



EDUCATION POLICY



WHAT WE BELIEVE

Every child in New South Wales deserves a quality education, no matter their postcode.

But right now, country families are paying the price for years of neglect, bureaucracy, and Sydney-first policymaking.

Regional schools are struggling with chronic teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms, collapsing infrastructure, poor internet access, shrinking subject choices, and falling literacy and numeracy standards.

Parents are watching opportunities disappear while governments obsess over bureaucracy, political agendas, and administrative expansion instead of classroom outcomes.

Too many students are leaving school without the basic skills they need to succeed in life.

Too many teachers are drowning in paperwork instead of teaching.

Too many regional communities are being forced to fight for the bare minimum while billions are wasted on city-centric projects and education bureaucracy.

We believe education should focus on what matters:

- Strong literacy and numeracy
- Practical skills
- Critical thinking
- Personal responsibility
- Respect for teachers
- Real pathways into trades, agriculture, manufacturing, defence industries, and regional jobs



We reject the idea that every student must follow the same university-focused pathway designed by inner-city policymakers disconnected from regional Australia.

We believe schools should prepare young Australians for real life, not political activism, ideological fads, or endless bureaucracy.

We believe that parents and guardians should be able to choose faith based and independent education for their children and that providers should be supported and acknowledged.

We believe parents should be respected in what ideologies or agendas they don't want their kids exposed to, teachers should be supported, and local communities should have a real say in how schools operate.

And we believe country kids deserve the same opportunities as anyone else without having to leave their communities behind to get it.

Because when regional education is neglected, regional Australia suffers.



OUR ACTION PLAN

Fix the Regional Teacher Shortage

- Introduce a Rural Service Package for teachers working in regional and remote communities, including:
 - Increased rental subsidies and housing assistance
 - Increased relocation grants
 - Retention bonuses tied to years of service
 - HECS relief for teachers who commit long-term to country schools
- Create a fast-track pathway for qualified tradespeople, agricultural professionals, ex-defence personnel, and industry experts to transition into teaching.
- Expand regional teacher scholarships bonded to service in rural NSW schools.
- Prioritise local recruitment to encourage country students to stay or return and teach in their own communities.

Restore Discipline and Classroom Standards

- Reinstate clear behaviour and suspension policies to protect teachers and students from chronic disruption and violence.
- Remove excessive administrative workload so teachers spend more time teaching and less time completing compliance paperwork.
- Introduce mandatory literacy and numeracy benchmarks at key stages of schooling, with immediate intervention for students falling behind.
- Require underperforming schools to implement publicly accountable improvement plans with measurable targets.

Put Funding Back into Classrooms

- Conduct a line-by-line audit of NSW Department of Education bureaucracy and redirect wasteful administrative spending into frontline



OUR ACTION PLAN - Continued

teaching and school infrastructure.

- Cap growth in senior executive and consultancy spending inside the Department of Education.
- Guarantee a minimum regional infrastructure funding allocation each budget cycle to stop country schools being pushed to the back of the queue.
- Establish a transparent public reporting system showing infrastructure backlogs and maintenance delays school-by-school.

Rebuild Regional School Infrastructure

- Launch a Regional Schools Renewal Program focused on:
 - Classroom upgrades
 - Science labs
 - Trade workshops
 - Agricultural training facilities
 - Sporting infrastructure
 - Reliable internet and digital connectivity
- Prioritise schools with longstanding maintenance backlogs and overcrowding pressures.
- Upgrade school bus networks and transport access for isolated students.

Rebuild TAFE and Vocational Education

- Reverse funding cuts to regional TAFE campuses.
- Expand apprenticeships, traineeships, and school-based vocational pathways linked directly to regional industries.
- Create partnerships between schools, TAFE, farming organisations, manufacturers, mining companies, and local employers to deliver job-ready training.
- Expand mobile and satellite training services for smaller regional



OUR ACTION PLAN - Continued

communities.

Strengthen Agricultural and Industry Education

- Expand Stage 5 and 6 Agriculture courses across regional NSW.
- Invest in practical agricultural training facilities including school farms, machinery access, and primary industry programs.
- Increase support for trade subjects, engineering, mechanics, manufacturing, and resource-sector skills training.
- Develop targeted pathways into farming, food production, energy, manufacturing, defence industries, and regional infrastructure projects.

Return Power to Local Communities

- Replace top-down education management with stronger local school autonomy.
- Establish Regional Education Advisory Boards made up of parents, teachers, principals, and community representatives to advise on local priorities.
- Require the Department of Education to consult regional communities before major school restructures, closures, or curriculum changes.
- Give principals greater authority over staffing decisions and school operations.

Hold the Department of Education Accountable

- Establish an independent external integrity body to replace the failed Professional Ethical Standards unit which has been weaponised.
- Introduce annual public reporting on teacher vacancy rates, school maintenance backlogs, literacy outcomes, and student attendance.



OUR ACTION PLAN - Continued

Keep Politics Out of the Classroom

- Refocus the curriculum on core academic skills, Australian civics, science, mathematics, history, and practical education.
- Guarantee parents access to curriculum materials and greater transparency around classroom content.
- Create a public register of any third-party organisations or politically minded lobby groups who seek to present to schools under the guise of extracurricular or pastoral care/welfare support.

Recognise Regional Culture and Outdoor Education

- Formally recognise hunting, fishing, and target shooting as legitimate sporting and cultural activities within NSW schools where appropriate.
- Expand outdoor education, agricultural camps, cadet programs, and practical life-skills training.
- Support partnerships between schools and local sporting, farming, conservation, and outdoor recreation groups.

Deliver Fairness for Country Students

- Introduce a Regional Education Equity Guarantee to ensure country students receive funding and opportunities comparable to metropolitan schools.
- Expand access to school psychologists, speech pathology, disability support, and mental health services in regional communities.
- Improve access to boarding support and distance education for isolated families.

Support and Acknowledge Faith Based Education



OUR ACTION PLAN - Continued

- Remove bureaucratic hurdles and discrimination in departmental policy against independent and faith based education
- Ensure that mechanisms and funding are provided for rural and regional faith based and independent education