

Showcase

Berserker Street State School

Starting Strong (Early Years to Year 2)

At Berserker Street State School, investing in strong starts and calm transitions has been a great success. Previously, managing student behaviour and its impact on culture was one of the biggest challenges at the school. In 2023, School Disciplinary Absences (SDAs) were high and behaviour incidents negatively affected the learning environment. Staff morale, measured by the School Opinion Survey, had dropped to 50%. Since then, the school has focused on supporting all students in 'strong starts and calm transitions' throughout the school day to create a safe and positive culture for learning.

Central
Queensland



309
students



Prep to Year 6



Action

Some of the actions that led Berserker Street State School to be showcased in this category:

- The community, including Darumbal Elders, helped to develop the Better Brighter Berserker Plan.
- The school reviewed the role of support staff. Their new responsibilities changed to meet student needs and to support emotional regulation.
- School leaders shaped the physical environment. They created active and quiet spaces for students to use during eating and play time.
- The 'morning muster' helps students start the day. Students are involved in activities including First Nations games and a breakfast program.
- All staff use the same five-finger scale to check how students are feeling and how ready they are to learn.
- Teachers greet every student with a positive welcome, like praise or a high five.
- Staff debrief students at the end of every play time to discuss any issues and review expectations.
- Teachers release students in groups to ensure a calm transition to eating time.
- Staff use positive universal language across the school. This reinforces expectations and routines to maintain calm classrooms and a calm school.

Impact



Improved behaviour

An 85% decrease in SDAs from 2022 to 2024



Improved staff wellbeing

A 67% increase in staff morale from 2023 to 2024



Improved English achievement in Prep to Year 2

An 85% increase in As and Bs from 2023 to 2024



Improved mathematics achievement in Prep to Year 2

A 56% increase in As and Bs from 2023 to 2024

Effectiveness

Research into highly effective schools supports Berserker Street State School's actions.

Highly effective schools:

- involve everyone in the school in planning for school improvement
- identify specific roles and responsibilities for staff to improve student engagement
- assign resources to ensure the physical environment helps students learn
- partner with community organisations to improve opportunities for students
- promote positive communication across the school and value student voices.

Teachers and leaders in highly effective schools:

- make student wellbeing their priority and build trusting relationships with students
- check students are ready to learn
- encourage student belonging
- adopt school-wide strategies to establish an orderly learning environment.



'Our goal is to ensure everyone is having a better and brighter day, every day.'

Mr Ryan Gilmour, Principal