



WACSSO

WA Council of State School Organisations

2013 WA State Election 'Report Card'



WACSSO

**THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL OF STATE SCHOOL
ORGANISATIONS INC.**

151 Royal Street, East Perth
Western Australia 6004

P.O. Box 6295, East Perth
Western Australia 6892

Telephone: (08) 9264 4000
Facsimile: (08) 9264 4948

Email: info@wacssso.wa.edu.au
Web: www.wacssso.wa.edu.au

2013 State Election ‘Report Card’

Introduction

On March 9, 2013, Western Australia will go to the polls to determine which party will lead the State for the next four years. While publicly and in the media, the election is being fought over transport and major infrastructure projects, it’s important to remember what is really at stake when deciding the identity of our next leader.

The Western Australian Council of State School Organisations Inc. (WACSSO) believes that Education is the most important issue of this election.

WA has an excellent public education system that should be celebrated. However, WACSSO has identified a number of funding, resourcing and procedural shortfalls, that we believe if addressed, would improve the quality and outcomes in education for our State’s children.

WACSSO produced a State Election Position Paper in August 2012, setting its position on several key issues pertinent to education in WA. This position paper has informed the nature of lobbying by WACSSO and its affiliates, more than 680 P&C Associations state-wide, to political candidates, members and parties, in the lead up to the election.

Each major political party has now released its key policies and vision for the future of education in our State. WACSSO also requested specific response from the WA Liberal Party, WA Labor Party, The Greens WA and The Nationals WA on each of the 14 issues addressed in its Position Paper. A combination of these responses and an in-depth analysis of each party’s education-related announcements, commitments and policies is summarised in this “Election Report Card.”

Please note that WACSSO did not receive specific feedback on some key issues from all parties and any unaddressed concerns will be noted in the document.

WACSSO encourages individuals to use this document as an aid in deciding who will receive their vote on March 9.

Key Position Paper issues addressed in this State Election “Report Card”

Lifting the profile of public education

- Pride in the public education system

School funding, resourcing and support

- Federal Review of Funding for Schools
- Information Communication Technology
- School support
- Independent Public Schools
- School council/board training
- Year 7 relocation to secondary school
- School dental clinics
- School based community health nurses

Student road safety

- Provision of crossing guards
- 40km/h all day speed zones around schools

Community engagement

- Parental Engagement
- The Teacher Registration Board

Financial Assistance

- Re-introduction of school student subsidies
- Student welfare services

Position Paper Key Issue



WA
Liberal
Party

WA
Labor
Party

The
Greens
WA

The
Nationals
WA

LIFTING THE PROFILE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

Pride in the public education system.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| F | A | A | C |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|

SCHOOL FUNDING, RECSOURCING AND SUPPORT

Federal Review of Funding for Schools.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| F | B | A | NA |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------|

Information Communication Technology

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| NA | C | B | NA |
|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|

School support.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| F | B | A | F |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|

Independent Public Schools.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| C | A | A | NA |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------|

School council/board training.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| F | A | A | F |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|

Year 7 relocation to secondary school.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| B | A | A | A |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|

School dental clinics.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| C | C | B | NA |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------|

School based community health nurses.

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| B | NA | B | B |
|----------|-----------|----------|----------|

Fully funded student welfare services.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| B | C | A | C |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|

STUDENT ROAD SAFETY

Provision of crossing guards.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| F | C | NA | NA |
|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|

40km/h all day speed zones around schools.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| C | C | NA | NA |
|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Parental Engagement.

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| NA | NA | A | NA |
|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|

The Teacher Registration Board.

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| NA | A | A | NA |
|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Re-introduction of student subsidies.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| F | A | A | C |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|

GRADE KEY

A Policy conforms with WACSSO position

C Policy partially conforms with WACSSO position

B Policy mostly conforms with WACSSO position

F Policy does not conform with WACSSO position

NA No Policy Announced / Did not respond

Lifting the profile of public education

Pride in the Public Education System

POSITION:

- Public schools provide a high quality education and should be seen as schools of choice for WA families.
- The Department of Education and stakeholders should have pride and actively promote the public education system.
- School Expert Review Group (ERG) reports should not be broadly published, however they should be made readily available to the school staff, school community and to interested parties upon request.

| | GRADE | DETAILS |
|---|-------|--|
|  | F | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No commitment to remove access to ERG Reports. - Education budget cut by \$41 million in first term, demonstrates lack of pride. |
|  | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committed to ending online public access to ERG reports if elected. |
|  | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the discontinuation of ERG reports being publicly accessible. |
|  | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building 13 new schools across regional WA and injecting \$51.87 million to upgrade regional residential colleges. - However, was part of a Government that cut funding to education by \$41 million. |

School Funding, Resourcing and Support

Federal Review of Funding for Schooling – State Government Responsibilities

POSITION:

- Full support for the recommendations in the Federal Review of Funding for Schooling Report (Gonski Review)
- WACSSO calls upon the State Government to publicly commit to the implementation of the recommendations of the Federal Review of Funding for Schooling.

| | GRADE | DETAILS |
|---|-----------|--|
|  | F | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will not commit to implementation of Gonski Review-guided reform. |
|  | B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports recommendations of the Gonski Review. - Committed to seeking Commonwealth support to get “best deal” for WA. |
|  | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support full implementation of the Gonski model as an urgent priority - Advocate for Government participation in Council of Australian Governments (COAG) processes to progress reform. |
|  | NA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No Policy/Not Announced |

Information Communication Technology – Increased support funding for schools

WACSSO CALLS FOR:

- Upgrade of SIS to web-based system and increased bandwidth for ALL schools.
- Implementation of the current Standard operating environment (SOE) in ALL schools.
- Permanent dedicated ICT support specialists located at each school based on a formula of 1 FTE for every 200 computers at that school.
- Flying squad of ICT support specialists based in the regional education offices to service remote communities
- Position titles and levels for ICT support staff to be standardised across the state and employment under the Public Service Award.
- FTE for these positions is funded centrally by the Department of Education.
- Ongoing and appropriate PD to be delivered to all staff.

| | GRADE | DETAILS |
|---|-------|---|
|  | NA | - No Policy / Not announced. |
|  | C | - \$20million over four years to fast track the roll-out of wireless network operating system (SOE4) for more than 200 regional primary schools. |
|  | B | - Support for funding for high quality IT system, specialist staff, hardware and software support. - Support for staff professional development surrounding ICT. |
|  | NA | - No Policy / Not Announced. |

School Support Review

WACSSO CALLS FOR:

- Review of the school networking initiative in regard to its effectiveness in supporting local schools.
- Review of the Independent Public Schools to determine the adequacy of support and the ability for the Department of Education to monitor school effectiveness beyond NAPLAN data.
- Re-instatement of some roles (ie. Curriculum Manager, coordinator Regional Operations) related to school support and professional development (PD) in rural District Offices.

| | GRADE | DETAILS |
|---|----------|---|
|  | F | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cut education budget by \$41 million in first term, with plans for further cuts. - Restructured of Education Department, closed District Education Offices – less local support for staff. - Schools must now travel further to training and staff taking less PD days. |
|  | B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$8.88million over 3 years for 32 new Literacy Specialists into Education Regional Offices. - 10 Independent Learning Co-ordinators in selected regional schools - 10 people for Regional Learning Specialist Team. |
|  | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support an investigation of the impact of Education Department restructure by Liberal Government. - Advocate for feedback from staff and parents on restructure to be publicly available. |
|  | F | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Part of a Government that removed District Education Offices servicing rural areas, replacing them with Regional Offices, heavily reducing support for rural/remote schools |

Independent Public Schools Review and expansion of the program

WACSSO CALLS FOR:

- A halt to any further intake of schools into the IPS program until an independent review has been undertaken to determine the effectiveness of the program and clear benefits to student outcomes.
- Parents of students in IPS schools participating in the review be asked about any increase in parental engagement under this program.
- The State Government to increase school funding to schools to ensure public schools, both IPS and non-IPS, can provide a high quality education to WA students.

| | GRADE | DETAILS |
|---|-----------|---|
|  | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plans to expand IPS program to encompass remaining two thirds of WA schools before awaiting report from IPS review initiated by the Government last November. - Currently undertaking review of IPS, inviting parents to be part of the process. |
|  | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will initiate an independent review to determine the benefits of IPS to students. |
|  | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holds serious concerns about IPS. - Believes IPS may create two-tiered public education system. - Seeking review of IPS impact across all schools. |
|  | NA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No Policy/Not Announced. |

School Council/Board Training – Reintroduction of WACSSO funding

WACSSO CALLS FOR:

- Re-introduction of funding removed by the current Government to enable the organisation to adequately train school council/board members in their roles and responsibilities on an ongoing, cost effective basis.

| | GRADE | DETAILS |
|---|-------|---|
|  | F | - Removed WACSSO funding to deliver school council training and assistance. |
|  | A | - Commitment to reinstate school council training and assistance funding for WACSSO. |
|  | A | - Supports the provision of funding to WACSSO to provide school council training and assistance. |
|  | F | - Part of a Government that removed WACSSO funding to deliver school council training and assistance. |

Year 7 relocation to Secondary School

WACSSO CALLS FOR:

- Staged transition of Year 7's to high schools.
- Review of impacts to rural and remote communities with a view to delay the transition to these areas to at least 2018.
- Construction of new buildings and improvements to district high schools.
- Assessment of current public school boarding facilities and start construction of additional boarding facilities
- Teacher training for high school teachers who will teach Year 7 curriculum.
- The provision of appropriate transition to high school programs.
- Financial support for families of country students who will be forced to commence boarding school in Year 7.

| | GRADE | DETAILS |
|---|----------|--|
|  | B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$265million capital works program for Year 7 facilities to be completed 2014. - \$2.36 million over four years to employ more chaplains in schools should provide more support for Year 7's entering high school. |
|  | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment of \$1.27billion, or an added \$100million over 4 years on current Government budget for infrastructure. - Will review small remote, regional schools to assess impact of move, whether there has been adequate planning for teacher placement and whether allocated budget is sufficient. |
|  | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for adequate planning, resourcing and infrastructure for Year 7 transition. - Advocating for focused pastoral care for Year 7 students in high school. - Advocate extra resources and support for regional families. |
|  | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$42.6million Royalties for Regions funds for specialist Year 7 facilities in regional areas. - Negotiated 3-year transition period to allow regional families to prepare for relocation. - Increased <i>Boarding Away from Home Allowance</i> through Royalties for Regions. |

Save Our School Dental Clinics

WACSSO CALLS FOR:

- Increase in funding for Dental Clinics to ensure basic administration equipment in place such as computers, software, printers and fax machines;
- Pay rates for Dental Clinic Assistants be increased to adequately reflect the level of qualifications they hold; and
- Pay and conditions for Dental Clinic staff, including dentists, dental therapists, dental clinic assistants and dental technicians be increased to assist in the attraction and retention of workers.

| | GRADE | DETAILS |
|---|-----------|---|
|  | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instructed the Health Department to provide computers to school dental clinics that were without. |
|  | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will review Dental Care Assistants pay scales if elected. |
|  | B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support employment of adequate health professionals for schools - No specific dental policy/position |
|  | NA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No Policy/Not Announced |

School Based Community Health Nurses

WACSSO CALLS FOR:

- Adequate funds allocated to facilitate the employment of a Community Health Nurse on a full time basis in School Health Services in all existing public schools in Western Australia.

| | GRADE | DETAILS |
|---|-----------|---|
|  | B | - \$57.2 million to employ 155 FTE School nurses so that each child entering pre-primary receives a health check. |
|  | NA | - No Policy/Not Announced |
|  | B | - Support employment of adequate school nurses, psychologists in schools. |
|  | B | - Part of a Government that announced \$57.2 million to employ 155 FTE School nurses so that each child entering pre-primary receives a health check. |

Fully Funded Student Welfare Services

WACSSO CALLS FOR:

- Increase in school budgets to assist schools to provide additional welfare services, such as additional school psychologist time, school nurse services, student services officers and welfare offices.

| | GRADE | DETAILS |
|---|----------|--|
|  | B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$2.36 million over four years to employ more chaplains in schools. - \$4 million to build specialised counselling rooms. - \$19.9million to open 6 additional parent and child centres for public primary school sites offering integrated health, education and parenting services. (16 total, \$48.7million.) |
|  | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$13.45million for 48 new Attendance and Behaviour Officers and 8 managers into Regional Offices and schools. - Committed to establishing an Attendance and Behaviour Directorate to combat truancy, attendance, participation and behaviour collaboratively across Government. |
|  | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support increase in funding for student welfare services, including additional school psychologists, school nurses and participation and engagement support staff. |
|  | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Part of a Government that will deliver \$2.36 million over four years to employ more chaplains in schools and \$4 million to build specialized counselling rooms. |

Student Road Safety

Provision of School Crossing Guards

WACSSO CALLS FOR:

- Any school that requests a crossing guard should be provided with one immediately for an initial 6 month period while further assessments are carried out.
- The current formula to determine the need for a Type A crossing to be amended to take into account other risk factors such as road conditions, speed limits, types of vehicles using the road, pedestrian age and number of unsupervised crossings
- The State Government to investigate the provision of ‘walk lights’ at all schools without traffic guards.

| | GRADE | DETAILS |
|---|-----------|---|
|  | F | - Axed funding for crossing guards at 18 schools before reversing the decision due to unpopularity. |
|  | C | - Commitment to consider proposal if elected |
|  | NA | - No Policy/Not Announced |
|  | NA | - No Policy/Not Announced |

40km speed zone around schools all day

WACSSO CALLS FOR:

- The introduction of 40km speed restriction at all schools from 7:00am to 5:00pm on all school days.

| | GRADE | DETAILS |
|---|-----------|--|
|  | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not support all-day 40km/h speed zones around schools. - Committed additional \$36 million to install electronic flashing 40 km/h speed signs in school zones statewide. |
|  | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment to consider proposal if elected. |
|  | NA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No Policy/Not Announced |
|  | NA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No Policy/Not Announced |

Community Engagement

Parental Engagement

WACSSO CALLS FOR:

- Increase in the depth and breadth of training provided to pre-service teachers to increasing their skills in relation to promoting positive interactions with parents.

| | GRADE | DETAILS |
|---|-------|--|
|  | NA | - No Policy/Not Announced |
|  | NA | - No Policy/Not Announced |
|  | A | - Support initiatives that increase the capacity of parents to engage in schools and the skills of teachers in promoting and supporting parental engagement. |
|  | NA | - No Policy/Not Announced |

Teacher Registration Board – Creation of a Stakeholder Advisory Group

WACSSO CALLS FOR:

- The creation of a Stakeholder Advisory Group underneath the main board to be kept informed of the TRB activities and decisions.

| | GRADE | DETAILS |
|---|-------|---|
|  | NA | - No Policy/Not Announced |
|  | A | - Commitment to change legislation governing the Teacher Registration Board to ensure a parent representative is given a dedicated position on the Teachers Registration Board. |
|  | A | - Support WACSSO's call for establishment of a stakeholder group for parents to be informed in teacher registration process. |
|  | NA | - No Policy/Not Announced |

Financial Assistance

Re-introduction of Secondary School Student Subsidies

WACSSO CALLS FOR:

- A re-introduction of an allowance for parents of secondary school children in Years 11 and 12 to assist them meet the costs of educating their children.

| | GRADE | DETAILS |
|---|-------|--|
|  | F | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Removed “It Pays to Learn” allowance and Secondary School Student Subsidy, putting pressure on families and reducing High School operational budgets. |
|  | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment to introduce <i>Education ‘Cost of Living’ Payment</i> of \$200 to parents of Year 11 and 12 students in secondary school and \$400 to parents of 16 and 17 year old trainees and apprentices. |
|  | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support free education in public schools and TAFE. - Support call for financial support for disadvantaged families with Year 11 and 12 children. |
|  | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Part of the Government that Removed “It Pays to Learn” allowance and Secondary School Student Subsidy. - \$5.5million increase to <i>Boarding Away From Home Allowance</i> through Royalties for Regions. |