



## Policy Statement

# *Educational Accountability*

## We are Accountable

**Independent schools in South Australia are accountable:**

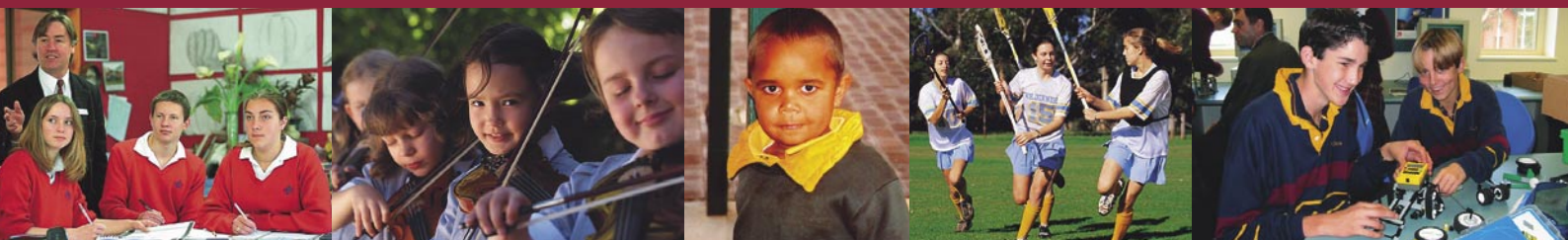
- ▶ to their students in providing quality teaching and a safe school environment
- ▶ to their parents (clients) for student and school performance
- ▶ to the Commonwealth government and its agencies for the use of public funds
- ▶ to the State government for the use of public funds provided via the State grant
- ▶ to school system authorities where schools are members of a system
- ▶ to the Non-Government Schools Registration Board in meeting school registration requirements, in particular, safety and welfare of students, curriculum and financial viability

Association of  
Independent Schools  
of South Australia

301 Unley Road  
Malvern SA 5061

Phone (08) 8179 1400  
Fax (08) 8373 1116  
office@ais.sa.edu.au  
www.ais.sa.edu.au

(This policy statement relates specifically to accountability associated with educational programs.)



## Principles Underpinning Educational Accountability

*A best practice approach to educational accountability should:*

- ▶ recognise the diversity of purposes of school education
- ▶ recognise the autonomy of independent schools and systems within the sector in identifying the point of accountability
- ▶ provide schools with information to use as tools of evaluation and self improvement
- ▶ empower schools to achieve improvements in the quality of teaching and learning through critical self reflection
- ▶ equip staff to evaluate the quality of learning in their classrooms so that they do not have to rely solely on external evaluation as a facilitator of change
- ▶ provide teaching and assessment procedures that are inclusive of all targeted groups of students
- ▶ enhance educational standards not standardisation
- ▶ enhance creativity and innovation among school communities
- ▶ inform stakeholders about the effective use of public funds
- ▶ use measures that are valid indicators of the performance of a school and/or students and have been developed specifically to measure the accountability requirements for the relevant stakeholder
- ▶ be based on valid measures of educational outcomes that can be understood by students, staff, parents and the wider community
- ▶ accommodate diverse school communities and changing community needs
- ▶ encourage diversity in curriculum and educational options for young people
- ▶ accommodate systemic and non-systemic schools in relation to administrative requirements
- ▶ be adequately funded by governments to meet the administration of external assessment and reporting requirements
- ▶ measure outcomes over which schools have significant responsibility
- ▶ provide data for use by each school rather than for the comparison of schools and sectors and the generation of public league tables
- ▶ provide data to governments that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of educational programs.

*This statement provides a set of principles that can be used to evaluate policy directions in educational accountability and to assist AISSA in making representations to governments on educational accountability.*

