



Association of
Independent Schools
of South Australia

BULLETIN NO 6

1 September 2021

Important Issues

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

Eighteen months into the pandemic the considerable impact on the welfare of staff and students across all school sectors is increasingly apparent. I am constantly impressed by the dedication that Independent schools continue to demonstrate in supporting school staff, students and families, putting in place best practice measures which enable a range of critical school activities, including competitive sport and school performances, to take place in a COVID safe manner and in managing the disappointment and frustration of students and the wider school community with regard to some of the continued restrictions. While some restrictions for schools in comparison to other community organisations may seem to be inconsistent, it is important to note that SA Health has made its assessment based on the unique circumstances of schools. All health authorities are keen to avoid any potential for a super spreader event should someone in a school catch COVID-19.

COVID-19 – Continued Measures

While a range of activities can currently occur in schools, a number of restrictions remain in place. These include:

- all interstate camps and travel must be postponed
 - staff and students in Years 8 and above should continue to wear masks
 - schools should continue to limit the number of parents on site, and when on site they must wear a face mask and practice physical distancing
 - where possible, parent teacher interviews should be held online
 - all adults (including staff) should COVID-SAFE check in each time they enter the site.
- All COVID-19 updates for school leaders are available on the AISSA [website](#) (restricted access).

2021 Governance Conference: What Boards Need to Know About Wellbeing - Saturday 16 October 9am – 3.15pm, Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg

[Registrations are now open](#) for the 2021 Conference which will focus on the critical role of school Boards in providing a framework for wellbeing in their schools. Leading thinkers in the field will present at the conference including Dr Helen Street, Honorary Research Fellow, Graduate School of Education, University of Western Australia, David Runge, Director, Future Schools, and Andrew Brown, Director, Adaptive Cultures. Key themes to be explored on the day include how Board culture impacts the health and wellbeing of the school community and how school Boards can support school and community-wide approaches to wellbeing. Please contact [Mary Hudson](#) if you require further information.

Cyber Risks and Rewards: The Challenges and Opportunities for Education - Friday 17 September 2021, Flinders University

This half day conference has been arranged to address an area of increasing concern for schools. Key experts will provide the fundamental information and understanding needed to actively engage with the rapidly evolving dimension of cyber risk and reward in schools, in both institutional security and student wellbeing. Registration is via the AISSA [website](#).

2023 Term and Exeat Dates

The AISSA is currently collating the proposed Term and Exeat dates for 2023 for publication on the For Parents section of the AISSA website. If you have not already done so, it would be appreciated if the information could be provided to [Alison Hollis](#) via the table provided (email from Lynn Carter, Wednesday 25 August).

Child Safe Environments Compliance Statement

Organisations providing services to children and young people must have child safe environments policy(ies) in place and, at a minimum, review their policy(ies) once every five years and also lodge a new statement each time policy(ies) are reviewed and updated. Details on how to lodge your School's statement as well as a useful Compliance Statement Lodgement Checklist are available on the [DHS website](#). Guidance is also available on the AISSA website.

Adobe Licensing

Since January 2015, the AISSA has been a part of an Adobe Enterprise Term License Agreement (ETLA). This agreement expires on 26 November 2021. At the cessation of the agreement all participating AISSA member schools have been invited to enter into an individual 'Value Incentive Program' (VIP) which is an alternative licensing agreement with pricing and increased flexibility more suitable for schools moving forward. Adobe will communicate directly with participating schools about the migration process from the ETLA to the VIP which must occur before 19 November 2021. VIP Agreements do not require engagement with a specific reseller. Schools which have not previously pursued Adobe Licensing but would like to enquire are recommended to contact one of [Adobe's authorised resellers](#). While the AISSA is unable to recommend specific resellers, schools looking for companies with offices in Adelaide, may wish to consider [Data #3 Limited](#), [Computers Now Pty Ltd](#), and [NTT Australia Pty Ltd](#). For further information, please contact [Glen Shipley](#) or [Hollee Graham](#).

Responding to the Risk of Harm, Abuse and Neglect – Education and Care Training (RRHAN-EC)

The new Mandatory Reporting training is available on the Department for Education's Plink site – login [here](#). Schools are asked to ensure all staff complete the relevant training before 31 December 2021. Scheduling meeting time with the staff to discuss the training and any concerns/questions may help build a shared understanding of the school's child protection obligations. All volunteers should complete the online Fundamentals course and each school should keep a record of their training. Further details are available on the [AISSA](#) and the [Department for Education](#) websites. For technical issues regarding accessing the training online please contact [Sonia Harrison](#) and for all other enquiries please contact [Mary Pickett](#).

2021 Phonics Screening Check for AISSA member schools

The 2021 South Australian Phonics Screening Check has been made available to AISSA member schools wishing to use the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check as part of their school assessment practice. The Phonics Screening Check student materials and answer sheet can be accessed via the [Leading Learning and Teaching menu](#) within the AISSA member website during Term 3. PSC materials (excluding the student materials and answer sheet) can be accessed via this link prior to the test window. 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](#).

Reporting Student Attendance during the COVID-19 Pandemic (2021)

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the advice that was formulated and provided in 2020, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) reviewed its [National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting](#). The Standards document governs the student attendance collection for the 2020 school year and beyond. The changes to the Standard have been reflected in the Department's communications to schools. Further information, including a Frequently Asked Questions factsheet on reporting the data during the pandemic, is available on the [Student Attendance section](#) of the SchoolsHub [website](#).

Keeping our Kids Safe: Cultural Safety and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisation (2021)

This [guidance resource](#) provides advice on helping organisations be culturally safe as well as child safe for Indigenous children and has been written for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous organisations working with Indigenous children. [The National Office for Child Safety](#) worked in partnership with the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) and the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) to produce the Guide and an animated video (available [here](#)) which provides practical advice and highlights cultural considerations that will help organisations to make sure their spaces are culturally safe, and their programs and activities are free from racism and discrimination.



Association of
Independent Schools
of South Australia

Compliance Dates

STATS	Commencement date for providing Term 3 Student Attendance Data on SchoolsHUB, 20 September Further Information: SchoolsHUB
Compliance Certificate	Due 24 September Further Information: SchoolsHUB
STATS	Reference period closes for Term 3 data collection, 24 September Further Information: SchoolsHUB
STATS	Final date for reporting Term 3 data, 15 October Further Information: SchoolsHUB
School Card	Term 4 data collection due 18 October Further Information: DfE - External Relations
Superannuation	Quarterly payment due 28 October Further Information: ATO-Superannuation
Australian Taxation Office	Payments to and amounts withheld from businesses that did not quote their ABN report due 31 October Further Information: ATO Annual Reporting
Australian Taxation Office	Information about payments you made and amounts withheld from an investment where a payee did not quote their TFN (or in some cases, their ABN) due 31 October Further Information: ATO Annual Reporting
Term 4 Preschool Data Collection	Due 12 November (census reference period 18-29 October 2021)

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