

SAASSO's Vision

All schools are different, with different needs. Local Governance is your school community - not the education department - making the decisions, in the best interests of your children. Research shows that Local Governance is superior to central bureaucracies, because parents & the local community:

- are more committed to their members than central bureaucracies are to their clients
- understand their problems better than a bureaucracy
- are more flexible and creative than bureaucracies
- are cheaper than bureaucrats, leaving more dollars for actual service delivery.

The OECD stated benefits of Local Governance include:

- increased efficiency
- improved financial control
- reduction of bureaucracy
- increased responsiveness to local communities
- creative management of human resources
- improved potential for innovation
- creation of conditions that improve education quality.

SAASSO is the parent association for public schools in South Australia.

A volunteer organisation, SAASSO has been supporting the role and rights of parents in the education of their children since 1923.

SAASSO is the Governing Council Association for South Australia's public schools.

SAASSO supports and advocates for parent-led Governing Councils in their role as the governing body in SA's public schools.

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**South
Australian
Association of
State
School
Organisations Inc.**



Information for members

SA's parent body; supporting governing councils & public education

Services

Training

SAASSO provides training to Governing Councils to assist them acquit their vital roles in our public schools:

- Introduction to Governance
- School Budget
- OSHC
- Meeting Procedures

Advice

Members can access expert, independent advice on their roles, rights & responsibilities.

Members can access help three ways:

Email info@saasso.asn.au

Submit questions online at saasso.asn.au/services/contact-us

Call our advice line on (08) 8223 2266

Representation

- SAASSO represents parents and Governing Councils to education stakeholders, departments, ministers and parliamentarians.
- SAASSO presents data gathered from members, parents and our public schools.
- SAASSO contributes to state and federal consultation.
- SAASSO contributes to public debate; providing the parent perspective in local and national media and education publications.

Resources

Website

SAASSO's website at www.saasso.asn.au provides members a wealth of resources:

- governance templates and resources
- news alerts
- policy
- media
- fact sheets
- advocacy

The site provides information on a range of topics, including:

- aboriginal education
- amalgamations
- children's wellbeing
- early years
- SACE
- special needs education

School Post

Published each term, School Post is the magazine for public school parents and Governing Councils.

Education Update

SAASSO's *Education Update* is our media monitoring service. The e-update gives members an uncensored, unabashed wrap-up of the weeks education news; from local and national media and education publications.

Bulletin

SAASSO emails its regular bulletin to members. The bulletin delivers the latest education research, events and surveys to parents and Governing Councillors.

Advocacy

SAASSO advocates for public school parents and Governing Councils.

Identified through research, the state council, delegations from schools and individual parents, SAASSO raises issues and proposes solutions to the state and federal governments.

In recent years, SAASSO has advocated for:

- year 7 transition to high school
- two years of preschool
- greater focus on girl's education issues
- phonics checks
- increased funding for school breakfast programs
- enhanced protection for special needs transportation
- increased support for special needs NAPLAN
- protection of the legal rights of Governing Councils

SAASSO Surveys

SAASSO conducts regular online parents surveys - collecting the opinions & perspectives of public school parents and staff on a variety of education and child wellbeing topics.

The immediacy of online surveying enables SAASSO to capture parent / educator feedback as issues occur; facilitating genuine community input into decision-making.

Education Ombudsman

Since 2010, SAASSO has called for an Education Ombudsman - an independent authority, to scrutinise the education department and empowered to investigate and intervene in complaints of improper conduct.

'Around two thirds of OECD countries have an ombudsman or agency to receive complaints about public schools.'