

Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on School Funding
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Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Submission to the Senate Select Committee on School Funding

Our school would use the employment of a full time School Learning Support Officer to work across all grades to support learning. We would also be able to release teachers for collegial planning of teaching and learning programs and assessment of students. We could provide more release for the Teaching Principal to work across the school with fellow teachers enriching the professional conversation and the teaching expertise of all. We would provide workshops for parents to increase their confidence and their ability to support their children's learning. We would be able to increase opportunities for teacher professional learning.

We would be able to think out of the square to create a learning environment where students are engaged and supported to a high level while we gently push them out of their comfort zone to discover their potential. This would mean restructuring how we group children across the school and how we move them forward to prepare them for the second stage of their learning journey in High School. This would mean

engaging their minds and capturing their imaginations to help them believe that the world really is their oyster. Once they believe, they can achieve!

Teachers need the ongoing opportunity to engage with good practitioners and hear the latest research about learning. Increased funding would provide my staff the opportunity to travel to quality presentations even though distance requires time away from school and extensive travel in order to enjoy this experience. Teachers would be released to plan together and increase their expertise through peer evaluation and feedback. They would be able to have time to work with parents to strengthen the partnership between school and home.

All change takes time to implement and time to make it sustainable. In schools there has to be a culture of custom and practice and once this is achieved it must grow and strengthen to be embedded in such a way that change that is seen as an opportunity not a threat. Six years of funding would provide the time for schools to implement, monitor, evaluate and embed good practices that underpin the culture of continuous self improvement. This is not money wasted, this is an investment in our future as schools prepare the students of today with the skills and confidence to become thinking, compassionate and productive citizens of tomorrow.

Monday 3 March 2014