

NORTHERN TERRITORY BOARD OF STUDIES

Strategic Plan 2022–2027



Acknowledgement of Country

Northern Territory Board of Studies (NTBOS) respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which young Territorians are educated. In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge and pay respects to the past, present and future traditional custodians and elders of the Northern Territory and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We respect and support the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are referred to as First Nations throughout the document in keeping with the ACARA terminology.*

Judburra National Park, Big Rivers Region
NGARINYMAN, KARRANGPURRU,
NUNGALI, MALNGIN, WARDAMAN,
NGALIWURRU AND BILINARA COUNTRY

Message from Minister for Education



The Northern Territory Government has a clear vision for our young Territorians. It is critical to engage our youth in learning, in creating safe and inclusive communities and creating safe spaces in which they can learn. Our young people are the future leaders of the Northern Territory and it is they who will continue to ensure the Territory is a resilient, thriving and flourishing place to live, learn and work.

Education is a partnership with students, families, community and industries. Our strength comes when these relationships are aligned and focused on the future possibilities that life-long learning brings. We will ensure that through senior secondary learning our students become connected to community and develop an understanding of the role they play as active citizens both at a local and global level.

We know that to thrive in learning our young people need to feel connected to the space in which they learn. To engage this critical audience, we need to embrace flexible learning approaches and encourage our schools to look for innovative approaches in the provision of education in settings outside of a traditional school setting.

Achieving these goals will require collaboration across the education sectors, both government and non-government, and will require innovative thinking and commitment by all stakeholders. This Strategic Plan outlines the ways in which this will be achieved and is a commitment to our young Territorians and their future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eva Lawler'.

THE HON. EVA LAWLER MLA

Our vision

“To be at the forefront of education practices which support the diversity of students in the Northern Territory, empowering students to become lifelong learners.”

Background

This strategic plan sets the direction for the Northern Territory Board of Studies (NTBOS) to move toward agreed measures of success over the next 5 years. The establishment of strategic priorities provides important guidance for all stakeholders, working to establish collective action to progress NTBOS’ objectives.

The emergence of innovative curriculum frameworks revolutionising ways education can be planned, delivered, and assessed, and inputs from critical stakeholders, necessitated the need to establish a pioneering strategic plan for NTBOS that considers all layers of education.

About us

NTBOS is primarily responsible for providing advice relating to curriculum, assessment, reporting and certification for all students from Transition to Year 12 in the Northern Territory. NTBOS serves to cooperate and consult with all educational bodies and authorities to proactively carry out its functions. The operational sections of the Department of Education carry out the operational functions of NTBOS.

NTBOS adopts a mixed membership model that consists of 11 members.

The members include:

- a Department of Education officer nominated by the Chief Executive
- 4 representatives for stakeholders (parent, teacher, employer and Indigenous)
- 2 experts from the Catholic Education Office Northern Territory and the Association of Independent Schools of the Northern Territory
- 4 Minister-nominated expert members nominated by the Minister for Education.

NTBOS is responsible for establishing and maintaining curriculum frameworks, assessment, reporting and certification procedures for the compulsory schooling years; created for all students to excel, regardless of their individual abilities and aspirations.



Our guiding principles

Through quality advice and decision making relating to policies and curriculum, NTBOS adopts the following guiding principles to ensure education in the Northern Territory is fair, equitable and inclusive of all learners to optimise best student outcomes.

**See Appendix 1 for additional information*

- Inclusion and Equity
- Students and Families
- Lifelong Learning
- Leadership
- Integrity
- Continual Improvement and Collaboration

Our focus areas

The following 6 focus areas will set the foundation of our strategy and provide the structure NTBOS will use to achieve its goals over the next 5 years.

1. Development of student’s General Capabilities
2. Indigenous education and achievements
3. Innovative, inclusive and equitable educational practices
4. Development of student’s wellbeing skills and capabilities
5. Certification and micro-credentialing
6. The National Curriculum

Our aspirations and goals

Curriculum, assessment, reporting and certification

Our goal is to:

Ensure curriculum frameworks drive student success and prepare young people for rewarding lives as engaged citizens.

We will:

- Improve cultural responsiveness in curriculum frameworks through cultivating equitable and inclusive approaches and enhancements to teaching, learning and assessment
- Ensure curriculum frameworks are realistic and support students success in the transition beyond schooling by catering for the individual strengths of students
- Ensure learning opportunities can be developed within curriculum frameworks for students to develop skills and attributes to be active citizens
- Ensure curriculum frameworks allow for the incorporation of contemporary pedagogy and cultural responsiveness
- Seek opportunities to enhance data sharing and analysis with a focus on improvement, trends and trajectory

Our goal is to:

Stay abreast of contemporary education practices through research informed by experts.

We will:

- Collaborate with experts and seek advice relating to:
 - First Nations education including language and cultural education
 - National and International education strategies
 - Contemporary learning opportunities for students
 - Emerging trends in the education sector
 - Alternate student pathways
 - Student well-being
 - Innovative and quality teaching practices and pedagogy
 - Contemporary and culturally responsive student certification

Communication, engagement and partnerships

Our goal is to:

Operate as a consultative Board that is responsive to the diverse range of education needs in the Northern Territory.

We will:

- Listen to the student voice
- Ensure all education sectors are included through collaboration and input from different sectors
- Visit schools in the Northern Territory to deepen knowledge and stay abreast of diverse education settings and contexts across the NT
- Collaborate and partner with organisations that focus on achieving the best educational outcomes for students in the NT. This includes, educational sectors, ACARA, ACACA, SACE First Nations led organisations, research bodies and industry representatives.
- Collaborate and partner with organisations to enhance uptake and delivery of NTBOS strategic focus areas
- Engage in consultation and seek constructive feedback from key stakeholders such as students, families, and teachers
- Develop a strategy to establish a strong public presence and communicate the work of the Board

Governance

Our goal is to:

Ensure governance relating to NTBOS functions is relevant and up to date.

We will:

- Review the strategic plan annually and report on progress toward our goals
- Promote legislation so it is current and up to date
- Establish and enable board and program governance and capability

Growth initiatives



Communication Strategy

Develop a strategy to clearly articulate the work of NTBOS to strengthen public presence and encourage engagement and understanding its role.



Engagement plan

Develop a comprehensive plan to optimise engagement and understanding of education and respond to the needs in the NT.



Governance

Establish a plan to implement and review governance functions of NTBOS including advice and recommendations.



Data

Investigate opportunities such as partnerships to ensure data is analysed in a way that can be used to promote improvement in education outcomes.



Partnerships

Plan a set of engagements to establish meaningful partnerships with stakeholders and authorisation bodies that will contribute to achieving the objectives established in the NTBOS strategic plan.



Advocacy

Advocate for legislation reform relating to NTBOS functions.



Allocate resources

Allocate resources to monitor implementation of the strategy and ensure NTBOS achieves its goals over the next 5 years.



Future opportunities

Source funding to invest in further opportunities and resources that will assist NTBOS to achieve its objectives.

Addendum to Strategic Plan 2022–2027

Key pieces of work for 2023

Advice requested by the Minister for Education

On 30 March 2023 the Minister for Education, the Hon. Eva Lawler MLA, sent a commissioning letter to the NT Board of Studies outlining the advice she would be seeking from the board in 2023. The advice requested has been recorded below, and organised to show its alignment with the Strategic Plan 2022–2027.

Our goal: Ensure curriculum frameworks drive student success and prepare young people for rewarding lives as engaged citizens.

The Board is committed to providing high quality advice regarding curriculum, assessment and certification for all phases of education in the Territory, from early childhood to senior secondary years, to help increase student outcomes.

In line with this goal, the minister has asked the Board to provide advice on the following matters.

- Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training
- Implementation of the Australia Curriculum Version 9.0
- Implementation of the Early Years Learning Framework
- Indigenous Languages and Cultures curriculum review

Our goal: Stay abreast of contemporary education practices through research informed by experts.

The Board aims to stay abreast of contemporary education practices, which are informed by research, so that it can provide the best possible advice to the NT education system, taking into account the diverse contexts and lived experiences of our learners.

In line with this goal, the minister has asked the Board to give advice on the following matters.

- The NT Secondary Education Review
- Assessment and Moderation practices
- Addressing the emergence of new technologies

Further work priorities for 2023

In addition to the advice the minister has requested, the Board would also like to identify further key pieces of work for 2023.

Our goal – Operate as a consultative Board that is responsive to the diverse range of education needs in the Northern Territory.

To fulfil the Board's goal of being responsive to a diverse range of educational needs, the Board must partner and collaborate with a range of stakeholders and organisations. Our primary partnership will always be with the expert education workforce of the NT: our principals, teachers, and assistant teachers working in schools across the Territory.

In addition to this, the Board would like to foster potential partnerships with the following types of organisations:

- Education organisations in Australia such as the Australian Institute for Teaching and Student Learning (AITSL), and the Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO)
- Northern Territory education bodies, such as the Teacher Registration Board (TRB)
- Peak Indigenous bodies such as Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APONT)
- Providers of Initial Teacher Education, such as Charles Darwin University (CDU).

Appendix 1.

Our Guiding Principles

Through quality advice and decision making relating to policies and curriculum, NTBOS adopts the following guiding principles to ensure education in the Northern Territory is fair, equitable and inclusive of all learners to optimise best student outcomes.

1. Inclusion and Equity

We ensure education in the Northern Territory is fair, equitable and inclusive for all learners. We govern as one but represent the voices of many.

2. Students and Families

We place a high level focus on students and families when making decisions.

3. Lifelong Learning

We encourage, influence and support education to foster lifelong learning skills for students. We expect the delivery of quality education to optimise employment and/or further studies outcomes.

4. Leadership

We promote and champion governance and expect leaders to deliver a high level of key performance indicators and objective attainment across the education sector in the Northern Territory.

5. Integrity

We expect and demand the highest level of ethical and professional standards and accountability across the education sector in the Northern Territory, by every individual involved.

6. Continual Improvement and Collaboration

We expect the education sectors stay abreast of and understand contemporary education issues and practices. Genuine collaboration should be continually demonstrable across education sectors to achieve the best outcomes for students in the Northern Territory.

Appendix 2.

Strengthening the Strategy

The following areas were identified in the NTBOS strategic planning process as central components to enhancing delivery and uptake of NTBOS strategic plan over the next 5 years.

NTBOS should develop knowledge and understanding by being briefed on the following topics:

- First Nations education
- Learning opportunities for all students
- Innovative and quality teaching practices and pedagogy
- National and International curriculum reform
- Student outcomes
- Student wellbeing
- Alternate student pathways
- Performance metrics and statistics
- Emerging trends and technologies in the education sector
- Inclusive practices

Location of focus in the Northern Territory:

- Remote primary and secondary schools
- Regional primary and secondary schools
- Urban primary and secondary schools

Strategic partnerships that are likely to enhance uptake and delivery of NTBOS strategic focus:

- Charles Darwin University
- Northern Territory Education Sectors
- The South Australian Certificate of Education
- Teacher Registration Board of the NT
- Interstate curriculum authorities
- NT Chamber of Commerce
- First Nations organisations

NTBOS key stakeholders (not limited to)

- Students
- Families
- Minister for Education
- Education sectors
- School staff
- Employers
- Industry

NTBOS will identify key pieces of work to focus on over the life of the strategic plan.

