



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

Information for members

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.

www.saasso.asn.au

info@saasso.asn.au

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SAASSO's Vision

All schools are different, with different needs. Governing Councils are your school communities - not the government - deciding what is best for your schools. Research shows that Governing Councils are superior to central bureaucracies, because parents & the local community:

- are more committed to your children than government bureaucracies
- 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 states benefits of Governing Councils 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.

Services

Training

SAASSO provides [training](#) to Governing Councils to assist them do their vital job in our public schools:

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

Advice

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

Email info@saasso.asn.au

Call the SAASSO advice line on (08) 8223 2266

Representation

- SAASSO [represents parents and Governing Councils](#) with the education department, ministers and stakeholders.
- SAASSO presents data gathered from members, parents and our public schools.
- SAASSO contributes to state and federal consultation.
- SAASSO contributes to public discussion; 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:

- Governing Council templates, articles and information
- education policy
- media
- fact sheets
- advocacy

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

- OSHC
- Parent's rights
- children's wellbeing
- early years
- SACE
- special needs education

School Post

Published each term, [School Post](#) is the magazine for SA's 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.

Bulletins

SAASSO emails bulletins to members and stakeholders. Bulletins deliver the latest education research, events and surveys to parents and Governing Councillors.

SAASSO Surveys

SAASSO conducts regular [online 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.

Advocacy

SAASSO advocates for public school parents and Governing Councils.

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

In recent years, SAASSO's advocacy work has included:

- Representing parents on the Early Childhood Education & Care Covid Stakeholder group - dealing with Covid
- Working with the department on the Parent Engagement in Learning Strategy
- Reporting to the Australian Senate on the proposed [Child Indoctrination Bill](#)
- Preparing the [Harmful Sexual Behaviours Report](#) for the education department
- Protecting the legal rights of Governing Councils
- Lobbying for [free sanitary products](#) for girls in SA's public schools. The results of SAASSO's survey on the issue was [presented in parliament](#) in support of a bill, which provides for free tampons.

"We would like to thank you again for SAASSO's involvement in the development of the strategy. Hearing about your experiences and understanding your needs has ensured that the strategy reflects, and is helpful for, the diverse range of people – parents, leaders, teachers and others – who contribute to parent engagement across our system every day."