



Australian Council of State School Organisations

One voice for every child in public education

PO Box 8221
WERRINGTON COUNTY
NSW 2747
☎ 0418 470 604
✉ contact@acssso.org.au
🌐 www.acssso.org.au
ABN 51 319 893 516

Welcome back – Education, a clever nation’s priority

Over the next few days schools across Australia will be opening their doors to a brand new school year.

“A new school year always brings to it excitement, nervousness and new learning for all” said Phillip Spratt, President, Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO).

“We hope all the students continuing their formal education have a great start to the year and experience interesting opportunities and personal growth throughout.”

“To our first timers – this can be both exciting and scary at the same time, but this is the beginning of an exciting new journey. As parents, we too may be a little apprehensive, but it’s really important that we remain positive and reassuring to our little ones. This is also relevant for those transitioning to secondary education or starting at a new school”

We need to recognise the compelling evidence produced over the last forty years identifies parental engagement as the “missing link” in supporting greater student achievement.

“We encourage all parents to be engaged in their child’s formal learning, whether it be reading together at home, sharing the day in conversation, helping in the classroom or providing the appropriate tools. There are so many ways that we can support our child. The value of this engagement cannot be underestimated” Mr Spratt stated

ACSSO would also like to take this opportunity to thank school staff. “Every day as parents we entrust our children to these wonderful professionals who assist us to ensure these young people become productive citizens of our nation.” he continued

Finally, Australia is leading into a Federal Election year – a time to put the nation’s representatives on notice that we want them to prioritise education as the top election issue. If we are to continue to be in a leading position internationally then this is the year for action. ACSSO would like to appeal to all parents in our public schools to write, call, email or go and see both your federal member of parliament and the candidates seeking election – tell them every child counts and deserves an education of the highest quality. States and Territories need to work with the Commonwealth in ensuring that we have a fairer funding model for all young Australians in our schools.

For comment

Phillip Spratt, President: 0419 986 547

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