



# CHANGES MADE BY THE 2020 NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL REGISTRATION STANDARDS

The table below outlines the changes made by the Minister to the registration standards for non-government schools in Western Australia, with effect from 1 January 2020.

| 2020 standard                          | Amendment   |
|--|---|
|  | The previous Number of children per year level standard (Standard 7 in 2018) has been removed and the Premises and Facilities standards (Standards 5 and 6 in 2018) have been combined. This has resulted in a change to the numbering of several standards.  |
| 1. Curriculum                          | No change   |
| 2. Staff to student ratios             | No change   |
| 3. Days and hours of instruction       | New Standard 3.4: days and hours of instruction for Years 11 and 12. Senior secondary years are frequently fore-shortened. Schools are now required to satisfy the time requirements of the qualification they are offering (usually the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)).   |
| 4. Staff                               | The code of conduct requirement has been moved to Standard 10.  |
| 5. Premises and Facilities             | No change other than to combine these.  |
| 6. Enrolment and attendance procedures | Specific reference to the prohibition of discrimination has been removed as this is only one of the applicable legal requirements.  |
| 7. Critical and emergency incidents    | Clarifies a distinction between all foreseeable critical incidents for which a school must have risk-mitigation procedures and protocols in place and the subset of "reportable incidents" of which the Director General must be informed.<br><br>The new list of reportable incidents is closely aligned with the incidents which are reportable under the <i>Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012</i> familiar to the increasing number of schools which also provide a long day care service. |
| 8. Boarding                            | Now requires consultation with boarders on a list of matters.<br><br>This reflects the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations Principle 2: "Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously."  |

| 2020 standard                                | Amendment   |
|--|---|
| 9. Complaints                                | <p>Standard 9.1 now requires schools to implement relevant aspects of the Child Safe Organisation Principles 6 and 9. The National Principles are now the appropriate reference point for schools developing a child-friendly complaint handling system.</p> <p>New Standard 9.3 requires schools to provide all parents and students with information about the role of the Director General, Department of Education, in respect of complaints.</p>   |
| 10. Preventing and responding to child abuse | <p>The child abuse prevention standard is significantly changed, with a focus on implementation of the National Child Safe Organisation Principles. Note that the school's Code of Conduct must in future apply at least to governing body members, practicum students and volunteers as well as all staff (Standard 10.4). Most of these people must also undertake professional learning in child abuse prevention related law, policies and procedures as listed in Standard 10.5.</p> <p>Schools are required to cooperate in the Multi-Agency Protocol for Education Options for Young People Charged with Harmful Sexual Behaviours. Given the sensitive nature of the Protocol it is not publicly available, but is provided to a school Principal if a student to whom the MAP applies is enrolled at the school.</p> |
| 11. Financial resources                      | No change   |
| 12. Management of students' behaviour        | In 2020 the prohibition of corporal and degrading punishment can be published in any appropriate document whereas the 2018 standards required this to be in the Staff Code of Conduct.  |
| 13. Minimum age of enrolment                 | No change   |
| 14. Delivery of the curriculum               | <p>The changes aim to provide schools with clearer guidance as to who may be enrolled in online-only learning.</p> <p>The standard has been amended to require evidence of illness or disability making mainstream attendance impossible (diagnosis).</p> <p>The definition of another criterion – geographically isolated – has also been amended to make clear that being geographically isolated from a school able to meet the student's educational needs refers to the student being unable to attend a reasonably accessible mainstream school offering his or her year level, required educational support programme or required educational extension programme.</p>   |
| 15. Numbers of children enrolled             | No change   |