for a particular area, please contact the eCentre at ecentre.help@education.tas.gov.au.

When you visit the Curriculum Centre you will be asked to complete a short online survey. This survey will provide valuable information about how we can build a curriculum resources site to meet your needs. Random prizes will be awarded during August. Further details will be provided in *Curriculum Matters 1.7*.

For more information, please contact nigel.brown@education.tas.gov.au.



From the Manager....

The Minister's release of the Education Performance Report earlier this month represents the beginning of a process to help us use data to improve what we do. Phase 2 will enable individual schools to share their own performance data with their community.

As the Minister states in the foreword, this data is designed to serve the purpose of school improvement; not to label, stigmatise or highlight particular schools.

Identifying what works – in curriculum, school programs and initiatives, and teacher instructional strategies – is a vital part of improving student, staff and parent satisfaction and student achievement in all aspects of schooling. It is particularly important in helping to focus attention on the identified Departmental priority areas of literacy and numeracy, retention, school improvement and equity.

High quality teaching and instruction, trusting and productive relationships in the school, and support for high achievement and learning in the school and community are widely identified as among the most critical factors in helping to maximise student engagement and achievement in all years of schooling.

I strongly encourage schools to make extensive and creative use of all available data – including the information in these reports and your own school developed information about student progress and achievement – in the best interests of our students and their learning.

For questions or comments about curriculum implementation, email irene.gray@education.tas.gov.au

For **Curriculum Matters** on the web visit <http://www.education.tas.gov.au/curriculum/resources/updates>

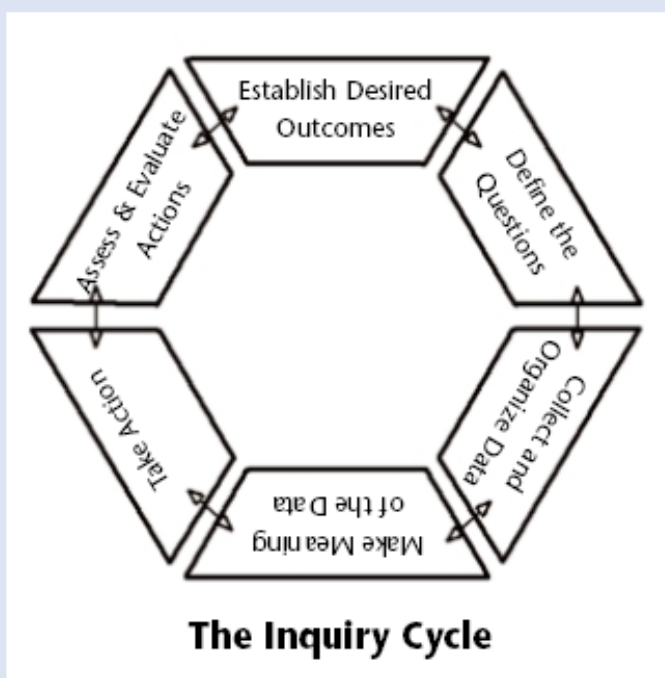
Public information about the curriculum can be accessed at: <http://www.education.tas.gov.au/curriculum>

Data driven improvement

Providing students with an engaging, challenging and personalised curriculum creates a sound basis for helping to improve their learning in all areas, and acquire the skills and understanding they need to help them achieve fulfilling educational, life and vocational pathways.

All efforts to maximise the educational achievement and outcomes of all students should be firmly based in rich, valid and reliable data. This information can range from the results of required national or state testing to a team of teachers in a school evaluating the success of a particular program or unit of work. The common theme is to identify what works in the interests of improving student learning.

The Annenberg Institute for School Reform has developed the Inquiry Cycle, six activities that attempt to capture an ongoing, nonlinear process that involves the interaction of reflection and action. Each activity is essential; none may be omitted. The inquiry process is not over after completing one cycle. The six activities are:



Source: Annenberg Institute for School Reform

The Annenberg Institute for School Reform has designed an Inquiry Cycle to assist schools in systematic reflection and action to guide continual improvement.

It is a refinement of the “Plan – Do – Study – Act” School Improvement Cycle originally developed by Shewhart (1939) and later revised for corporate management (Deming).

<http://www.annenberginstitute.org/>
(Accessed June 2008)

In examining data in the recently released *Tasmanian Education Report*, consult the *Supplementary Notes* to examine key issues including:

- Why these measures? Why aren't other measures included?
- Which measures are more straightforward? What is being done to address areas of issue and concern?

There is an extensive amount and quality of information available through the internet on using data for school improvement. Click [here](#) to access relevant websites and other resources through the Curriculum Centre.

- Educational Performance Services (EPS) collects and analyses data to inform the Department about the effectiveness of programs and strategies aimed at improving educational outcomes for all students. <http://www.education.tas.gov.au/dept/about/contact/eps>
- The document *Using data to improve schools – What's working* is a useful introduction. <http://www.aasa.org/files/PDFs/Publications/UsingDataToImproveSchools.pdf> (Accessed June 2008)
- The National Centre for Educational Achievement *Best practice framework* provides links that examine how aspects of practice can contribute to school improvement. http://www.just4kids.org/en/research_policy/best_practices/framework.cfm (Accessed June 2008)
- The Ontario Elementary Schools School Effectiveness Framework is designed to assist schools in analysing the key components that make schools effective so they can plan for improvement. <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/framework.html> (Accessed July 2008)

ICT and VAL SharePoints

SharePoints for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Vocational and Applied Learning (VAL) are now active and can be accessed by all Tasmanian government school teachers, K-10. Follow the links below to subscribe, read or contribute to the relevant SharePoint.

ICT SharePoint

Visit <http://www.ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/sites/ccict/default.aspx> to:

- Participate in discussions relating to teaching and learning with ICT across the curriculum
- Find out about events such as competitions and professional learning
- Share rich resources designed for the effective implementation of ICT across the curriculum
- Access links including support materials such as professional learning resources and those related to state and national ICT priorities.
- Use the SharePoint as a reference to help build twenty first century skills in ICT.

Information on the SharePoint is updated regularly. All teachers are encouraged to visit and use the site. Feedback and ideas are welcome. Contact: larissa.brenner@education.tas.gov.au phone 0417 114014



VAL SharePoint

This SharePoint is now active and can be accessed at:

<http://www.ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/sites/ccval/default.aspx>

Visit or subscribe to the SharePoint for curriculum updates, information about VAL resources and upcoming events. Current announcements include the Home Economics Newsletter, Inter-high school Enterprise Project and information about the Design and Technology website. Contact: tony.woodward@education.tas.gov.au phone 62123319



REVIEW OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION GUIDELINES

The Department of Education's web-based Outdoor Education Guidelines are undergoing a comprehensive review of content and layout. Your assistance is sought in providing feedback on any issue that you see as relevant to this review.

To provide feedback go to: <http://ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/sites/wellbeing/Site%20Pages/feedback.aspx> and follow the prompts.

For curriculum and professional learning support contact the Manager (Learning)

South Judy Travers Ph 6212 3503	South-east Rob Banfield Ph 6212 3502	North Kevin Fagan Ph 6336 4474	North-west Kim Bennett Ph 6434 7224
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Curriculum Team (state wide)

The Curriculum Team is available to work with teachers and school leaders in all learning services. Please feel free to contact them to work with you in implementing the Tasmanian curriculum.

Manager—[Dr Irene Gray](#)— Ph 6233842

PEO English-literacy: [Annette Moulr](#)—62123315

Curriculum Officer English-literacy: [Pam Powell](#)—Ph 62123306

PEO LOTE (Languages): [Sue Tolbert](#)—Ph 62337331

Curriculum Officer LOTE: [Janine Davison](#)—Ph 62335071

Curriculum Project Officer Mathematics-numeracy: [Denise Neal](#)—Ph 62123308

PEO Science: [Denise Devitt](#)—Ph 62123302

PEO Society and History: [Julie Fisher](#)—Ph 62123313

PEO Health and wellbeing: [Toni Gray](#)—Ph 62123314

PEO Arts: [Frank Bansel](#)—Ph 62337334

Music Performance Programs Officer: [Di O'Toole](#)—Ph 62337739 and

AST 3 Primary Band Program [Rob Greenwood](#)—Ph 62 5012

Curriculum Project Officer Vocational and Applied Learning—[Tony Woodward](#) - 62123319

Curriculum Project Officer ICT: [Larissa Brenner](#)—Ph 62286239

Asia Education / Values Education: [Jan Kiernan](#)—Ph 62337938

Curriculum Resources: [Nigel Brown](#)—Ph 62123317



Next issue: August 22nd 2008

- National curriculum update
- Learning sequences / units of work
- Curriculum resources