Information for parents and communities
Independent Public Schools

- The Independent Public Schools initiative honours the State Government’s key election commitment to hand greater control to schools.

- Independent Public Schools remain part of the public school system. They retain the benefits of being part of a bigger system and operate within relevant legislation and industrial agreements.

- In collaboration with their school community, they set their own strategic directions and have authority for day-to-day decisions that best cater for their students.
There are currently 171 schools operating as Independent Public Schools. 34 commenced in 2010, 64 commenced in 2011, and 73 commenced in 2012.

36 have already been selected to start as Independent Public Schools in 2013, bringing the total to 207.

Expressions of Interest are now open for additional schools to be selected as Independent Public Schools.
How can schools take part?

- Principals can only nominate to become an Independent Public School with the support of the school council.
- The principal, in collaboration with staff and the school community, submits an expression of interest by the specified deadline.
- An independent selection panel recommends schools to the Director General.
- Further details are available in the *Prospectus* on the Department of Education’s [Independent Public Schools](#) website.
Expressing an interest

Principals, in collaboration with their communities, submit a written application of no more than three pages, demonstrating the following:

- the capacity of the school to assume greater responsibility for its own affairs;
- the level of local support; and
- the potential benefits to students and the broader school community.
What if my school is selected to become an Independent Public School?

- If your school is selected to become an Independent Public School, a comprehensive transition program will be provided for school leaders, registrars, business managers and school council members.
What happens to schools that choose not to become Independent Public Schools?

- These schools continue to operate as usual
- Over time, all public schools will be given more authority to make decisions that best meet the needs of their school context and community.
How will my school change if it becomes an Independent Public School?

- There will be more freedom to make changes that reflect the needs and expectations of your school community.

- The school will be able to make decisions about important matters that impact on your child’s education, such as the curriculum, student support, staff recruitment, financial management, governance and accountability.
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What will it mean for the school council?

- The school council is referred to as the school board

- Strong community and industry representation ensures that the board makes a significant contribution to the development of the school

- Comprehensive training is available for new and existing school board members.
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Can Independent Public Schools select their own staff?

- Yes. They have greater control over the types of positions that exist in the school, and they are able to select staff who best meet the needs of that school.

- The school board is represented in the selection of a new principal.
Do enrolment procedures change?

- Enrolment procedures do not change

- Independent Public Schools continue to provide education to students in their local intake area. Parents and guardians have the right to enrol their children in their local school

- Enrolment procedures for Gifted and Talented programs remain the same.
Are there fees and charges associated with being an Independent Public School?

- Independent Public Schools are bound by the *School Education Act 1999* and the *School Education Act Regulations 2000*

- The structure for contributions, fees and charges remains the same as all public schools.
What are the uniform requirements of an Independent Public School?

- Uniform requirements are determined by the school board, in consultation with the school community.
What is taught in Independent Public Schools?

- Independent Public Schools have the flexibility to adopt a range of curricula, providing they meet legislated curriculum requirements.
What are the requirements of Independent Public Schools?

- To comply with all legislation, industrial agreements and financial audits
- To sign a Delivery and Performance Agreement (DPA) with the Director General, Principal and Chair of the school board
- To be part of an independent review in the final year of the DPA
- To produce an annual report, Business Plan and strategic plan, which are co-signed by the school board.
What will it mean for my Parents and Citizens’ Association (P&C)?

- The important role and functions of the Parents and Citizens Association will not change

- The P&C can put forward a parent or community nomination although this is not an entitlement to be appointed to the school board

- The school board can work with the P&C on different projects.
Will Independent Public Schools be an elite group of schools?

- Independent Public Schools represent a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds, and reflect the diversity of public education in Western Australia.

- They include primary, secondary, district high, education support schools in metropolitan and regional areas, as well as clusters of schools and schools from low and high socio-economic communities.
Further Information

Contact your Principal

or visit:

- The Department of Education Independent Public School site
- Information for parents and communities