

Review of Secondary Education in the NT (the Review)

Middle schooling

This document has been developed to highlight key elements from the Review regarding this topic.

Recommendation from the Review

Recommendation 2.3 'Move away from the middle school model and establish comprehensive schools, in current settings, over time.'

In response to findings relating to middle schools in the Northern Territory (NT), the Review recommends moving away from the current model of middle schooling, towards comprehensive secondary schools over time.

This encompasses actions to foster cultural change and reduce silos between middle and senior secondary stages of schooling and enhancing avenues for collaboration and sharing of collective expertise between teachers in middle and senior secondary settings.

This change will require careful and dedicated implementation effort, including close collaboration and consultation with school communities. Any changes should also be considered within the context of the broader schooling system.

In the meantime, efforts should be made to break down silos between existing middle and senior secondary schools, with the transition to comprehensive secondary schools across the NT to occur over the medium to long term.

Where implemented successfully and through close consultation with local school communities, this will support students to effectively transition throughout secondary schooling and break down silos between existing middle and senior secondary schools.

What does this mean for school communities across the NT?

- There is no immediate change to the current secondary schooling structure. Middle and senior secondary schools will continue to deliver education services to communities.
- Throughout 2024, the department will undertake further planning and consultation to prepare for implementation.
- While planning and consultation is underway to consider the broader structural changes, action can be taken this year to better support students in the middle years through any immediate improvements.
- Every school will be considered separately in response to their individual context inclusive of student cohort, infrastructure, sites and potential. Planning will consider coordination and streamlining across the system, with the aim of ensuring the viability of all schools.
- Any change will be considered within the context of the broader schooling system.
- The Review has a vision for an education system that is built on an approach to learning design that is engaging and drives improvements in student outcomes through ensuring continuity of learning, effective transitions and meaningful curriculum and pedagogy.

- This recommendation aims to support student engagement and retention, and continuity of relationships and learning throughout the secondary years.
- While supported by a strong evidence base, the move to a comprehensive model will be considered on an individual community-by-community basis over time with careful consultation and design to minimise disruption to current delivery and with appropriate regard to infrastructure and workforce factors.
- Implementation of this Review recommendation will take some time.

For further information about this recommendation, including key findings, please refer to the [Final Report to the Review of Secondary Education in the Northern Territory](#) available on the [Education NT website](#).