**Our vision**

A highly skilled, educated, vibrant and inclusive NSW, where all people achieve their potential, build social and economic prosperity, participate in activities that contribute to their wellbeing, and contribute as informed citizens to our society.

**Priority Action Areas**

**Leadership & management**

Our schools require excellent leaders who will demonstrate instructional leadership with efficient management practices that lead creative, innovative schools with positive learning cultures.

**Curriculum & Assessment**

We will be focusing on an Australian Curriculum supported by quality teaching, student centred frameworks, quality professional learning and curriculum breadth and access for all students.

**Engagement & Attainment**

All of our students will be highly engaged and interested in their learning in a high expectation environment.

**Literacy and Numeracy**

We will focus on the support for literacy and numeracy achievement in our schools so that all students can reach their potential.

**Aboriginal education**

We will create a range of opportunities for all Aboriginal students to experience successful learning.

**Organisational effectiveness**

Local Schools, Local Decisions will allow us to look at the effective organisation of schools, and implement reforms to better meet the needs of schools, students and their communities.

**Our outcomes**

**In early childhood**

All children will receive high quality early childhood education and care to give them a great start in life and at school.

**At school**

All children will receive quality teaching and support to learn, achieve and progress.

**In tertiary education**

We’ll equip students with the skills and knowledge for successful participation in employment and their communities, ensuring easier transitions, especially to higher education.

**In our communities**

We will build strong partnerships between schools and the broader local community.
**Public Schools NSW Strategic Directions 2012-2014**

Students are at the centre of what we do. Our goal is to improve education and learning outcomes for all students.

Teachers are a key factor impacting on student learning.

### Strategic Priorities

#### Leadership and Management
- Leadership development and management capacity
- Innovation and creativity
- Positive learning cultures
- Management practices and accountability
- Instructional leadership

#### Curriculum and Assessment
- Innovative practices for 21st century learners and learning
- Quality teaching framework
- Student centred learning
- New syllabuses incorporating the Australian curriculum
- Quality professional learning
- Curriculum breadth and access for all students

#### Engagement and Attainment
- Quality teaching practices by quality teachers and leaders to engage all students
- Intervention in early years and at key transition points
- Community engagement and partnership
- National Safe Schools Framework
- National Partnerships
- Student Support Officers
- Learning Support Framework

#### Literacy and Numeracy
- Achievement levels of students in rural areas
- Achievement levels of Aboriginal students
- Evidence based practices, programs and professional learning
- Explicit targets for student achievement in the higher bands in NAPLAN NSW
- Government Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan

#### Literacy and Numeracy
- Readiness for school
- Engagement and connections
- Attendance
- Literacy and numeracy improvement
- Leadership, quality teaching and workforce development
- Pathways to real post school options

#### Indigenous Education
- Innovative business and educational programs, systems and initiatives
- Research, policy analysis and effective advocacy
- Effective liaison within DEC to support flexible service delivery for schools in finance, human resources and integrated systems
- Evidence based systems, structures and practices to meet the needs of all students
- Public Schools NSW strategic directions to inform regional, school and other DEC portfolio plans

#### Organisational Effectiveness
- Strengthening planning, research and innovation capacity within the schools portfolio
- Developing a comprehensive strategy that widely engages curriculum expertise and innovative systems and delivery
- Realigning State Office functions to support and deliver the schools portfolio strategic priorities
- Reviewing and revising the accountability framework of performance management and cyclic reviews

### Key Strategies

#### The schools portfolio will support regions and schools by:
- Developing an innovative, competency based professional learning program for educational leaders at all levels.
- Developing high quality registered learning programs to improve quality teaching, leadership and management.
- Liaising and working collaboratively with other portfolios to design and implement flexible approaches to recruitment, staff selection and performance management and development.
- Providing professional learning and curriculum support for leaders and staff to integrate technology and strengthen differentiated teaching and learning practices to meet the needs of diverse learners.
- Developing policies and delivering professional learning to support innovative approaches in all schools with an immediate focus on secondary schools.
- Strengthening retention and transition programs in schools.
- Strengthening and expanding partnerships with other organisations, agencies and community groups.

#### Strategic Priorities

- Incorporating curriculum leadership as part of leadership professional development programs.
- Developing policies and strategic approaches to improve literacy and numeracy achievement across all stages of schooling.
- Implementing the Government’s Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan.
- Identifying and promoting gifted and talented strategies with effective evidence based teaching practices for students in higher bands.
- Developing policy and strategies for gifted and talented students.
- Developing policies and supporting professional learning programs to improve the cultural awareness and leadership and teaching effectiveness of our staff.
- Supporting high expectations, retention and pathways for Aboriginal students through the provision of rich data, models of effective practice and professional learning programs.
- Conducting research and policy analysis in rural and regional education, innovative models of schooling provision, curriculum delivery, leadership and staffing.
- Reviewing and refocusing secondary education and identifying effective evidence based systems, structures and practices to meet the needs of all students.
- Leading technology infrastructure planning to support innovation in the use of technologies.
- Engaging regions in discussions concerning realignment of systems to support strategic priorities.