

Box Hill High School
7635

**2008 Annual Report to the
School Community**

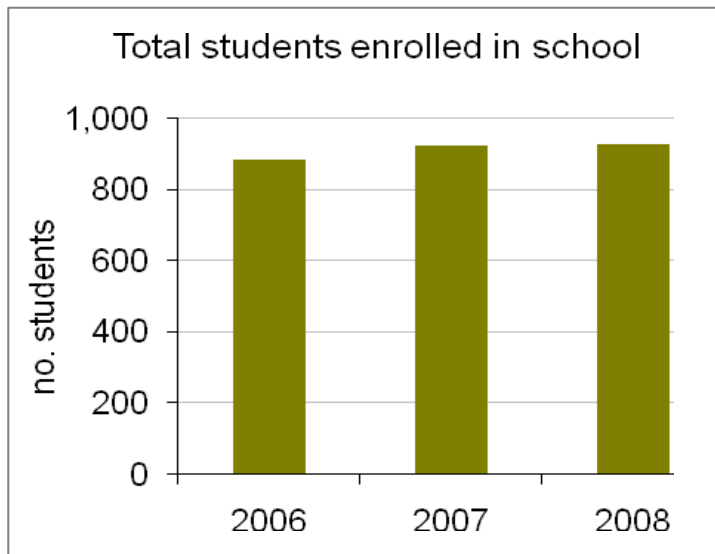


Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development

School Overview

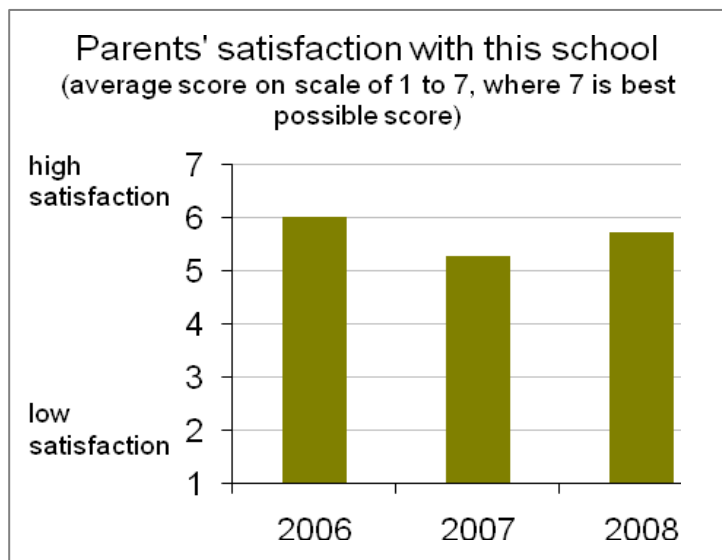
Box Hill High School is a high performing, coeducational State Government high school. The school community is diverse and respects individual differences. We have high expectations as we encourage every student to strive to be the best they can be. The process of transformation of the school environment commenced this year and Stage one of the Master Plan will be completed by March 2009. The school also achieved the important goal of achieving the accreditation standard for Performance and Development Culture in schools. During 2009 the school will continue to work on improving opportunities and outcomes for all its staff and students.

Student enrolments



This graph shows that the enrolments of the school have been sustained with only a marginal increase. Due to the popularity of our school and the constraints imposed by our small physical site, not all children who wish to attend our school can be accommodated. To ensure that our process is open and transparent and that all local students are given the opportunity to attend our school, the school has appointed a Transition Officer.

Parent Satisfaction



In the annual parent survey, parents are asked to what extent they agree with the statement: *Overall, I am satisfied with the education my child receives from the school*, the results shown on a scale of 1-7. Although not as high as 2006 this graph indicates high and improving parent satisfaction with the school. It should also be noted that the number of parent responses has increased from 25% in 2007 to 33.3% in 2008.

Commonwealth Requirements

- **Teacher Satisfaction** - The average score for teacher satisfaction (morale) at this school was 75.3 on a scale from 0 to 100 where 100 is the best possible score. This is an improvement on last year's score which was 72.7.
- **Teacher Absence** -, The average number of days absent per teacher was 5.7 days. This compares very favourably with the State Median of 7.06.
- **Teacher Retention** - Of the 74 on-going teaching staff at BHHS in June 2007 (including those on leave without pay), 68 or 92% were still at the school at June 2008. This figure across all Government schools was 88%.
- **Teacher participation in professional learning**. All teaching staff have participated in professional learning throughout the year. This included, the, Australian Government Quality Teacher Program and the Induction / Mentoring for Beginning program for teachers, study towards higher degrees, gifted education modules and subject based professional development.
- **Teacher Qualifications** – All teachers in Victorian Government schools are registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. The requirements for registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching can be found at; http://www.vit.vic.edu.au/content.asp?Document_ID=241."

Principal's Report

2008 Annual Report

2008 has been a transformational year for Box Hill High School. It has been a year where the members of our school community demonstrated amazing strength of character, commitment and optimism, ingenuity and creativity, whilst battling incredibly difficult working conditions. This year has demonstrated just how outstanding our staff and students are. I know it will be a year that will become etched in the history and story of Box Hill High School as a testament to the character of its people, who together make Box Hill High School the unique place that it is. It has become a year where dreams became reality.

Despite these challenges, Stage One of the building process will be completed by 3rd March 2009 and we will enjoy our new canteen, new food technology area and dining room, new library and gallery, new 3D art room, 3 new IT class rooms, new stadium, PE classroom and Year 12 centre and offices. The school's cooperative borrowed \$800,000 to finance our part of the project. Throughout the year we also refurbished and repainted many existing rooms and the three main Science rooms were renovated with funds from the Federal Government's *Investing in our Schools Grant*.

Not content to rest on our laurels however, we have also successfully submitted plans for our very exciting SATERN (Science And Technology Education and Resource Network) Project to the Federal Government for funding. This project is further testament to the commitment of our wonderful parents, Meryl Andrews, Kerrie Anne Sommerfeld, Greg Hunt and Jeff Cook who have put in endless hours of work to submit this innovative project for Federal Government funding. Basically, we have developed a model where Box Hill High School is to be the lead agent in developing partnerships with regional schools, science and technology industries, research experts and higher and further educational institutes, to improve the teaching and learning of Science and Technology. Our goal is to build an innovation culture that will excite both teachers and students.

Our proposal is to build a science and technology hub, located at the school. The purpose of the centre is to provide engaging, real-world science programs. The centre will contain contemporary teaching spaces and integrate learning technologies to enhance teaching and learning outcomes and enable teachers and students to engage in science and technology projects remotely. Integral to the program is the collaboration of industry, higher education experts and primary and secondary teachers, to develop engaging and relevant science and technology curriculum and teaching practice. We are delighted that the Federal Government has shown confidence in our proposal and has granted us \$2,262,337 to construct this facility through its Local Schools Working Together (LSWT) pilot program. Only 4 Victorian schools were successful in their applications and it appears that the Federal Government believes that ours was one of the most innovative project proposals that it has seen! So we look forward to more building in the near future!

Despite all the physical challenges, Box Hill High School staff and students triumphed. We achieved the best results ever in terms of student participation in Athletics, Cross Country and other inter-school sporting events. The school staged "Eureka!" the musical and it was the first time it was staged non-professionally. We were fortunate to be able to acquire the original sets and props and a truly "awesome" production was staged by Rod Charls, our Director. Members of the public commented that they thought that the Box Hill High School production was better than the professional performances! Once again our Model Solar Car teams triumphed, winning first and fourth in the State Championships and then with an additional wild card entry went on to compete in the National Championships, where the Box Hill High School wild card entry won. This was the first time in 20 years that a Victorian entrant had won the National Championships.

Two language students won scholarships to study in Germany and one of our students won the State Award. We had 5 students who received the top score nationally in the NSW Science, English, Maths and ITC competitions. Our debating teams also had great success with our D-grade A team making it all the way to the Octofinals.

In terms of performing arts the finals of the Talent Quest were outstanding, our musicians performed at Dizzys Night Club in their first professional gig, and we enjoyed wonderful performances by our talented VCE music students and instrumental music students.

Our VCE results were outstanding -

- The top ENTER score was 99.7
- 4 students achieved ENTERs of over 99
- 28.2% of students achieved ENTERs over 90
- 50.9% of students achieved ENTERs over 80
- The median ENTER score for students at Box Hill High school was 80.55. This compares very favourably to the state-wide median ENTER score of 50!
- 6 students achieved perfect scores of 50
- 133 individual study scores of over 40 were achieved by our students.

This year saw the advent of several new clubs, including the Knitting Club, which now also has its own blog, and the Dr Who club. We are delighted that staff so willingly undertake these extra curricula activities for our student enjoyment.

The support of our parents has been outstanding whether through FOPA, the Fundraising Committee, School Council or support for the canteen.

So as a school community we are really looking forward to the “New Beginnings” promised for 2009. We are really looking forward to our new facilities. The upcoming years are going to be very exciting for Box Hill High School as we “choose to be extraordinary, and not settle for ordinary!” So let us all be the best we can be, let us be creative, tolerant and work together harmoniously as:-

*“The future does not belong to those who are content with today,
apathetic toward common problems timid and fearful in the face of new ideas and bold projects.
Rather it will belong to those who can blend vision, reason and courage ..”
(Ted Kennedy, 1968)*

School Council President's Report

Our 2008 School Captain, Sarah Pizzey, in her speech at the Year 12 Awards Night, said: "Box Hill High School is not about bricks and mortar, pipes and plumbing – it is about people." How right she is.

For the past decade the School has been working to achieve funding for a new school environment. 2008 saw this dream make serious progress with the school becoming a construction zone, which will improve enormously the infrastructure. This will undoubtedly improve the educational experience and outcomes of our students well into the future.

The students and staff put up with a lot of disruption in 2008 due to the construction work. However, as this 2008 Annual Report highlights very clearly, the students and staff rose above the challenges of the physical environment to achieve educational, cultural and sporting outcomes of an extremely high order.

This can only happen where students and staff alike arise above the problems and concentrate on the objectives of what an education is all about. The culture of the people at Box Hill provides the best learning environment – the physical facilities are important but secondary to that objective, as we have seen demonstrated this past year.

The whole school community can rightly thank the students and staff for their efforts over the past year to continue the strong educational, cultural, and sporting achievements at Box Hill High School.

While it is the many departing students who will not experience the benefits of the new school, they and their parents can take comfort in the knowledge that current and future students of Box Hill High School will benefit from the work they have put in to see a new school environment achieved.

2008 was the first full year of a new Chief Executive Officer and Principal for Box Hill High School. Kate Mitchell has done a marvellous job in leading the school through a difficult year and maintaining the high standards that Box Hill is known for. All parents have reason to thank Kate for the way she has effortlessly led the transition to a new Principal and made her mark on the operational and educational management of the school. Well done Kate.

In 2006, we set up the Box Hill High School Cooperative Limited as a means of raising funds for some of the construction at the School. A further big thankyou to the parents who became members of the Coop.

The raising of funds through the schools building fund, as well as the loan taken out by the Cooperative, has meant we were able to construct the gym, which will be an invaluable addition to the amenities of the School. All members of the school community should be very proud of the fact that they were responsible for the construction of the gym without the need for government funding. The loan will be able to be repaid by proceeds from the hiring of the facility when not required for school use.

While all the construction was under way, the School Council was working on further opportunities for improving the role of Box Hill High in education.

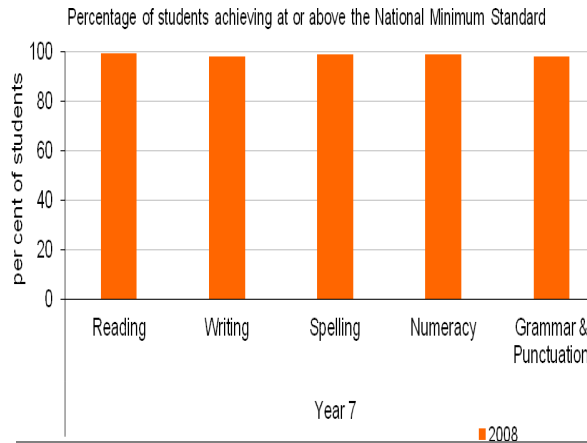
Thanks to a team led by School Councillor Meryl Andrews, we secured funding from the Commonwealth Government to build a science and technology centre (SATERN) at the school that will provide a community centre of excellence for integration of science and technology education from primary school through to secondary and tertiary levels as well as with the business sector. This will further enhance the very high reputation Box Hill High has within the educational fraternity and lead to improved educational opportunities for our students and the students from schools partnering in the project. School Council has written to Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard and local Federal Member, Anna Burke, thanking them, on behalf of the school community, for the funding for the initiative.

I particularly want to thank all parent, staff, student and community members of the School Council for the efforts they have put in to set the strategic directions of the school and oversee the efforts of the staff in implementing the school vision and charter.

Most importantly, I want to thank the students and staff of Box Hill High School – it is your efforts that make the school the success it is and, I am sure, will continue to be for current and future generations.

Student Progress & Achievements

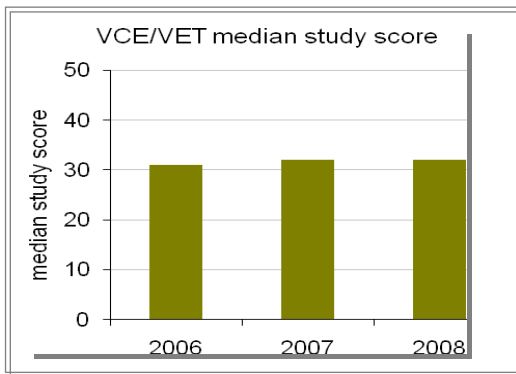
Student Progress & Achievements



Student Learning

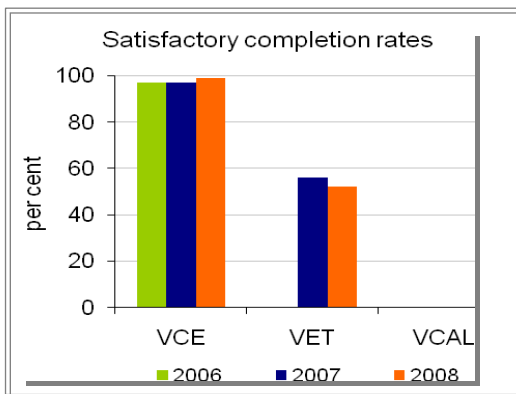


Percentage of students achieving at or above the National Minimum Standards – These graphs clearly show the high percentage of children at Box Hill High School who are performing at or above the expected National Benchmarks according to NAPLAN test results for Year 7 and Year 9 levels



VCE/VET median study score

These results are acceptable and continue to show marginal overall improvement with the school mean for all studies increasing from 31.6 in 2007 to 31.9 in 2008. In terms of study scores over 40, BHHS had 13.7% of students achieving study scores over 40. This shows the high achievements of our students as the percentage of over 40 scores statewide was only 5.9%



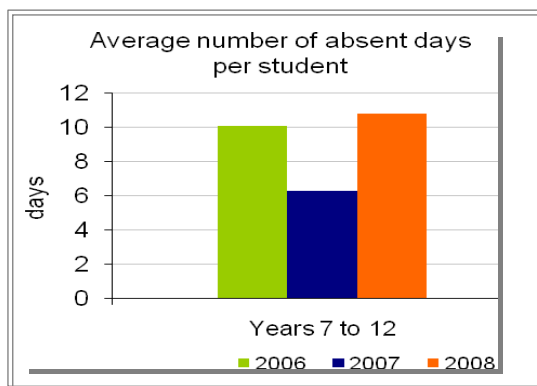
Satisfactory completion rates

The percentage of students that satisfactorily complete VCE continues to remain high and shows marginal improvement. Students at Box Hill High School are in the majority looking to go on to University and therefore there has not been any demand for VCAL courses.

Student Engagement and Wellbeing

An area of focus at Box Hill High School is the emphasis on engagement of our students. We have innovative and professional teachers who teach our students in exciting and interesting ways. We have a strong extra-curricular program and through our sporting, artistic, creative, musical and solar car programs we offer a wide variety of opportunities to further engage our students. We also offer many leadership opportunities through our House system, prefect and peer support programs. Students are also offered leadership opportunities through the SRC, Technical Crew and library monitors.

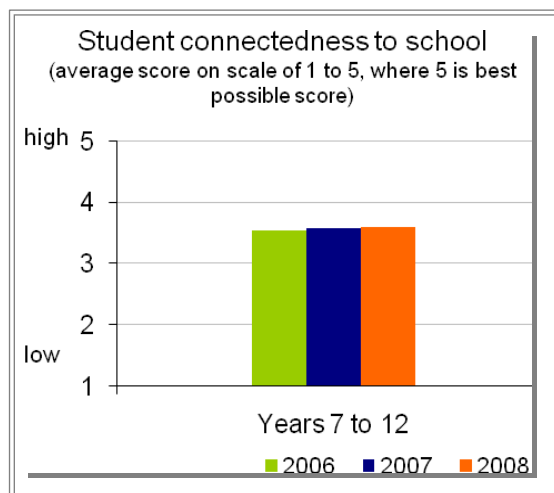
Box Hill High School prides itself on the care that it offers for every student. We are committed to providing strong student welfare and support for our students. We have a strong student welfare team including an outstanding School Psychologist and School Social Worker. The success of our programs, our strong supportive structure is clearly evidenced through the key performance indicators yet we still strive to improve.



Average number of absent days per student

The average number of absent days per student has shown an increase, although it is still well below the state mean of 16.3.

Students' school connectedness



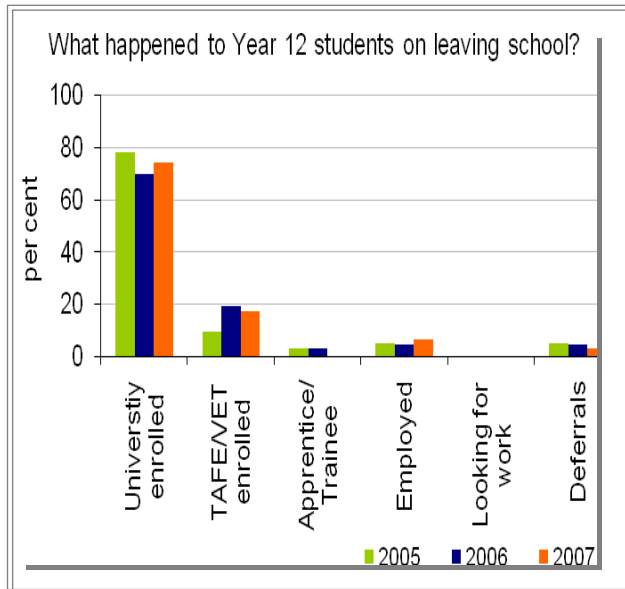
This chart indicates strong connection of our students to the school. However the school continues to work on improving the student's connectedness and wellbeing at the school. To this end the school has put into place many initiatives for 2009.

First, it has re-structured the House system and placed Years 8 -11 student lockers together on the basis of their House. The year 7s and year 12 students continue to have their own locker areas. The house system has been extended and improved so that it incorporates the environment, including locker areas, debating, music, performances and spelling-bee, in addition to regular house sporting events. A bullying survey will also be carried out across the school twice during the year and the results analysed.

Secondly, school facilities have been improved and the school lunchtime has been extended to incorporate many additional lunchtime activities, including student access to the new gymnasium, outdoor performing arts area and cafe style seating, the new VCE area for Year 12 students, the new library space and the continuation of clubs, choir, solar car and instrumental music rehearsals and performances.

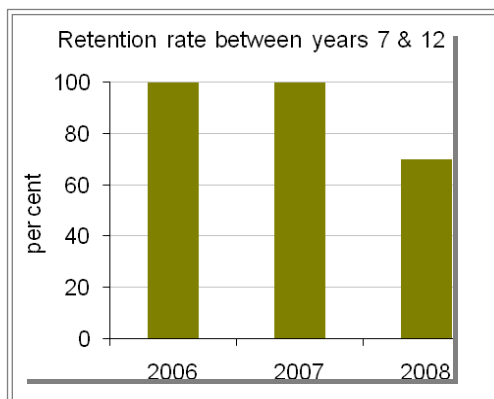
Student Pathways and Transitions

Student destination data

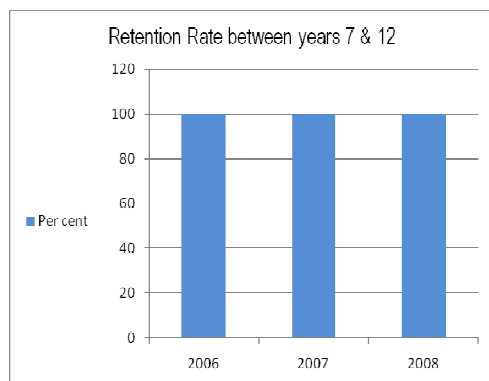


This graph is based on the Department's ON-Track survey of Year 12 students conducted in April and May of the year after they leave school. It shows a slight increase in University enrolled students and a corresponding decrease in TAFE enrolments. Once again the careers guidance provided at our school is outstanding as all our students are placed into their new pathways and no students are left looking for work.

Retention rate between Years 7 & 12



This data (taken from the official records from DEECD) is incorrect due to a clerical error made when entering the data on the CASES system due to the complexities of our 3 year VCE. Having recognised the error, unfortunately the system will not allow us to alter the data. In fact the true retention rate remains at 100% for 2008.



This graph has the correct data and shows the correct retention rate, which is 100% for 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Future Directions

2009 will continue to be an exciting year for 2009. The building, planning and organisation of the SATERN project will commence. We have the opportunity to turn our dreams of Science and Technology Education into reality. We will become a flagship school in the area of Science and Technology, with the capacity to have our concept duplicated across the country.

Our main building and landscaping works will be completed. We are planning to landscape the front garden this year and also to continue refurbishing our existing classrooms.

The Federal government has given us funding to purchase 216 computers and this will allow the continued implementation of the school's E learning plan. In terms of student learning we are moving towards introducing Positive Education philosophy and concepts for our staff and students, and we are examining strategies to improve VCE work ethic and results. A whole school curriculum goal has been set with a focus on ICT and we are also looking to improve student safety data.

2009 will again demonstrate the incredible creative capacity of the community at Box Hill High School. We will maintain our outstanding tradition in Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Instrumental Music, Solar Cars and academic excellence while moving into new areas of sports, including an exciting partnership with *Playfutsal* for indoor soccer and our many partners in our SATERN project for Science and Technology. As a part of the new Whitehorse network of schools, these innovations will lead the way in terms of creative community partnerships.

Financial Performance and Position

Financial Performance – Operating Statement Summary for the year ending 31st December, 2008	
Revenue	2008 Actual
DE&T Grants	1,599,236
Commonwealth Government Grants	32,618
State Government Grants	9,862
Other	191,628
Locally Raised Funds	887,787
Total Operating Revenue	2,721,132
Expenditure	
Salaries and Allowances	154,786
Bank Charges	10,484
Consumables	257,743
Books and Publications	13,144
Communication Costs	36,967
Furniture and Equipment	168,100
Utilities	43,044
Property Services	1,402,739
Travel and Subsistence	24,679
Motor Vehicle Expenses	0
Administration	20,567
Health and Personal Development	2,752
Professional Development	54,356
Trading and Fundraising	167,862
Support/Service	95,942
Miscellaneous	664,996
Total Operating Expenditure	3,118,160
Net Operating Surplus/-Deficit	-397,028
Capital Expenditure	84,709
Please note that the above amounts do not include any credit revenue or expenditure allocated or spent by the school through its Student Resource Package	

Financial Position as at 31st December, 2008	
Funds Available	2008 Actual
High Yield Investment Account	1,642,195
Official Account	6,657
Other Bank Accounts (Cooperative)	
<i>Cooperative Account</i>	5,756
<i>Business On-Line Saver</i>	92,100
Total Funds Available	1,746,708
Financial Commitments	
School Operating Reserve	222,183
Co-operative Bank Account	0
Assets or Equipment Replacement < 12 months	147,015
Revenue Received in Advance	30,787
Building/Grounds including SMS < 12 months	1,336,213
Region /Clusters Funds/School Based Programs < 12 months	7,791
Provision Accounts < 12 months	
Repayable to DEECD	
Other Recurrent Expenditure (Accounts Payable)	2,719
Assets or Equipment Replacement > 12 months	
Building/Grounds including SMS > 12 months	
Region /Clusters Funds/School Based Programs > 12 months	
Provision Accounts > 12 months	
Co-operative loan >12 months	
Beneficiary/Memorial Accounts	
Total Financial Commitments	1,746,708

School Contact Information

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This report contains summary data extracted from the School Level Report. If you would like to access the School Level Report, please contact Kate Mitchell.