



## Parents will access public school test results, financial data and student / teacher characteristics via a new government website.

SAASSO supports the Federal Government's sweeping transparency initiative:

- It will identify the needs of poor performing schools. Keeping issues secret does not lead to change. Under public scrutiny, swift government action is far more likely.
- It will enable parents to base the choice of school for their children on fact and not gossip or rumour.
- This is public money - the public are entitled to know how effectively their tax dollars are being spent.

Under the new system, each school will have a profile page with information allowing parents to evaluate its growth, performance, and improvements over time. Available school data will include:

- Literacy and numeracy skills of Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 students
- TER score totals
- Year 12 completion ratios
- Post-secondary enrolment ratios.
- Financial data – revenue from State and Commonwealth Governments and parents fees.
- Student characteristics - socio-economic / demographics / LOTE / special needs.
- Teacher characteristics - qualifications, pre-service education, advanced certification.

This Federal initiative will apparently override the existing arrangement between the Education Department and the teacher's union; not to release information to South Australia's parents - an arrangement the Rann Government has left in place.

In 2007, SAASSO spoke out when the teacher's union threatened 'widespread industrial action, especially in primary schools', if DECS released literacy & numeracy data. This followed a decision earlier that year by the Rann Government to prohibit the release of school Year 12 results.

With this new level of information available, some are questioning the boundaries in our public school system. Currently, only students living within the government decided zones are guaranteed a place in schools within that zone. Now that parents will be able to analyse data and decide which school is best for their child, should they be able to enrol their child, regardless of proximity?

For more information visit [www.saasso.asn.au](http://www.saasso.asn.au)