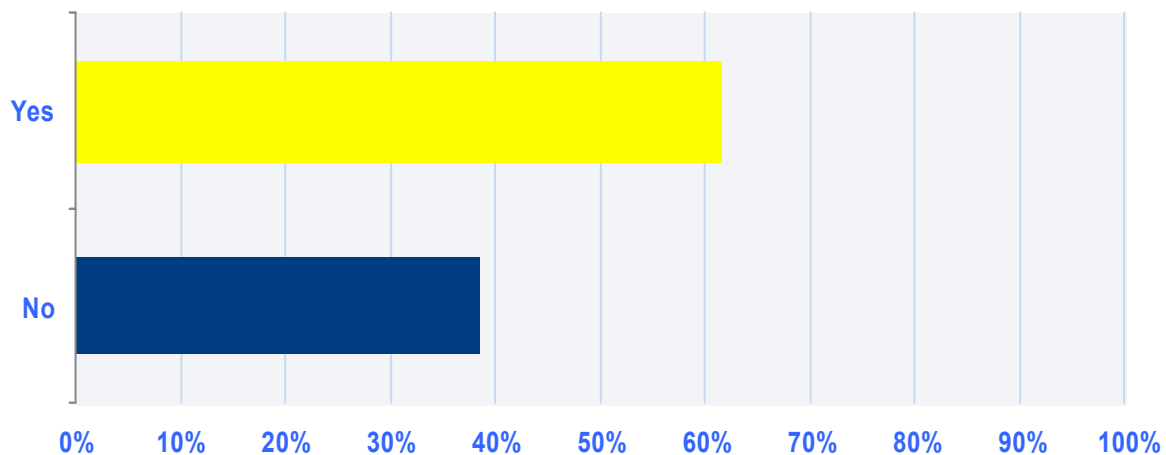




Should South Australia Have More All-Girl Public Schools?



South Australia has only two public, all-girl schools.

New research shows that single-sex schools can be of enormous benefit to girls - academically, in terms of confidence, body image & participation in science, maths, technology & sport.

SAASSO asked parents & educators if SA should offer more all girl schools to public students.

- 61.45% of respondents want more all-girl public schools in South Australia.
- Only 5.40% of respondents had access to an all-girl school in their area.
- 52.34% of respondents stated they would enrol their daughter in an all-girl school, if there was one in their area.

Nearly half of all respondents want the new city high school (on the old RAH site) to be an all-girl school.

- 70.33% of women want more all-girl schools, compared with 44.75% of men.
- Women are twice as likely to want to send their daughter to an all-girl school.

82.88% of school staff want more all-girl schools, compared with 54.69% of non-school staff.

Parents of daughters are more than twice as likely to want more all-girl schools (78.19% vs. 36.99%).

Nearly 70% of school staff want the new city high school designated an all-girl school.

- Men were four times as likely to list less bullying as a benefit of all-girl schools.
- Men were nearly five times as likely to list safety as a benefit.
- Nearly 60% of women listed enhanced confidence as a benefit, compared with 38% of men.
- Two thirds of women said all-girl schools reduce harmful stereo-typing, compared with half of men.
- 82.13% of women & 65.07% of men believe all-girl schools result in greater sports participation.

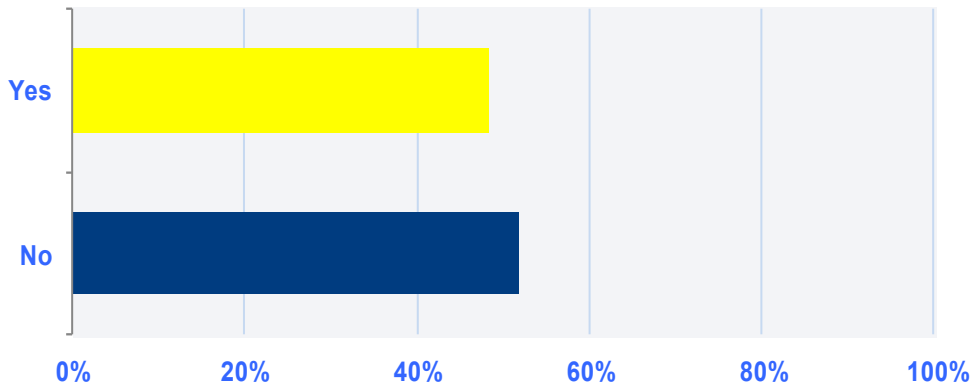
All principals surveyed voted for more all-girl public schools - with 82.98% saying the new city high school should be all-girl.

Women voted for three times as many benefits of all-girl schools, as men. Principals voted for the greatest range of benefits.

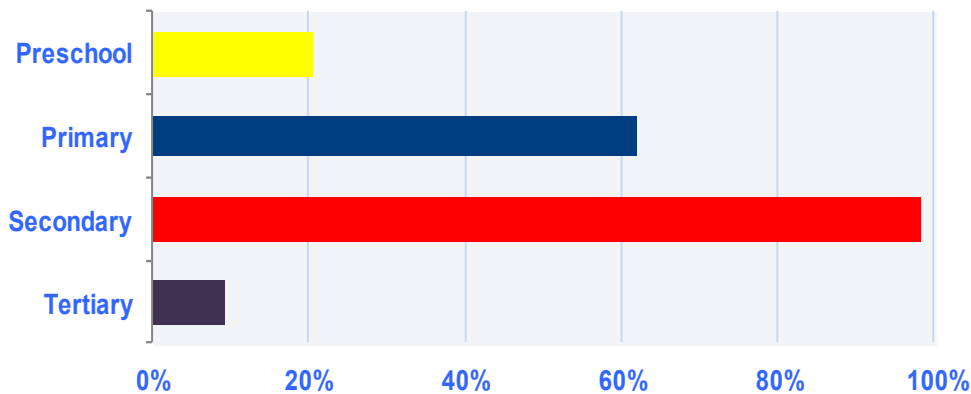
“I teach in a co-ed school and that is why my daughters are in an all-girl school.”



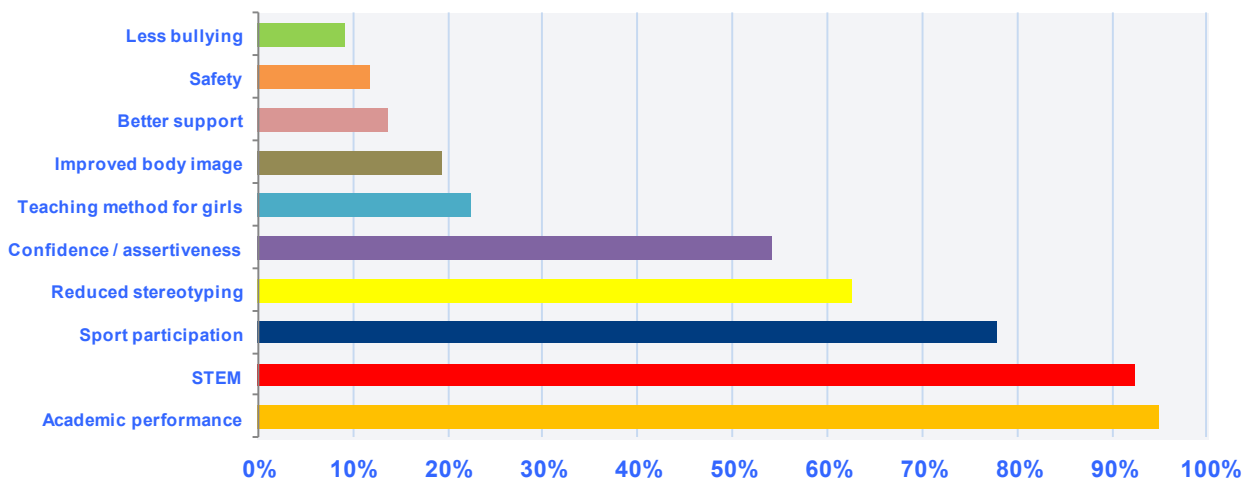
Should the new city high school be an all-girl school?



For what level of schooling should there be an all-girl option?



What benefits do all-girl schools provide girls?



Selected Comments



I am an Aboriginal Cultural Consultant and all my children have left however; if there was an opportunity for my daughter to attend an all girl secondary site then she would have enrolled there.

After ten years of working in a coed school, if I had daughters I'd home school them before placing them in a classroom with boys.

If parents disciplined their sons this wouldn't be needed.

How are boys going to learn to interact appropriately with girls if they never see them?

Then where do the transgender kids go?

Boys and girls develop at different rates. Anyone who has spent ten minutes in a school knows that. An 8 year old boy and girl are different ages and should not be in the same class.

I believe in providing education in an environment which promotes being respectful of all diversity within society (including gender). Promoting in our children (male or female) life skills including respect and understanding of differences. All-girl schools can be hugely detrimental due to the high risk of bullying due to lack of tolerance of individuality (as I experienced) - it is not a natural environment.

Adelaide high is nothing but an election stunt. Will Jay ever learn there are South Australians outside of the city square?

I teach in a co-ed school and that is why my daughters are in an all-girl school.

We need single sex primary schools. By the time they are in high school all the damage to their identity has been done.

My daughter attends Mitcham. Best decision we ever made. She has thrived since leaving the coed system.

I wish there had been a girls school within 50kms of us! Over three years of abuse of our daughter (and many others) we have begged every level of DECD for help and gotten nothing but excuses as reply. It has taken a terrible toll on my daughter who was a bright happy girl until she walked into that nightmare. I look forward to the day we can have an inquiry of education ministers. We wrote to two and never heard a word back from either!

Excellent interview by Knuckey. Thanks SAASSO. Susan Close hasn't sought advice from me (principal) or anyone at my school.

Just pay teachers more!

We need to start being honest about sexism in Australia. It starts in the classroom.

How about teaching the teachers how to teach!

Keeping all the boys out won't fix everything wrong in my school.

In the interview the education department says no to all girl schools while the education minister says she is looking into it. Who is telling the truth?

We should focus on teaching boys to respect girls.

there are males & females in society so why separate them at school. this will impair their social skills by limiting interactions on a daily basis

I've taught in coed and single sex schools and there is absolutely no doubt that girls are happier, safer, better developed psychologically and better students without boys around.

I had the benefit of an all girls education, and realise what a distraction boys would have been during the hormonal teens!

I did send my daughter to a private school for girls and I believe it was the best choice for her as she was able to focus on the school work and it supported her development into a strong minded, assertive and positive young woman.

I would love this opportunity where we are but would never happen as we are in a remote area. I have major problems with staffing at our current school and there is no answer. When is a teacher answerable when not performing why is it to the disadvantage of our kids and no action taken on performance of teachers.

I also believe there would be a benefit for all boys schools as well.

We spend too much time in school keeping kids safe. We have little time left for teaching. Single sex schools would make it much easier.

How many inquiries will it take before this government takes drastic action?

Bullying is out of control and the government isn't doing anything. Separating the students is worth a try.

Why don't we keep them at home in bubble wrap until they are 30

There are plenty of single sex options for parents. Public education should be for the mainstream.

I'm from the northern suburbs and our schools are jungles. My daughter hates going to school and comes home crying every week. Jay will never build an all girl school here

Don't know about academic but girls would be safer and happier in single sex schools. Raising a daughter is about more than grades!

I'm scared to send my daughter to our local school. The horror stories we hear are unbelievable. We complain to the principal but nothing is done. Too much violence and bullying!

Thanks SAASSO! The emotional pressure on girls today is extreme. Weatherill just wants to close as many schools as he can and forget about state school kids. The only reason all our public schools are coed is that it's cheaper.

What next, dress them all in androgynous uniforms?

Girls are becoming sexualised far too young. They need to be educated in an environment where they are safe from gender pressures.

There may be academic benefits to all girl education but they live and will have to compete in a coed world. Spent 12 years without boys sets up an unrealistic view of the world they will live in.

Would love to separate the girls from the boys several times a day. Behaviours and attitudes, primarily from the home environment, typically don't respect women or girls.