

2.0 THE BEST EDUCATION SYSTEM IN AUSTRALIA



2036

**WILL MARK
SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S
BICENTENARY.**

Obviously, we have much to be proud of and grateful for, but I think most South Australians feel things could be a lot better. Where we once led the nation, we now follow. We need to reclaim our greatness.

2036 is more than just a date, it's a destination. A destination of hope and prosperity for South Australians, where we can have the life we want in the State we love. A destination where we can provide a better future for our children. A destination where our economy encourages opportunity and rewards effort and risk. A destination where possibility is available to all, not just a few.

That vision of 2036 inspires and excites me. However I'm not waiting until the election in 2018. Planning and delivering on the vision of 2036 must start now. And from our end it has.

In the lead up to the State election we will deliver a clear, consultative and responsible pathway to recovery and success.

This is the first step in our plan for a better South Australia. Please read it, talk about it with your friends and family.

Or, talk to me.

**I am Steven Marshall -
Leader of the State Liberals.**

2036 STARTS NOW.



marshall2036.com.au

OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM SHOULD EMBODY EXCELLENCE,
ADVOCATE CHOICE, ENGAGE PARENTS AND TEACHERS AND
GROW OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR NEXT GENERATION.

2.0

We Believe

- Our families deserve access to the best schools and childcare in the nation, to build our children's capabilities and our State's future
- In supporting the education choices that parents, care-givers and families make for their children – you are the ones who know them best
- Education professionals need to be empowered, engaged and supported to ensure the best outcomes for their students
- Young people should be provided with the education and training opportunities they need to gain employment both in new and established industries

How we will achieve this together

- 2.1 Delivering the best schools in Australia by improving education outcomes and teaching standards
- 2.2 Returning decision making to parents, principals, teachers and local school communities
- 2.3 Building more innovative and flexible school systems
- 2.4 Expanding opportunities for students to engage with training, skills and higher education and ready themselves for employment

2.1 The best schools in Australia

We want our schools to be the best in Australia. When parents drop their children off for their first day of school they deserve an education guarantee: we will respect your children and ensure they get the best education.

We believe students' educational outcomes should be the prime focus of our school system. There is no second opportunity when it comes to educating our young people – we need a system that encourages excellence from our child's very first day of school.

We understand our children are entering an increasingly competitive work-force and higher education system, and it is our job to equip them with the skills they need to get ahead in life.

“We need a system that encourages excellence from our child's very first day of school”

While South Australia has not led the pack when it comes to educational outcomes for students in recent times, we believe that with a renewed focus on educational outcomes we can once again become a national leader.

Embracing innovation is key to ensuring our students have the best possible education. We are determined to think outside the square and look at all options to ensure that nothing stands in the way of our children's education. Just because “we've always done it that way” doesn't mean we should continue down a path which reduces educational outcomes – South Australia is a State of innovators, and we want to bring innovation to education!

Teachers who excel at producing outstanding educational outcomes should be recognised and encouraged. We believe that teachers should be given the opportunity to up-skill and grow as education professionals if they choose, allowing them to fulfil their potential and provide their students with quality classroom experiences.

Quality teachers are the most significant input to a student's learning.

States such as Western Australia and Queensland, which were once lagging behind South Australia in education, have embraced innovation through programs including independent public schools and moving Year 7 into high school. We are committed to examining all options to ensure we improve education outcomes and our NAPLAN performance while producing a generation of well-rounded and capable young people.

We believe that through enhanced autonomy and flexibility, empowering principals, better engaging school communities, and improving the status and effectiveness of the teaching profession, the dreams of students receiving the best possible education in South Australia will become a reality.

2.2 Empowered decision making

We believe that school communities should have a greater level of control and flexibility to respond to the resourcing and specific educational needs of their students in a targeted way. Every school community is different, with unique challenges, strengths and potential. We believe the school community's teachers, principals and families are best placed to understand the individual needs of their students, rather than bureaucrats.

We want to refocus the way our schools operate, and return the power of decision making back to the principals, the teachers, and the wider school community.

We believe that educators at the school level are best placed to manage school resources to maximise student outcomes. Decisions such as staff recruitment, curriculum management and cost effective and targeted use of school budgets are best made by educators and administrators on the ground.

This is not a new idea – it has successfully transformed school systems elsewhere in Australia and overseas. We want a 'best of both worlds' approach to education – giving schools greater flexibility to cater for their community's specific needs while remaining within the funding and support structure of the public school system.

We understand that by empowering school communities through greater autonomy and accountability we will deliver better student outcomes and happier and more efficient school communities.

We fundamentally trust our principals, teachers and families to make positive and practical choices for their students – and we will empower them to be able to act in the best interests of their school.

“We want to return the power of decision making back to the principals, teachers, and the wider school community”

2.3 Innovative and flexible education pathways

The future of South Australia rests in the hands of our children and young people – their creativity, their drive and their intelligence will shape the future of our State.

Our children deserve a school system that responds to their needs, celebrating the individual learner and preparing them for a full and enriching life beyond the school gate.

“Rewarding teaching excellence will lift the standard of teaching across the state”

We want to create a system that is able to embrace all of our students, strengthens their skills and encourages them to take risks and think laterally.

We will assist principals, teachers, students and families to improve outcomes through greater local innovation. We will empower school communities to develop new solutions for educational impediments in their community and implement their ideas. We believe that a more tailored approach to education programs and the ability to engage community resources beyond the school gate will provide better education outcomes and a more enjoyable school experience for our children.

The school curriculum needs to be flexible to the needs of students whilst also giving them the skills they need to gain future employment. We believe that South Australian students deserve a modern curriculum that provides them with the traditional academic skills they need to gain employment, but also gives them the tools they need to grow and contribute to a transitioning economy.

Our school system must also look after our children who may require extra support due to disability or special needs. We believe it is in the best interests of young people with special needs to provide the support they need to help them reach their full potential. We understand that parents and their children need to be empowered, and they deserve to have choices about which educational opportunities they take up. Options need to be available that meet the needs of the child to give them the best possible opportunities for their future.

Schools need the flexibility to respond to the distinct needs of their students within their education pathway – from the early years through to graduation. Some students are suited to studying traditional subjects in Year 12 – some may be more interested in starting a business, learning a trade or gaining the skills to enter a particular vocation. The State Liberals will support schools to respond to the needs and ambitions of their students whilst also encouraging educators to play to their students’ strengths in order to build a generation of creative and intelligent, empowered and entrepreneurial young people.

We believe teachers are an important asset that should be supported, encouraged and strengthened. By rewarding teaching excellence we will continue to lift the standard of teaching across the state. Better teachers mean better schools, which mean better learning opportunities and young adults who are better suited to making their dreams a reality.

2.4 Excellence in training, skills and higher education

South Australia needs its students to be ready to work, ready to build businesses and ready to create new jobs and opportunities when they leave school. Schools, training organisations and higher education institutions have a duty to provide our young people with the skills they need to become the employers and workers of the future.

We will equip our young people with the skills and knowledge they need to successfully transition to training and further education and to improve their career pathway options.

We believe that vocational training and skill creation is a crucial building block in the future economic success of our State.

We believe that our vocational education and further education sectors need to work in co-operation with our schools as part of an education continuum, not as separate silos.

And we believe that our proud tradition of achievement in our universities can be accentuated so that Adelaide is a beacon to the world of excellence in higher education.

From the leaders of industry to successful entrepreneurs South Australia has the people who can transform our rich resources to drive prosperity – we want to connect our young people with the brains driving our State. Key to this connection is developing skills and training programs which are connected to industry. We need our young people to be fully empowered to take advantage of the industries looking for new talent – in fact, we want young people to create the industries of the future.

We believe that education needs to be forward thinking – understanding our State’s needs and tailoring our teaching to ensure our young people are best placed to take advantage of the new opportunities in South Australia.

We believe it is vital to re-engage with the training sector, to connect our young people with industry and to prioritise training and skills development. We understand that in order for young South Australians to pursue job opportunities, we need a training sector that delivers quality, responsive training by engaging a broad range of providers. An education system that grows skills will foster job creation, productivity and success for South Australia.

We also understand that in order to be competitive on the international stage we need our young people to be finishing school with some language skills other than English. Increasingly, western countries are refocussing on the importance of growing our bilingual workforce. By supporting our students to take advantage of opportunities to learn a new language, we will upskill our workforce and take advantage of our international trade links.

“We want young people to create the industries of the future”

We also understand that universities are an important economic and cultural driver for our State, and we will work with university administrations and the Federal Government to ensure that our higher education sector continues to produce outstanding graduates while also attracting new students to South Australia.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ OUR PLAN TO RECLAIM SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S GREATNESS.

Let me know your thoughts, stay connected,
and let's take the first step toward 2036 together.

Visit marshall2036.com.au



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