A Flying Start for Queensland Children
Year 7 into high school infrastructure – State Schools

Questions for parents and carers

1. Which schools will receive infrastructure support?

All state schools with a high school component will receive support to meet the needs of accommodating Year 7 in a high school setting. This includes special schools enrolling high school aged students. It is anticipated that schools of distance education will require no additional infrastructure.

2. What sort of infrastructure is available to state schools welcoming Year 7 students?

Infrastructure support for schools will be determined on an as needs basis following engagement with each school and its regional office. Generally the need is based on the projected enrolment numbers for each school. Infrastructure support may include:

- refurbishments of general learning areas,
- new general learning areas,
- flexible learning areas delivered as new builds or through the refurbishment of existing facilities,
- school resource grants, and
- other facilities such as amenities required in accordance with the Building Code of Australia.

3. Will any specialist classrooms be provided to support the Year 7 move?

The department will provide Flexible Learning Areas at schools where new classrooms are required for Year 7 in 2015 or where there is a large number of Year 7 students predicted.

Other school facilities requests will be prioritised by the Capital Works Program using usual practices within the available budgets.

4. So what is a Flexible Learning Area?

A Flexible Learning Area (FLA) is designed to provide a supplementary space to support the introduction of Junior Secondary in high school. It is intended to support the roll out of the national curriculum by providing additional space for practical activities such as science, art or robotics and an expansion of project based activities.

It is not the intention that the FLA become a curriculum specific space but to be flexible enough to support a range of curriculum areas through its design and fit-out.

Schools receiving FLAs will also be entitled to an allowance for the purchase of equipment for these spaces. This equipment might include Bunsen burners, hot plates, a document camera, robotics gear, microscopes, and other science or art equipment.

5. How are school enrolment projections prepared?

Enrolment projections are prepared by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR) which is part of Queensland Treasury. The OESR prepares enrolment projections for each school by year.
level for up to five years in the future. OESR takes into account enrolment trends for each school, the surrounding schools, and demographic changes within a school’s local area.

The OESR provide annual updates of enrolment projections and the department’s infrastructure team monitors these closely to ensure that infrastructure solutions meet each school’s needs.

6. What happens if the school enrols more students in 2015 than projected?

As is normal practice, enrolment projections will be monitored after a school has had its infrastructure needs for the Year 7 move negotiated. If any significant changes are forecast, the implications will be discussed between the school and the department.

The infrastructure team will also monitor actual enrolments for the 2015 school year. Additional learning areas will be provided in Term 1 2015 where required.