

Leading the Way - Year 7 to high school Pirie pilot

Information for families

The South Australian public education system will be moving year 7 to high school in 2022. This will bring our state into line with the national curriculum taught in high schools and make it easier to deliver subjects and improve outcomes for students.

Public schools in the Pirie Partnership have been offered the opportunity to move year 7 earlier as part of a pilot. The pilot program, which will run in 2020 and 2021, will be a great opportunity for students to get a head start on high school life. Their experiences will lead the way for year 7 students across the state.

Frequently asked questions for families

Is year 7 definitely moving to high school in South Australia?

Yes, the independent and Catholic sectors have already moved, and the public education system will be moving in 2022.

Why is year 7 moving?

Moving year 7 into high school will align South Australia's public schools with the national curriculum taught in secondary settings. Year 7 is taught in high school in all other jurisdictions because of the benefits of providing specialist teachers and facilities.

What if my child is currently in year 7?

Normal transition and enrolment processes will continue at John Pirie Secondary School for current year 7s enrolling as year 8s next year.

Will child my still get a year 7 hoodie if they move?

Yes, a special **Leading the Way** hoodie will be given to students in recognition of their special role in the pilot. They will receive the hoodie in 2020 and there will be no cost to parents.

Will my child still get a graduation if they move?

Yes there will be a graduation ceremony for your child.

Why was our school chosen for the pilot?

The pilot schools were chosen because of their supportive environments and commitment to student wellbeing, strong connections and transition processes, positive working relationships and focus on progressive approaches to teaching and learning.

Will my child be OK in high school? What about their wellbeing?

Experiences from interstate shows that early adolescents thrive in the secondary setting. John Pirie Secondary School has an excellent record for settling in year 8s and special attention will be given to the year 7s. There will be a strong emphasis on student wellbeing and pilot schools will receive a grant to support the transition of the first cohort of year 7 students, so that teachers and staff in primary schools and John Pirie Secondary School can plan and support each student's transition.

Will my child be better off doing year 7 in high school?

Undertaking year 7 in high school will allow students to take advantage of access to specialist facilities, resources and exposure to different teaching styles. Students will have opportunities for greater peer interactions, greater independence and responsibility. The Australian Curriculum was fully implemented in 2015 and designed to specialise for each subject, for example science labs for science.

What will happen to my child's teacher?

As part of the state-wide move of year 7 into high school, the Department for Education will be consulting with teachers and the unions about the process and options for moving to teach in high school and the professional development to support that move. A similar approach will be taken for SSOs.

How will the early movement of year 7s impact small schools?

The department recognises that the movement of year 7s may have a particular impact on small schools, and will provide support to those school and communities to address their concerns.

How do I register an interest in enrolling my child to do year 7 at John Pirie Secondary School?

Registrations of interest forms are now available on the John Pirie Secondary School website <http://www.jpss.sa.edu.au/>. Paper copies will also be available at the pilot information sessions, the open night and from the school's front office. Registrations must be returned to John Pirie Secondary School and will close on 24 May 2019. Staff will be able to support families to complete the registration process if requested.

What about the year 7 students moving into year 8 next year?

The effective transition of students from year 7 to year 8 is always a focus for schools in the Pirie Partnership. It will be important that both the year 7 students and the year 8 students in 2020 feel welcomed and included in their new school. John Pirie Secondary School will make sure that the transition process provides a positive experience for both cohorts.

Will my year 6 child be able to participate in SAPSASA sporting events if they are enrolled at the high school in 2020?

Yes, your child will be able to participate in local SAPSASA sports carnivals, and opportunities for selection in the District SAPSASA sports teams and state teams.

If my year 6 child starts high school next year, will they be able to participate as a member of the primary school choir in the local Festival of Music concerts?

Your child will not be able to participate in the Festival of Music choir performances in 2020 if he/she is enrolled at the high school. This is because the choir practices and activities are managed during the school day and the travelling to and from the primary/high school would be too disruptive on their other learning areas.

Need more information?

- Parents and students can ask school staff for more information and share their feedback, ideas and concerns.
- John Pirie Secondary School is holding two pilot information sessions from 4-5pm and 6-7pm on Thursday 21 March.
- John Pirie Secondary School is hosting an open night at 6pm on 9 April. It provides the chance for year 6 and 7 students and their families to tour the school and experience aspects of curriculum in a secondary setting.
- Visit <http://www.jpss.sa.edu.au> or the [Yr7toHS website](#).