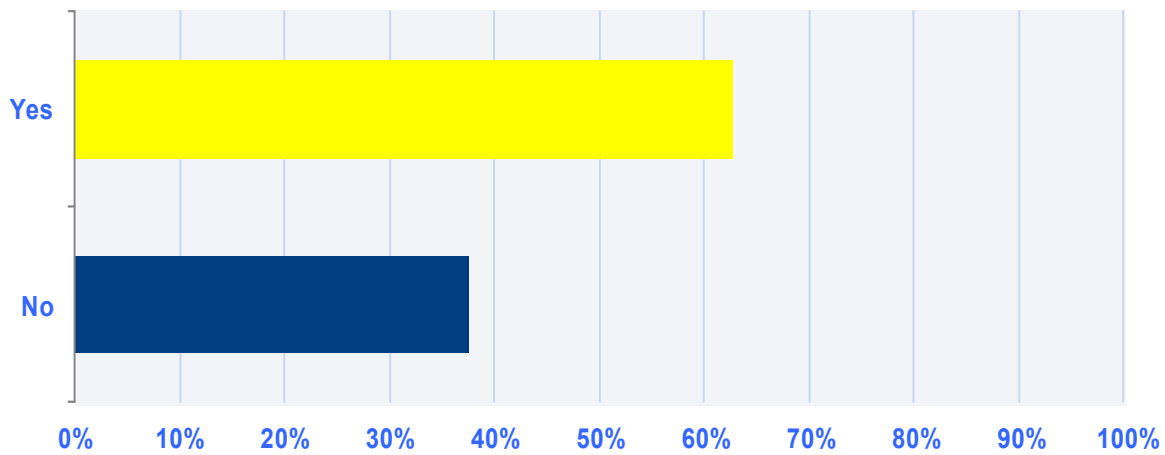




Should Police Sniffer Dogs Be Used In Schools To Combat Drugs?



Since the state election, there has been no shortage of new ideas proposed for education, with the new State Government, principals' association and the teacher union calling for changes.

SAASSO posed a range of questions to parents and educators - with nearly 1100 taking part in the survey.

The issues of drugs, bullying and special needs elicited the most passionate responses.

Gender Specific Language

With universities marking down students who use gender-specific language, such as 'mankind' and 'he or she', SAASSO asked if the practice should filter down to schools.

- Only 14.66% supported the idea.

Principals were most opposed to the concept, though school staff were slightly more in favour than non-school staff.

Comments generally stated that it was political correctness run amok.

Sniffer Dogs In Schools

Asked if they agree with the Marshall Government's plan to use sniffer dogs in schools to combat drugs:

- 62.48% voted 'Yes'
- 37.52% voted 'No'.

Non-parents were nearly 10% more supportive than parents.

Supportive comments lamented the need for such extreme action, but acknowledged it was necessary. Criticism of the concept, questioned how effective it will be.

Probation For Teachers

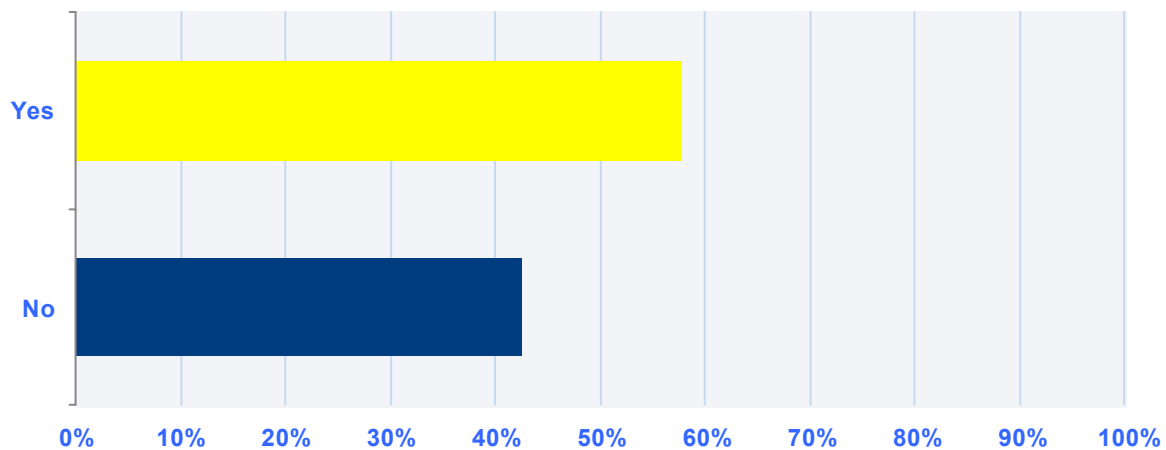
Asked if they support the principal association idea to have all new teachers on probation, until they prove they're up to the job:

- 79.46% voted 'Yes'
- 20.54% voted 'No'.

77% of parents and non-staff were in favour, with 83% of school staff supporting the idea. Teachers were the least supportive, with 65% voting yes. Principals were most in favour of the proposal.



Should The State Government Get Rid Of The SACE Research Project?



SACE Research Project

With news that the SACE is under review, SAASSO asked if the State Government should get rid of the controversial Research Project.

- 57.52% voted to get rid of it.
- 42.48% voted to keep it.

Principals and teachers were most in favour of abandoning the research project: 65% of teachers and more than 7 in 10 principals.

Pay Rise For Teachers

Asked if they support calls by the teacher union for any teacher with a special needs student in their class to get a pay rise.

- 42.19% voted 'Yes'
- 57.81% voted 'No'.

Teachers were most in favour, with 75% voting for a pay rise. Principals were least supportive with 7 in 10 voting against a pay rise.

Only 30% of non-school staff support the pay rise call.

Comments showed a preference for more in-class support for teachers and better training for teachers to educate special needs students.

Fining Parents Of Bullies

With news that an American state has begun fining parents of bully recidivists, SAASSO asked if this was an idea that should be implemented here:

- 30.40% voted 'Yes'
- 69.60% voted 'No'.

Principals were overwhelmingly opposed to the idea. Non-school staff were 10% more supportive than school staff. 37% of teachers were in favour. SSOs and non-parents were least supportive with just 15% voting to fine parents.

Comments labelled the idea 'ridiculous', stating it would damage the relationship with at-risk families and would likely exacerbate the causes of bullying.

Supporters of the idea also felt it was extreme, but believe there is a desperate need for serious action on bullying.

Selected Comments



Not enough is being done to stop bullying. Mobile phones should be banned from schools.

The football nettie culture needs a wake up, the font of most bullying.

Definitely parents fined if proven bullying. The students should also be made accountable and punished. Happens too often and usually reoccurring!

If teachers have a special needs child in their class they should have more assistance (i.e. SSO).

Support with counselling options should be explored.

Fining parents will not change bullies. However the issue of parents who are bullies in their interaction with school staff should be fined.

You just know it will be the parents who can't afford to pay.

When will this gender correctness end?

If they going to be graded down at University, they may as well get into the right habit at schools.

Will children be encouraged to inform on each other next?

Q8 - depends on what the needs are and its impact in the classroom.

Teachers with special needs students should get additional support depending on the needs of the child. Then the teacher can teach all kids in the class without all their attention being taken up by the special needs. Smaller classes would also help. There needs to be a process to educate/help correct the behaviour of the bully and their family - if they refuse to engage in the process then maybe fines might be a step along the path but certainly not at the start.

The research project is the last of the loony left. Get rid of it.

Class teaching should be a compulsory part of Leadership roles - just too much disconnect and understanding between Leadership Groups and Teaching staff.

What happens when the dogs discover drugs on a teacher?

Children should be encouraged to reach their maximum potential at school instead of being ignored if they are passing. Children with special learning needs should not be in mainstream classrooms taking all the teacher's attention.

Anything to keep drugs out of school.

Can sniffer dogs smell ice?

The failure of the research project is like any other reasonable idea. It's only as good as it's implementation.

Another cash grab.

Are teachers even qualified to teach special needs children?

Fining parents will make the problem worse.

Dump the research project.

I think most would prefer an assistance than extra pay - use the money to put more hands in!

If we pay a regular teacher more will they suddenly know how to teach a special needs child?

What next. Asking primary kids to pee in a cup?

Parents must be responsible for their children's actions.

The research project takes up crucial space in a crowded curriculum.

We need real action on drugs in SA.

We need better teachers, not higher paid teachers.

We need to keep drugs out of school and teachers aren't police.

If special needs is an issue the money would surely be better spent with one to one help in the class, how is a pay rise going to help or make someone more proficient when dealing with 30 students?

Discontinue NAPLAN. Provide more support to ALL teachers in both the classroom (support staff) and with relevant training.

No. Yes. Definitely. Yes. Don't be ridiculous. Yes.

When teachers start teaching our kids we will pay them.

Fining seems extreme, but in extreme cases it may be necessary.

Strongly agree with Q5. Lets do it. But let's not expel the guilty kids. Can we think of a better solution. Can we keep them at school & educate them.

Of course teachers should have to be proficient before being given a job for life.

I'm a principal and I need better teachers, not better paid teachers.

I fear fining the parents of bullies may only exacerbate the cycle of violence, but we must do something; children are dying.

Good to see some action at last on drugs.

And who decide what is bullying?

I don't think giving parents of bullies fines would help the situation. Perhaps mandatory parenting education classes for both parents and child? I also think, if a teacher is taking on more duties whether it be more students or students with diverse needs who need more attention then yes, that extra effort and work should be reflected in their pay.

Teachers should never be made permanent.

Will the dogs be sniffing out the staff room?

What's the market value on bullying?

We need to be serious on bullying.

Pay teachers by the hour.