

Showcase

Patricks Road State School

Building on Foundations (Years 3 to 6)

Professional collaboration within the vibrant learning community at Patricks Road State School has driven significant improvements in student outcomes. In 2022, the school experienced a decline in student achievement in English. Leaders identified teaching and moderation practices were not consistent across the school. In response, they implemented a whole-school approach to literacy, aligned with the Australian Curriculum. This approach focused on evidence-based teaching, developing staff capability and consistent moderation practices, to ensure every student had an equal opportunity to succeed.

Metropolitan
North



771
students



Prep to Year 6



Action

Some of the actions that led Patricks Road State School to be showcased in this category:

- Leaders analysed data, reviewed evidence-based research on teaching reading and consulted with Prep teachers.
- Leaders introduced an evidence-informed approach to teaching of reading through the Australian Curriculum, with a focus on systematic synthetic phonics (SSP) in Prep.
- Leaders and teachers collaboratively developed phonics kits, PowerPoints and other resources.
- The school established a systematic professional development program, including practical training and coaching.
- The Head of Curriculum and Speech Therapist modelled lessons to demonstrate best practices, followed by staff feedback and discussion.
- Leaders conducted regular walkthroughs, while coaches, including teachers and leaders, supported each year level.
- The school introduced consistent teaching routines for all students, focusing on grapheme and phoneme reviews and phonemic awareness practice. These routines emphasised reviewing, teaching, practising and applying skills.
- The leadership team promoted teaching focused on A-level of achievement for English.
- Leaders prioritised time for teachers to moderate and collaboratively plan.
- The school's reading team is part of a Collaborative Learning Community, which shares podcasts and newsletters fortnightly. These resources include tips for families to support their children in reading.

Impact

Improved English achievement in Years 3 to 6



A 21% increase in As and Bs from 2022 to 2024

An 89% increase in As and Bs from 2022 to 2024 for students with disability

Effective teaching strategies



All teachers apply evidence-informed instructional routines for phonics, boosting student engagement and achievement

Enhanced professional support



A 10% increase in staff finding the feedback on their work useful, from 2023 to 2024

Effectiveness

Research into highly effective schools supports Patricks Road State School's actions.

Highly effective schools:

- prioritise literacy
- communicate high expectations of students
- promote expectations for the use of effective, evidence-based pedagogy
- resource evidence-informed strategies
- align staff learning with school priorities.

Teachers and leaders in highly effective schools:

- stay up-to-date with pedagogical research
- lead and participate in school-based professional learning
- plan curriculum collaboratively
- observe teaching regularly and give ongoing pedagogical feedback
- discuss teaching with colleagues
- use explicit instruction
- draw on evidence to improve teaching.



'We spent time with the teachers on professional development. We gave them the evidence-base so that it's not just us; this is what the research is telling us works.'

Ms Kerri McGrath, Principal