



This week's stories from the media

- Editorial: Our 'normal' school hours worth rethink
- Sex education survey report
- New super school tipped for Adelaide's south
- Parents want longer school hours
- Education system flawed
- Push for new school at Glenside

Sex Education Survey Report

Parents and educators recently participated in a SAASSO Survey on sex education in our public schools.

- 91% of respondents stated they want gender diverse subjects included in sex education classes.
- 89% also believe that parents should have the right to opt out of such programs.
- 85% would prefer that sex education programs be developed and delivered by the education department, rather than external organisations.

A SAASSO Survey also revealed an overwhelming 88% of parents and school staff want fast food outlets banned from opening near schools.



[Read the reports](#)

Editorial: Our 'Normal' School Hours Worth Rethink

Editor of The Advertiser, Sam Weir, supports a rethink of the traditional 9-3:30 school day.

"The school day is so entrenched it is hard to remember why students enter the classroom at around 9am and finish at 3.30pm.

But the fact hours have stayed the same for a long time is no argument for why they must continue. In Europe many students start school at 7.30am and finish at 5pm - with a two-hour lunch and siesta in the middle.

A survey by SAASSO has taken a sounding of parents' views on what an ideal student day would look like and the results are surprising. More than half want a minimum of eight hours, while another 15% wanted a school day that lasted up to nine or 10 hours.

Their reasons are inherently practical and reflect their busy family lives.

When both parents are struggling to get to work in the morning, and must remain there for a full working day, it would make life easier - and cheaper - if the school day was extended.

The trade-off may be a reduced burden of homework which would free up the student's time at home.

One attractive option is greater flexibility in when individual students are at school. A longer day may also not mean more hours in a classroom, but an extended period over which activities can be done with some degree of teacher supervision.

Changes must be thought through carefully. But this is a welcome opening to a discussion that will help usher our schools into the future."

[More](#)



“...the fact hours have stayed the same for a long time is no argument for why they must continue....”

New Super School Tipped For Adelaide's South

The Education Department is considering building a new “super school” in the southern suburbs - possibly in Aldinga - to cope with the region’s rising population.

The department is conducting a feasibility study into the new birth-to-Year 12 school, examining demographics and how areas are served by public transport and road access.

Onkaparinga’s population has grown by 11 per cent in the past decade, from about 152,000 in 2005 to 169,000 in 2015.

Onkaparinga Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg said the last public school built in the district was Seaford Rise Primary in 1995.

“I think we’re well and truly ready for a new school ... because we’ve had a lot of growth since (then),” Ms Rosenberg said.

[More](#)

Parents Want Longer School Hours

Most public school parents want the school day extended to relieve financial pressure on families, reduce the need for homework and ensure children have better access to activities such as art, music and sport.

Two-thirds of more than 700 respondents to a survey by parent body the SA Association of State School Organisations (SAASSO) supported a longer school day.

More than half of respondents wanted the school day to run for eight hours, with a further 15% favouring either nine or 10 hours.

And 75% want secondary schools to offer evening classes.

“We think the Government does need to look into what the 21st century school day should look like,” director David Knuckey said.

“No-one’s talking about an eight-hour instruction day. We are talking about schools opening longer to provide other services.”

[More](#)

Education System Flawed

A new book by journalist and mother, Lucy Clark, entitled **Beautiful Failures**, explores ‘how the quest for success is harming our kids’.

For Clark, it was her daughter’s struggle to navigate the pressures of the senior years at an Australian high school that provided the springboard for a general critique of the way children are taught.

“By all the standard markers, by all the accepted rules and regulations and assessments of secondary school, my daughter has graduated from school a failure.”

[Full Story](#)

School Post

The Term 3 edition of School Post hit schools next week!



Fast Food Outlets Target Poor Schools

Push for new school on site of park at Glenside in Adelaide’s eastern suburbs.

The site of a popular Glenside dog park should be used for a new public primary school, Bragg state Liberal MP Vickie Chapman says.

“Many schools in the area are at capacity and we need a new primary school and we need it now,” Ms Chapman said.

“The most logical thing to do would be to build an entirely new primary school on the land the government owns in Conyngham St.”

Burnside chief executive Paul Deb said the council would be disappointed to lose the land.

[Read more](#)