

YEAR 7 TO HIGH SCHOOL IN 2022

Parent Update Week 9, Term 2 – 2021

Looking beyond year 7

In 2022, year 7 and 8 students will start high school in the same year for the first and only time. We are working hard to ensure the move is smooth and successful for all families and our broader school communities.

Support for year 8s

Every age of schooling is important, and our schools will continue catering for the needs of all students.

While our 2022 year 7 group is receiving a lot of focus in the lead-up to its historic move to high school, our schools are continuing to fully support year 8 students starting high school in 2022. Our schools are highly experienced at running transition programs to ensure year 8s feel welcomed in their new settings. The programs also have a strong focus on helping students form new friendships. This will not change under the year 7 to high school move. Both year 7 and year 8 students will be provided with full transition programs.

Our senior students remain a key focus

Our schools are very capable of managing student needs and parents can be assured that senior students will continue to receive the attention they require for their learning.

Impact on primary schools

Naturally, overall student numbers will drop in our primary schools when year 7 moves to high school.

The government has made a commitment not to close schools as part of the year 7 to high school move. We are offering top-up funding to some eligible regional schools to ensure they don't drop class numbers due to the departure of year 7.

Some primary school teachers are choosing to apply for new high school positions that have been created because of the move. Welcoming them into our high schools will ensure students continue to benefit from their extensive knowledge of year 7 curriculum and teaching methods.

Benefits to high school communities

Feedback from all the schools in our pilot program showed they benefitted from having year 7s on site. The pilot has involved three public high schools, which started welcoming year 7s in 2019. Teachers found the year 7s to be full of energy and optimism, which was a positive for the culture of their wider school communities.

Managing interactions between different year levels

Frameworks already exist in public schools to manage interactions between students of different ages. They already operate in our Birth to 12, Reception to 12 and Area schools. Many schools run peer mentor programs with older students and will have designated yard spaces for 7 and 8 students for lunch and recess. Check with your school about what they offer.

Where to find out more

Stay informed through your school and the Department for Education's website: www.education.sa.gov.au/7toHS.

Or share your feedback with the project team by emailing: Year7toHS@sa.gov.au.

