



VPA Position Paper

Student Free Days

The Victorian Principals Association (VPA) is concerned with DEECD's decision to allocate the majority of student free days at the beginning of the school year and the scheduling of a reporting day at a time when primary schools would be preparing written reports for parents. The VPA position has been determined in the following context:

Purpose

This position is designed to support the work of Principal Class Officers (PCOs) in staff development and reporting to parents.

Background to the VPA Position

- Schools have not been given any flexibility in preparing for professional learning opportunities. PCO awareness of staff curriculum needs is more likely to be evaluated by mid Term 1
- Teaching staff not offered student reporting opportunities at the appropriate time can lead to difficult negotiations at school level.

VPA Position

- VPA advocates for six (6) student free days per calendar year to be allocated from the following;
 - the first day of each term
 - the last day of each term
 - a 'Reporting to Parents' day
- Increase flexibility for individual schools to choose the timing of Student Free Days for their own context

The VPA *Student Free Days* position paper was initiated by VPA Council Members March 2009 and updated November 2010. Further work on this document was undertaken by VPA Board, President and Executive Officer.