

DISTANCE EDUCATION



POLICY:

Quality education centred on personal interaction, from Kindergarten to Year 12, of an equivalent standard to mainstream NSW schools for students living at home in a geographically isolated area to be provided through a system of co-educational services delivered to students' homes and remote schools.

OBJECTIVES:

Home Supervisors

1. Recognition and understanding for the key role played by the home supervisor within the Distance Education process.
2. An identified role for parents/home supervisors on the fundamental decision making process involved in the planning and implementation for Distance Education.

Facilities

3. Distance Education centres established at strategic and appropriate locations within reasonable access of the homes of students.

Administration

4. A centralised management body to continually oversee and co-ordinate communication between Distance Education Centres and promote the use of improved technology.

Technology

5. That any advancement in technology be implemented to enhance the education of Distance Education Students.
6. Networking between Distance Education Centres and small rural schools is established.
7. Use of new technology to enhance, not replace the personal contact between teachers/students; teachers/supervisors; students/students.

Curriculum/Resources

8. A range of relevant resources to facilitate personal interaction between teacher and student, student and student, with provision for the special needs children requiring additional support or extension.

9. Current multi media aids as a full enhancement to the written-based course.
10. The delivery and return of work be available to students using electronic mode.
11. The course distributed and marked at the Distance Education Centre at which a student is enrolled.
12. To offer relevant education courses written or adapted to encompass local conditions, where appropriate.
13. A Field Service Program promoting social interaction to operate from all Distance Education Centres, e.g. mini schools. Home visits and appropriate staffing levels implemented at all Distance Education Centres to cater for these services.
14. Adequately resourced support for students with learning difficulties and special needs within the Distance Education Centres.
15. Ongoing support for Home Supervisors to operate from Distance Education Centres.
16. The co-ordination of all levels of Distance Education delivery, incorporating the Centre for Learning Innovation, Distance Education Centres, small rural schools and associated parents' groups.

Staffing

17. The appointment of Distance Education teachers by Merit Selection.
18. A compulsory teacher training component, specialised pre-service training and in-service opportunities for teachers to prepare them for teaching Distance Education with recognition of the particular needs and conditions of students and families living in remote areas and the specialised knowledge required in the use of technology.
19. A parent representative of the Distance Education community included on the review panel for Merit Selection appointments to Distance Education Centres.

[Ratified 2008]