

# The Professional Practice Elements of the Victorian Government Schools Agreement 2017

## OVERVIEW

The aspiration to lift student outcomes across Victoria is at the heart of the Education State reforms. Quality teaching and school leadership are our two most powerful levers for achieving this aspiration. Achieving excellence in student outcomes in the Education State is about recognising, supporting and sharing best practice within Victorian government schools.

The Victorian Government Schools Agreement 2017 supports teachers to achieve teaching and learning excellence. It includes the following elements:

1. Four days a year for *professional practice*
  - Teachers have four days a year (one per term) released from scheduled duties to further focus on the improved delivery of high quality teaching and learning.
  - These days are in addition to existing pupil-free days.
2. New classroom-based learning specialists to *support teachers to improve their practice*
  - The learning specialist role is aimed at building excellence in teaching and learning within the teaching service. The new classification provides a career pathway for highly skilled teachers who want to stay in the classroom and work with other teachers to improve their practice.
  - Learning specialists will be highly skilled classroom practitioners who continue to spend the majority of their time in the classroom.
  - Learning specialists will have deep knowledge and expertise in high quality teaching and learning and have a range of responsibilities as per Schedule 2 of the VGSA 2017.

## KEY LINKS

For further information on the Victorian Government Schools Agreement 2017 on the Department of Education and

Last updated: 8 July 2019

Training's website, see: [Victorian Government Schools Agreement 2017](#).

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, see: [professional practice elements](#).

The Department is producing a series of professional practice notes to support the implementation of the professional practice elements. To access these resources, see: [practice notes](#).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How can the Victorian Government Schools Agreement 2017 make a difference?

The professional practice elements outlined above must be implemented consistent with the relevant Victorian Government Schools Agreement 2017 clauses. Taken together, the professional practice elements create a ground-breaking opportunity to place quality teaching at the heart of our approach to making Victoria the Education State. They recognise that all teachers need to be provided with time and support to focus on delivering high quality teaching and learning for all students.

**Schools and teachers can access further information on Frequently Asked Questions via the Department's intranet at:**

[Professional Practice Frequently Asked Questions](#)

## PROGRESS TO DATE

Peer observation guides and materials available online and distributed to schools	Term 2, 2018
Learning specialist PDP workshop available	Term 2, 2018
Learning specialist targeted professional learning available (introductory 2-day workshop series)	Term 2, 2018
Dedicated marketplace stalls at the Regional Leadership Conferences	Term 2, 2018
Bastow Twilight event (spotlight on professional practice elements)	Term 2, 2018
Learning specialist professional learning suite and resources available	Term 4, 2018
Professional practice notes on pedagogical resources launched	Term 4, 2018
Learning specialist professional learning course <i>Leading Excellence in Teaching and Learning</i> commences (second cohort)	Term 1, 2019
<i>Coaching for Influence</i> for learning specialists launched	Term 1, 2019
'Clarity: What matters most in learning, teaching and leading' distributed to Learning Specialists and Principals	Term 1, 2019
Dedicated marketplace stall at Education State Schools Leadership Conference	Term 2, 2019
Clarity in the Classroom workshops delivered in metropolitan and rural areas	Term 1 & 2, 2019
Quarterly communications to learning specialist with links to relevant resources and tools	Ongoing
Further video case studies launched online to share how the learning specialist role is being implemented in schools	Ongoing

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES

Small group coaching sessions for Learning Specialists	Term 3, 2019
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