



The *Boys' and Girls' Education Strategy* is supported by the *Leading the way in school and classroom practice: Boys' and Girls' Education Strategy support document*. The support document will provide schools with research and resources to examine gender as an educational issue, suggested strategies to inform school and classroom practice and planning and evaluation guides.

These documents and a range of other materials to support schools address the Boys' and Girls' Education Strategy can be found at:

<https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/lists/directoratesaz/equity/boysgirlsedu.htm>

Additional copies of this document can also be downloaded from:

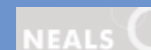
https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/strat_direction/schools/index.htm

Further assistance can be obtained through regional offices.

For more information about this document, please contact the Manager, Priority Schools Programs and Equity Coordination on (02) 9244 5270.

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Boys' and Girls' Education Strategy

Priority Schools and Equity Coordination



The purpose of the *Boys' and Girls' Education Strategy* is to assist all NSW government schools to undertake a strategic approach to address gender as an educational issue.

The *Boys' and Girls' Education Strategy* supports schools to ensure that no student's participation, performance or achievement is adversely affected on the basis of gender or limiting expectations about gender roles.



The *Boys' and Girls' Education Strategy* replaces the *Gender Equity Strategy: Girls and Boys at School* (1996). The new Strategy builds upon the achievements of schools and regions in improving the learning and social outcomes of boys and girls. The term 'boys' and girls' education' has replaced 'gender equity' to better reflect the language of national education programs.

The *Boys' and Girls' Education Strategy* is founded upon current Australian educational research that identifies the factors that may impact on the learning outcomes of boys and girls. The Strategy identifies effective ways for schools to foster success for boys and girls at school and beyond.

The NSW Department of Education and Training rejects all forms of unlawful discrimination including discrimination on the grounds of sex. The *Boys' and Girls' Education Strategy* reinforces schools' responsibilities with regard to sex-related discrimination under the *New South Wales Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*, *Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984* and other relevant legislation. This Strategy is to be implemented in accordance with all other NSW Department of Education and Training policies and guidelines.

Schools will be supported in the implementation of this Strategy by the *Leading the way in school and classroom practice: Boys' and Girls' Education Strategy support document*. The support document provides schools with practical approaches for addressing the educational needs and aspirations of boys and girls. It also provides links to a range of current research that will assist schools to explore the impact of gender on the learning outcomes of boys' and girls'.

Evidence-based professional learning with regard to boys' and girls' education linked to individual school contexts is essential for successful implementation of this Strategy.

The *Leading the way in school and classroom practice: Boys' and Girls' Education Strategy support document* provides schools with a range of ideas and activities to implement this strategy.

The document can be downloaded at:

<https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/lists/directoratesaz/equity/boysgirlsedu.htm>



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Six objectives underpin the Boys' and Girls' Education Strategy. These objectives will provide schools with a strategic framework for addressing issues relating to boys' and girls' education.



Addressing these objectives will assist schools to respond to the diverse learning needs of boys and girls and to provide effective teaching and social support strategies necessary for ensuring all boys and girls achieve their full potential.



Objectives

- Boys and girls are assisted to achieve their potential for full participation in further education, training, work, family and civic life.
- Teachers, students and parents examine and understand the impact of gender in their school context on boys' and girls' decision making, participation and achievement.
- Resources and support are targeted to boys and girls identified as being at risk of not achieving NSW syllabus outcomes or of disengaging from school.
- Teaching strategies address the diverse learning needs of individual boys and girls.
- Respectful relationships among and between boys and girls are promoted through the curriculum and civic life of the school, and procedures are in place to address sex-based discrimination and harassment, including homophobia.
- Partnerships between homes, school and communities are strengthened to support improved learning and social outcomes for boys and girls.

School focus areas

Teaching and learning

Outcome:

Schools have a relentless focus on the development of effective teaching practices to contribute to improved learning outcomes for boys and girls.

Social support

Outcome:

Schools promote a culture which practises the core values of integrity, excellence, respect, responsibility, participation, care, fairness and democracy to ensure a socially supportive, inclusive learning environment.

Home, school and community partnerships

Outcome:

Schools collaborate with students, staff, parents* and the community in the development of programs for boys and girls.

*For the purposes of the Boys' and Girls' Education Strategy and related documents, the term 'parent' includes a guardian or other person having custody or care of a child. (Education Act 1990)

Existing teaching practices and programs

Existing partnerships with parents and the community

Taking action - school and classroom practice

Promote the whole school's engagement with gender inclusive curriculum

Cater for the needs of individual students using effective teaching practices

Involve boys and girls as partners in the learning process

Make connections between school and life after school

Provide ongoing professional learning for teachers about gender as an educational issue

Enhance the school as a professional learning community

Encourage the development of positive identities for boys and girls

Provide boys and girls with the social support needed to do their best at school

Promote the development of respectful relationships

Make sure procedures are in place to address sex-based harassment and discrimination, including homophobia

Provide support for pregnant and parenting students

Establish a school environment where parents and community members are welcomed and their voices heard

Develop effective partnerships with parents

Build links between the school and the wider community to support boys' and girls' education initiatives

Existing student welfare practices and programs



The *Leading the way in school and classroom practice: Boys' and Girls' Education* support document provides a range of suggested activities that schools can consider when addressing the action areas. The support document and a range of other materials, including this page are available at: <https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/lists/directoratesaz/equity/boysgirlsedu.htm>

