



VPA Position Paper

Confidentiality of School Data

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) Council has received concerns from members relating to the confidentiality of school data and its use. The VPA position has been determined in the following context:

Rationale

The VPA recognises that school performance data is a valuable tool for informing the development of school improvement initiatives. Equally, inappropriate use of school performance data can be damaging to school communities including principals and staff.

Background to VPA Position

- In Victoria the sharing of school data within networks has commenced. Members have expressed concern, based on experience, that a school's data may be used outside the network to unfairly damage reputation and standing in the wider community.
- VPA members report that paper copies of school data, clearly naming schools, have been distributed at network meetings. The VPA is concerned that damage may occur to a school's reputation if this information is used out of context or in an unprincipled manner.
- The VPA acknowledges Regional Network Leaders may be required to present aggregated and individual school data to each school network.

VPA Position

- The VPA supports the use of a wide range of performance data, so that each school and network's context is fully understood within the Government school system.
- One copy of digital data, held by the RNL, for presentation purposes.
- The VPA expects its members to use network data in a professional and principled manner: NB. Individual schools' data should be shared only in digital form between agreed principal class officers (PCO).
- The VPA expects regional network leaders will be directed in the uniform and appropriate use of school and network data.
- The VPA expects that regional network leaders will develop tight protocols in relation to network and school data. Until trust is assured, data is displayed in digital presentation *only* in group discussions.
- The VPA expects that regional network leaders will intervene if network data is used inappropriately eg for marketing purposes.
- The VPA will take members' concerns in use of data directly to regional directors.

The VPA *Confidentiality of School Data* Position Paper was initiated by VPA Council Members February 2009. Further work on this document was undertaken by VPA Board, President and Executive Officer