Key Educational Accountability Requirements under the *Australian Education Act 2013* and the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*

A review of the *Australian Education Act* is being undertaken as a result of the Coalition Government’s promise to reduce ‘command and control’ and any amendments to the *Australian Education Act* and related Regulation are yet to come. In the meantime, schools and school authorities should address the key educational accountability requirements outlined below.

Links are provided to key sections of the *Guide to the Australian Education Act 2013* where further information is available. [http://aeaguide.education.gov.au/](http://aeaguide.education.gov.au/)

Financial reporting requirements are outlined at: [http://aeaguide.education.gov.au/content/a315-financial-reporting-requirements](http://aeaguide.education.gov.au/content/a315-financial-reporting-requirements)


*Funding arrangements for the Catholic Education Commission NSW under the Australian Education Act 2013*

CECNSW contact for further information: Rosalie Nott, Assistant Director Policy ([rosalie.nott@cecnsw.catholic.edu.au](mailto:rosalie.nott@cecnsw.catholic.edu.au) / 9287 1560)
### Guide to the Australian Education Act 2013 Section A.3.1.2 Ongoing policy requirements

http://aeaguide.education.gov.au/content/a312-ongoing-policy-requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act/Regulation</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Required Actions</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 77(2)(a) / 41(a)</td>
<td>Enhancing principal and teacher performance and professional development</td>
<td>Implement the Australian Teacher Performance and Development Framework (refer to <a href="http://www.aitsl.edu.au">www.aitsl.edu.au</a>). Implementation of certain NSW Great Teaching, Inspired Learning reforms is aligned to this requirement.</td>
<td>New requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 77(2)(a) / 41(b)</td>
<td>Providing access to ongoing professional development</td>
<td>Provide access to ongoing professional development consistent with the Australian Charter for the Professional Learning of Teachers and School Leaders (refer to <a href="http://www.aitsl.edu.au">www.aitsl.edu.au</a>). Implementation of certain NSW Great Teaching, Inspired Learning reforms is aligned to this requirement.</td>
<td>New requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 77(2)(b) / 42</td>
<td>Implementing the Australian Curriculum in accordance with the Regulation, or a curriculum with comparable outcomes recognised by ACARA</td>
<td>NSW Catholic school authorities implement the NSW syllabuses developed by the BOSTES (<a href="http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/">www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/</a>) including the NSW syllabuses for the Australian Curriculum as they are approved by the NSW Minister.</td>
<td>New requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 77(2)(c) / 43</td>
<td>Ensuring schools participate in the National Assessment Program and provide data collected from those assessments (<a href="http://www.nap.edu.au">www.nap.edu.au</a>)</td>
<td>Ensure schools participate in the national assessments such as annual literacy and numeracy testing (NAPLAN) and in any sample national or international assessments for which a school is selected.</td>
<td>Continuing requirement from Schools Assistance Act 2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Section 77(2)(d) / 44 - 45 | Ensuring that the authority has a school improvement framework for the schools in its authority | Diocesan authorities need a framework which ensures improvement planning at school level:  
  - that the plan is developed in consultation with persons responsible for students at the school and others in the school community  
  - that the school’s progress against the plan is reviewed each year and, if necessary, the plan is updated  
  - that a report is prepared describing the school’s achievements in relation to, and progress against, the plan in the previous year.  
Diocesan authorities must ensure that the school improvement plan, and the report mentioned are published, available to the public. | New requirement           |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section/Regulation</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Section 77(2)(d) / 44 | Ensuring that each of its schools develops, implements, publishes and reviews a school improvement plan | The plan must include:  
- Contextual information about the school  
- Description of a process for conducting self-assessment  
- Description of process for reviewing the school improvement plan  
- Focus on strategic planning, including on areas of the school that may be improved.  
- Description of how the 5 national reform directions apply to the school: quality teaching, quality learning, empowered school leadership, transparency and accountability, and meeting student need.  
| Regulation 44(2b) | Ensuring that each of its schools develops, implements, publishes and reviews a school improvement plan | The plan must include:  
- Contextual information about the school  
- Description of a process for conducting self-assessment  
- Description of process for reviewing the school improvement plan  
- Focus on strategic planning, including on areas of the school that may be improved.  
- Description of how the 5 national reform directions apply to the school: quality teaching, quality learning, empowered school leadership, transparency and accountability, and meeting student need.  
| Section 77(2)(e) | Ensuring that the authority and each of its schools complies with the relevant disability discrimination laws of the Commonwealth and State | All education providers are required to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and the Standards ([https://education.gov.au/disability-standards-education](https://education.gov.au/disability-standards-education)) |
| Section 77(2)(f)/44 – 60 | Providing information required by the Regulation related to:  
- A school’s census  
- A national program to collect data on schools and school education  
- Any implementation plan of the authority or school improvement plan (see above)  
- Student reports to parents or carers | **School’s census:** The Australian Government is responsible for the collection of schools census data for provision to the ABS on the first Friday in August.  
**National data collection:** Data is collected from schools and authorities for reporting on MySchool, the National Report on Schooling, Report on Government Services. Most is available through existing data collections.  
**Student reports:** see Regulation 59; in summary, for each student in Years 1 to 10, against available national standards, relative to the performance of the student’s peer group, reported on five-point scale (example A to E). |
School information: in summary, information is to be published on the internet in a school’s annual report before the end of June the following year. This is in addition to information provided to ACARA for reporting on MySchool (see below).

Appendix F: School information collection requirements for reporting on MySchool

http://aeaguide.education.gov.au/content/f8-school-information-collection-requirements

Appendix F outlines the school information collection requirements for submission to ACARA for reporting on MySchool. In many cases, the information is already being collected by ACARA.

There is a change (Regulation 55e) regarding the reporting of satisfaction, given the availability through ACARA of items in the National School Opinion Survey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulation</th>
<th>Information required</th>
<th>Collection details</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regulation 55 e</td>
<td>e) a statement about whether students, parents and teachers were satisfied with the school during the reporting period, including (if applicable) data collected using the National School Opinion Survey</td>
<td>Education ministers agreed to a national satisfaction survey on 17 April 2009. National parent and student items were agreed by education ministers in April 2012. Provision of information about satisfaction was also a requirement under the National Education Agreement and Schools Assistance Act 2008. This information is not currently published in any national reports. ACARA has developed national items that form the National School Opinion Survey. Schools can use these national items to meet their existing school satisfaction reporting requirements. A survey tool, School Survey, has been developed to collect National School Opinion Survey data, available for use by schools from August 2013.</td>
<td>New requirement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>