Interstate Student Data Transfer Note

Do schools need to comply?

Yes.

Conditions of compliance

The Interstate Student Data Transfer Note (ISDTN) and Protocol is a joint initiative between the Australian Government, State and Territory Education Departments, and the Independent and Catholic education sectors.

If you have to comply, what do you have to do?

All education authorities have agreed to implement a national system for the transfer of student information between schools when children move from one state to another. The system is intended to enhance the ability of the new school to place and support the student in a timely manner and with the assistance of accurate information from their previous school. The national system is based on using a common "Interstate Student Data Transfer Note" and set of protocols.

When a student from another state enrols or applies for enrolment, the new school will follow a process to request the transfer of information from the student's previous school. This is done through the use of the ISDTN which requests information from three broad areas:

- school information;
- student progress and support needs; and
- student behaviour and management issues.

What are the consequences if you don’t comply?

Not providing information about the enrolment of a student to their former school may not be in the child’s best interest, particularly for students under the compulsory schooling age.

A school releasing information about a student without the permission of a parent or guardian may be exposing itself to risk of legal action by the parent or the student, on the basis of a breach of the express or implied terms of the enrolment contract or a breach of a duty to keep confidential the information that has been provided by the parents or the student to the school.

A disclosure of information can also constitute a breach of the Privacy Act if it is information to which the Act applies. That can give rise to a complaint to the Privacy Commissioner and potential legal sanctions.

Useful links:

Privacy Compliance Manual September 2013
Interstate Data Transfer Note – SCSEEC Website
Interstate Student Data Transfer Note and Protocol for Non-government Schools