

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STRATEGY

2019 TO 2029



Learning in a diverse and interconnected world



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

MINISTER'S FOREWORD



Our world is more connected than ever.

Globalisation and technological progress are changing how we learn, live and work. Globalisation has resulted in increases to international trade and cultural exchanges through the movement of people across borders. Technological advancements allow us to connect with people and access information from anywhere in the world.

South Australia's social and economic prosperity is increasingly connected to our ability to look beyond our state, to build relationships, share and create knowledge, and pursue opportunities internationally.

Our schools and preschools have a key role to play in ensuring that children and young people have the knowledge and capabilities to actively participate in a diverse and interconnected world.

The young South Australians in our schools and preschools are the next generation of leaders, problem-solvers and entrepreneurs. They will start businesses, innovate, and lead the communities and industries of the future. Regardless of where they go in life, they will need to interact with people from other countries, with different languages, cultures and perspectives.

Our teachers and leaders play a vital role in extending our students' horizons, no matter where they live in our state.

We must support our education professionals to engage globally in the pursuit of excellence, as part of an internationalised education system. We need to foster international partnerships for exchanging knowledge and ideas that promote the strengths of our public education system and our state.

The International Education Strategy 2019 to 2029 is our blueprint for bringing an international and intercultural focus to education in South Australia.


The strategy is complemented by a broader suite of initiatives including the Languages in Schools initiative and Entrepreneurial Learning strategy to ensure our children and young people have a world-class education and are truly globally ready.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Gardner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon John Gardner MP
Minister for Education

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WHY INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT

All children and young people need knowledge and capabilities to be successful in a world that is increasingly diverse and globally connected.

South Australia's economy is increasingly outward facing – international connections, including exports are central to South Australia's economic transformation. They drive innovation, productivity and global competitiveness throughout the state.

Our world is interconnected, diverse and rapidly changing. Our children and young people need knowledge and capabilities for life and work in this dynamic environment – working with people with different languages and backgrounds, understanding local and global issues, and having the skills to communicate across cultural, social and professional environments.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS



14%
OF STUDENTS
ARE FROM A
NON-ENGLISH
SPEAKING
BACKGROUND



12%
ARE BORN
OUTSIDE OF
AUSTRALIA



6%
ARE FROM AN
ABORIGINAL
AND/OR
TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER
BACKGROUND



12%
SPEAK A
LANGUAGE
OTHER THAN
ENGLISH AT
HOME

As at term 1 2018 School Data Collection ¹



HALF
OF ALL
AUSTRALIANS
HAVE AN
OVERSEAS-BORN
PARENT

**AT
LEAST
HALF**
OF THE
WORLD'S
POPULATION
SPEAK 2
OR MORE
LANGUAGES²



1 IN 5 AUSTRALIANS
SPEAK A LANGUAGE OTHER
THAN ENGLISH AT HOME

1 IN 4 AUSTRALIANS
WERE BORN OVERSEAS³



OUR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS
CURRENTLY WELCOME MORE THAN

**1400 STUDENTS FROM
45 COUNTRIES⁴**

**79,000 SOUTH
AUSTRALIAN JOBS**

ARE SUPPORTED BY SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE AND SERVICES⁵



1. Source: System Performance, SA Department for Education

2. Source: <https://edl.ecml.at/%20LanguageFun/LanguageFacts/tabid/1859/Default.aspx>

3. Source: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/face-facts-cultural-diversity> (2014 data)

4. Source: IES website: <https://www.internationalstudents.sa.edu.au/us/about-us/>

5. Source: Research and Economics Branch, Department of Trade, Tourism and Investment, February 2018



WHAT INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION MEANS

Schools and preschools often describe in vision and values statements the characteristics and attributes they seek to foster in their children and young people.

In this strategy, intercultural understanding and international mindedness describe our aspirations for young South Australians as global citizens.

Intercultural understanding

Intercultural understanding is a general capability described in the Australian Curriculum. It involves 'learning about and engaging with diverse cultures in ways that recognise commonalities and differences, create connections with others and cultivate mutual respect'.⁶

International mindedness

International mindedness captures the additional knowledge, capabilities, values and dispositions that will position children and young people to thrive in an international context. This includes an in-depth knowledge of local, global and international issues and the ability to examine and act on these issues.

Global citizen

A global citizen is a person who embodies these values and characteristics, where concepts of citizenship are applied across borders.

A global citizen has a sense of belonging to the wider world while maintaining their national and ethnic identity and culture. They exercise their rights and responsibilities with an understanding of the impact of their actions both locally and internationally.

A global citizen participates in their local community as well as the wider world.

6. <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/>

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS AND PRESCHOOLS

Schools and preschools are uniquely positioned to support children and young people to develop the knowledge, capabilities, values and dispositions to succeed in an increasingly complex and connected world.

Curriculum

Intercultural understanding and international mindedness are already a part of the curriculum frameworks that guide children and young people's learning from birth to year 12.

Early Years Learning framework

The Early Years Learning framework requires that children be taught to develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities, and to respond to diversity with respect.

Australian Curriculum - reception to year 10

At school, intercultural and international knowledge and capabilities are part of the Australian Curriculum from reception to year 10.

Senior secondary level

At a senior secondary level, the SACE Board is working to integrate general capabilities, including intercultural understanding, within SACE subjects, in a way that supports young people to demonstrate capabilities and effectively transfer this learning to different situations.

International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate is a curriculum framework that focusses on developing inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people through intercultural understanding and respect. The South Australian Government is increasing the number of schools offering the International Baccalaureate diploma program.

This strategy is designed to strengthen teaching of existing curriculum within all preschools and schools. It helps educators to approach teaching and learning as an international and intercultural endeavour. It builds on efforts to strengthen learning of additional languages, which is important for supporting students to develop intercultural capabilities.

Diversity

The diversity of children and young people's knowledge and perspectives is itself a valuable resource for teaching and learning.

Many children and young people in South Australia are already connecting globally, through news and social media, friends and family. Almost 15% of our students are from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Aboriginal cultures

Connecting globally is also a way to understand and respect Aboriginal peoples' rich diversity of languages and cultures. Learning about Aboriginal Nation groups, and other countries' indigenous populations helps all children and young people to understand the meaning within different cultures. Connecting with Aboriginal culture is a valuable means of ensuring that learning environments are inclusive of differing cultural needs whilst providing students from different countries and backgrounds with an opportunity to engage with Aboriginal languages, histories and cultures. This commitment is also reflected within the Department for Education's Aboriginal Education Strategy 2019-2029.

International students

The presence of international students in our schools enhances the education experience for all students. International students bring their own knowledge, cultures, values and languages into our schools, enriching the school community and creating new ways to learn about the world.

South Australia has a long history of welcoming international students to our state. Students from all over the world choose to travel to experience study and life here. In term 1 2019, there were 1,509 international students enrolled in 87 schools. During 2018, 1,767 students visited schools as part of short-term study tours.

Exchanges and study tours provide opportunities for South Australian children and young people to experience first-hand the languages and cultures of a different country and way of life.

Globally engaged system

Our system is already globally engaged. Many of our schools have 'sister school' relationships that support learning with peers in other countries. They also provide opportunities for teachers to exchange course material and teaching approaches, and help to promote South Australian education overseas.

Our state also has diplomatic relationships that drive our commitment to broaden and deepen international connections in the service of education.

Our vision is for a public education system where all of these activities work together and are mutually reinforcing – a system that plans for how it will engage internationally and empowers young South Australians to live and work in a diverse and interconnected world.



VISION

A world-class public education system that empowers children and young people to study, live and work as global citizens.

GOALS

Goal 1



Intercultural understanding and international mindedness are part of every child and young person's learning.

Goal 2



High-quality and sustainable international student programs.

Goal 3



International relationships support our students, staff and system to engage globally.

In 10 years, our public education system will be one in which:

- children and young people learn about diverse languages and cultures through intercultural exchanges of knowledge and ideas
- children and young people research global and international issues and collaborate with their peers to act upon these issues
- teachers have the knowledge and resources they need to embed intercultural and international learning across the curriculum
- leaders plan for and embed intercultural and international learning in preschools and schools
- international engagement is a driver for ongoing improvement.

WHAT WE WILL DO

The vision and goals set out the 10-year aspirations for international education in South Australia. The strategy puts in motion the first steps to achieve those aspirations.

Goal 1



Intercultural understanding and international mindedness are part of every child and young person's learning

Throughout their education, all children and young people should have opportunities to interact with people from different countries and cultures and to reflect on these interactions as a part of their learning.

Teaching and assessing intercultural understanding and international mindedness, and integrating this across the curriculum, is a complex and enriching task, which requires focused supports.

Strong educational leadership supports an international focus in planning, provides opportunities for curriculum development and teacher collaboration, and builds connections to the local and international community. It is important that the department helps leaders to guide their schools to build and maintain a focus on international and intercultural practices, to support learning growth and achievement.

We will:

- collaborate with partners, including the SACE Board, to curate and promote resources for educators to embed intercultural understanding and international mindedness within the curriculum
- invest in online tools and tailored supports so that leaders can implement international and intercultural practices in schools and preschools over time, in a way that suits local circumstances
- provide targeted funding to support international learning experiences for students.

Goal 2



High quality and sustainable international student programs

The presence of international students in our schools complements our existing cultural and linguistic diversity. International students offer local students the opportunity to build global engagement and learn about different cultures.

An education that recognises and values the diverse knowledge and perspectives of international students benefits all students.

Attracting international students to our schools is important, as is maintaining a high-quality education experience for all students. Many of our schools have well established international student programs. Other schools have less experience in welcoming international students and will benefit from assistance to establish and build international student programs.

We will:

- establish a fund to support a broader range of government schools to welcome international students
- promote the benefits of South Australian government schools in key markets
- support stronger connections between international and local students.

Goal 3



International relationships support our students, staff and system to engage globally

Intercultural capabilities and international mindedness are not only about what happens in schools and preschools. The public education system benefits from working with international partners.

Education is a global endeavour – it is important that our priorities for system improvement have global reach.

Engaging internationally means identifying how we can support education systems overseas and what we can learn from their experiences. It means fostering relationships with governments and institutions that help teachers, leaders and other staff to connect and learn with their colleagues in other countries.

We will:

- ensure that diplomatic and trade agreements support South Australia's education agenda
- invest in the exchange of knowledge and expertise with other countries
- coordinate and develop commercial activity that supports our education priorities.

MEASURING OUR SUCCESS

This strategy establishes the Department for Education's 10-year aspiration to internationalise our schools and preschools and South Australia's education system.

The initiatives in this strategy will be implemented progressively over the next 3 years.

During this time, we will invest in ways of measuring the development of intercultural understanding and international mindedness for children and young people. Trialling assessment tools in partnership with schools will provide a baseline for measuring progress over time.

For our international student programs, we will continue to monitor the numbers of international students choosing to study in South Australian government schools. We will support the state government in its targets to achieve growth in international student enrolments by 2030.

In 2022, we will undertake a whole-of-strategy review to assess progress and outcomes. We will use this review to refine, expand and develop new initiatives to support achievement of our goals.

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