



schoolpost

Term 4, 2012



Inside



NAPLAN



Children's Vision



Changes to
School Intake

Your Association



SAASSO's Role

SAASSO is the peak parent body for education in South Australia.

SAASSO supports the role and right of parent involvement in the education of their children in South Australia's public schools.

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 public schools.

The foundation of Local Governance is that the local community – parents, teachers, principals and members of the local community are best equipped to determine the needs of their children and the therefore the policies and strategic direction of their local school.

SAASSO's Vision

All schools are different and so have different needs. Local Governance is your school community - not the education department - making the decisions at your local school, in the best interests of your children. Research shows that Local Governance is superior to central bureaucracies, because parents and 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 large bureaucracies
- Are cheaper than bureaucrats, leaving more dollars for actual service delivery.

The OECD states that the 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's Mission

While our Education Act theoretically bestows Governing Councils with the authority, autonomy and resources to plan, staff and operate their schools - in practice, Governing Councils have limited and declining scope to make decisions to impact on the school; "The Governing Council is more a policy taker, than policy maker".

Academics have described principals and Governing Councils as being "caught in a power struggle with education departments". As such, our school system remains highly centralised, with bureaucratic resistance limiting the development of true self-governing schools.

Local Governance is a "Global phenomenon, liberating schools from bureaucratic shackles". We must - finally - achieve true Local Governance if we are to give our children the quality of education they will need in the 21st century.

SAASSO's Services

SAASSO provides a range of invaluable services to its members:

- Training – at your school in all areas of Local Governance
- Bulletins – SAASSO's weekly update of all the latest education news
- www.saasso.asn.au – your interactive repository for all things Governance
- School Post – the quarterly magazine for parents and Governing Councillors

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- Advice & advocacy – 8223 2266 – for all your governance questions
- Representation – SAASSO represents you on education boards and committees – ensuring the parent voice is always heard. ■