



Association of
Independent Schools
of South Australia

BULLETIN NO 4

9 June 2021

Important Issues

COVID-19 Update – Message from the AISSA Chief Executive, Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns

The AISSA is seeking updated advice from SA Health regarding the management of COVID-19 in South Australian schools. The outbreak in Melbourne is a timely reminder of the importance of continuing to comply with the State Government's published requirements as recorded on the AISSA [website](#).

AISSA Staff News – AISSA Indigenous Secondary Student Mentor

The AISSA has welcomed Ms Sara Singapore to the role of Indigenous Secondary Student Mentor. Sara is a proud Ngarrindjeri woman who most recently worked as an Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer, providing cultural support and liaising with Indigenous students and their families. Sara has made contact with the Independent schools that have previously been part of this program. Schools with Indigenous secondary students who might like to be part of this program in the future are invited to contact Sara by [email](#).

AISSA Leaders' Dinner

The AISSA Leaders' Dinner will be held on Thursday 10 June 2021. The Hon Ms Rachel Sanderson, Minister for Child Protection, will be the guest speaker for the evening. Please contact [Lynn Carter](#) if you have any questions regarding the dinner.

AISSA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Papers for the AGM, which will be held by zoom on Wednesday 16 June, have been forwarded to member schools (email from Carolyn Grantskalns, 24 May 2021). Please RSVP to [Lynn Carter](#) with your completed Proxy Nomination Form, if applicable, by no later than COB Friday 11 June 2021. The hyperlink required to join the meeting will be sent by email to all those who have registered attendance on Tuesday 15 June 2021.

New Thinking: New Possibilities AISSA Educational Leaders STEM Conference 2021 - Friday 6 August 2021, Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg

The 2021 conference brings together educators from the Early Years to Year 12, researchers and industry experts to ignite new thinking and possibilities for the what, the why and the how of STEM rich learning and the opportunities and pathways it provides for a strong and vibrant future. The [conference program](#) includes an opportunity to hear from four visionary Keynote Speakers and engage in professional conversations, workshops and a panel discussion. Tickets are \$380.00 +GST for AISSA Member Schools and can be booked through [EVENTBRITE](#). A booking code has been sent to member schools.

Choice and Affordability Fund (CAF) COVID-19 Direct Grant Program

The acquittal form for grants received under the 2020 COVID-19 Direct Grant Program has been forwarded to member schools with the 2021 application form. The grants are made available under the CAF Priority Area, Special Circumstances, to assist member schools with the increased cleaning costs associated with maintaining a COVID-19 safe environment. All schools, including those which did not apply in 2020, are eligible to apply for the 2021 grant. Acquittal and application forms must be returned no later than COB Friday 18 June to [AISSA grants](#). Please contact [Bronwyn Donaghey](#) if you have any questions regarding the grants.

Universal Access to Early Childhood Education Payments

The AISSA raised its significant concern regarding the delay in the Universal Access payments with the Minister for Education. The Department for Education has now confirmed that the payments will be made this week and acknowledged the delay in payment.

Capital Grants Program

Ms Jane Pike has commenced as Executive Officer of the BGA and will predominately work Tuesday to Thursday. Jane can be contacted by [email](#). For those schools that have been offered an indicative grant for the 2022 Capital Grant funding round, the due date for submission of the *Stage 4 Final Project Documentation and Plans* is Thursday 8 July 2021. Guidelines for preparing the documentation can be located on the [SAIS BGA website](#).

ISA and AHISA National Education Forum

The ISA and AHISA joint National Education Forum will be held at the Hotel Realm, Canberra on Thursday 5 August 2021. This is an important one day forum which will bring together Principals, Board Members and other sector representatives from national and state-based organisations. The forum will feature presentations from education specialists, national political leaders and other thought leaders. Information on registration and program details are available via the ISA [website](#).

2021 Phonics Screening Check for AISSA member schools

The 2021 South Australian Phonics Screening Check has been made available to AISSA member schools, with thanks to the Department for Education and the Hon John Gardner MP, Minister for Education. Member schools may wish to use the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check as part of their school assessment practice. Member schools may access the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check student materials and answer sheet via the [Leading Learning and Teaching menu](#) within the AISSA member website during Term 3 from Monday 30 August. PSC materials (excluding the student materials and answer sheet) can be accessed via the Leading Learning and Teaching menu within the AISSA member website prior to the test window. The 2020 materials remain available on the website should schools wish to familiarise themselves with the Phonics Screening Check in advance of the release of the 2021 materials. The 2021 Phonics Screening Check is not compulsory for AISSA member schools. Member schools may select a Phonics screening tool of choice or access the National Phonics Screening Check via the [Literacy Hub website](#).

PIE Grant Program

Grants have been paid for the 2021 PIE Grant program. Where the grant is less than the requested amount the budget lines as reported in the application may be adjusted to reflect the revised amount. Please contact [Bronwyn Donaghey](#) if you have any questions regarding the program.

School Performance Reporting

As part of the accountability requirements under the *Australian Education Act 2013*, schools are required to report a range of [performance information](#) on their school website by 30 June of each year. The information to be reported includes contextual information about the school, teacher standards and qualifications, workforce composition, student attendance at the school (including the attendance rates for each year of schooling and a description of how non-attendance is managed by the school, student results in NAP annual assessments, parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school, school income broken down by funding source and, for a school that provides secondary education, a range of senior secondary outcomes. The AISSA is seeking clarification regarding the reporting of the attendance data in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please contact [Bronwyn Donaghey](#) if you have any questions regarding this report.

2021 Student Background Data Collection (SBD)

Correspondence has been forwarded by ACARA in relation to the 2021 Student Background Data (SBD) collection. The data will be used to determine a school's Socio-Educational Advantage (SEA) and Disadvantaged Language Background Other Than English (DLBOTE) values for the purposes of school funding. There is now an expectation that all schools will provide their full cohort SBD in line with the regulations. The data is due to be provided by 16 July 2021. Further information is available on the SBD [website](#).

National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP)

It is a requirement that schools advise the AISSA of any changes in personnel funded under the National School Chaplaincy Program. Certification forms for new Chaplains/Religious Pastoral Support Workers are available under Other Programs on the AISSA [school funding page](#).



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Compliance Dates

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| School Card | Term 2 collection date, 11 June Further Information: DfE - External Relations |
| STATS | Reference period closes for the collection of Student Attendance Data 25 June, 2 July (end of Term 2) Further Information: SchoolsHUB |
| STATS | Semester 1 reporting commences 28 June Further Information: SchoolsHUB |
| Financial Questionnaire | Due 30 June Further Information: SchoolsHUB |
| Financial Acquittal | Acquittal certificates to be completed online by qualified accountant for the school or system (DESE) |
| School Performance | Annual Report to be completed 30 June Further Information: DESE - Australian Education Act 2013 |
| State Government Funding Deed | Financial accountability requirements due to be completed 30 June |
| ACNC | Annual Information Statement due 30 June Further Information: |
| Fair Work Commission | Fair Work Commission pay rises take effect from the first pay period on or after 1 July for schools which employ staff under the Modern Awards. |
| Payment Summaries | Payment summaries are required to be issued to employees no later than 14 July. |
| Workplace Gender Equality Act | Workforce reports due (for applicable schools), 14 July Further Information: Workplace Gender Equality Agency - Reporting |
| STATS | Reference period commences for the collection of Student Attendance Data 19 July (commencement of Term 3) Further Information: SchoolsHUB |
| Superannuation | Quarterly Payment due 28 July Further Information: ATO-Superannuation |

A full list of 2021 Compliance dates is available on the AISSA website www.ais.sa.edu.au. Not all compliance dates may be applicable to all schools. Schools are advised to check with the relevant authorities if they are unsure.

Authorised by Carolyn Grantskalns
AISSA Chief Executive