

Position Description

Senior Engagement Officer

Why work with us

Every child and young person deserves a great education.

We have a strategy that aims to unlock every child's potential now and into the future, one that in partnership with learners, students, parents and the wider South Australian community will build a world-leading public education system. One that is equitable and prioritises learning and wellbeing.

Together we will make our education system the best it can be.

When our children and young people thrive, so do our communities and our state.

Our values

We are part of the South Australian public sector and share the values of:

							
SERVICE	PROFESSIONALISM	TRUST	RESPECT	COLLABORATION & ENGAGEMENT	HONESTY & INTEGRITY	COURAGE & TENACITY	SUSTAINABILITY
We proudly service the community and the South Australian Government.	We strive for excellence.	We have the confidence in the ability of others.	We value every individual.	We create solutions together.	We act truthfully, consistently, and fairly.	We never give up.	We work to get the best results for current and future generations of South Australians.

About Curriculum and Learning

The Curriculum and Learning Division is responsible for supporting educators within the public education system to provide the best learning possible to our children and young people. Driving its work is the Strategy for Public Education and the achievement of our ambitions for our learners. The Division has responsibility for all curriculum and learning initiatives, policies, and programmes and has recently undergone a functional design process resulting in the establishment of six directorates, four of which are new to the division.

The directorates are:

- Aboriginal Education
- Curriculum
- Curriculum Strategy and Planning
- Connections and Engagement
- Early Years Curriculum and Learning
- Learning and Teaching

The Curriculum Connections and Engagement directorate drives collaborative engagement with all system leaders and external partners, supporting the integrated delivery of key projects, events, and communications for transformative impact.

About this role

The Senior Engagement Officer is a leadership position responsible for the strategic orchestration of how the Department for Education connects with schools and preschools. Operating within the Curriculum Connections and Engagement directorate, the Senior Engagement Officer translates divisional priorities and strategic initiatives into operational delivery by designing and overseeing divisional engagement processes, ensuring that curriculum and pedagogical initiatives are consistently introduced to site leaders.

A blend of strategic systems thinking and operational agility supports the provision of expert advice to senior management regarding engagement trends, educator readiness, adoption and and systemic risks. Collaborative leadership within teams and across the Curriculum and Learning Division supports the development of influential relationships, ensuring that engagement activities are pedagogically sound, accessible, and aligned with the Strategy for Public Education.

Position title	Senior Engagement Officer
Classification	ASO7
Division	Curriculum and Learning
Directorate	Curriculum Connections and Engagement
Location	Milner Street, Hindmarsh SA 5007, with flexible working arrangements available
Reports to	Leader, Engagement Curriculum Connections and Engagement
Direct reports	Nil
Role description date	August 2026

What you will do (key outcomes)

1. Provide effective leadership and foster a collaborative culture within the team and across the division, building shared understanding of engagement processes, supporting the coordinated introduction of new initiatives, and ensuring completion of high-priority tasks, particularly during peak periods.
2. Design, implement, and oversee streamlined and consistent engagement processes with schools, preschools, and key departmental stakeholders, ensuring alignment of activities and engagement schedules.
3. Provide expert advice to senior management on the trends in school engagement, educator readiness and the adoption of divisional initiatives, identifying systemic risks and opportunities that impact on how curriculum and pedagogy initiatives are received by site leaders and escalating emerging engagement risks in a timely way.



4. Ensure all engagement practices meet relevant government legislation, departmental policies, and accessibility standards.
5. Champion the divisional engagement approach and framework, ensuring effective implementation of stakeholder engagement processes and the management of strategic relationships, with a commitment to continuous improvement of the framework and related processes.
6. Monitor, analyse and report on the effectiveness of divisional engagement activity, applying findings to improve future approaches.
7. Help to maintain a safe and healthy working environment by proactively reporting incidents, hazards and injuries.

The capabilities you will bring (key competencies)

- **Engagement strategy and system expertise:** Extensive experience in delivering high-level engagement strategies and stakeholder programs at a system level, applying contemporary approaches to engagement and consultation design. Skilled in determining requirements, initiating and conducting in-depth research, analysing complex data and issues, and providing expert, strategic advice to senior executives. Demonstrated ability to manage end-to-end engagement processes that support the effective design and implementation of projects, programs, and strategies
- **Leadership and Relationship Management:** Significant experience developing and sustaining productive relationships with internal and external stakeholders to support strategic and operational objectives.
- **Strategic Systems Thinking and Operational Flexibility:** Proven strength in translating divisional goals into practical, scalable processes, with flexibility to move between strategic planning and operational delivery.
- **High-level Communication and Policy Advice:** High-level verbal and written communication skills and interpersonal skills, with the ability to prepare clear, accurate, and professional documents. Demonstrated capability to provide expert advice to senior management on complex matters, working with astuteness, diplomacy and discretion in sensitive environments.
- **Problem Solving:** Proven capacity to identify and analyse systemic risks, challenges, and opportunities related to engagement strategies, delivering innovative and evidence-based solutions that improve processes and ensure initiatives are well received by stakeholders.
- **Autonomy:** Demonstrated ability to operate with a high degree of independence and accountability, making sound decisions and managing complex engagement processes without close supervision. Applies professional judgement to prioritise tasks and deliver outcomes aligned with departmental strategies and legislative requirements.

Who you will work with (key relationships)	Qualifications
Direct working relationships: Leader, Engagement, Curriculum Connections and Engagement Internal working relationships: • Director Curriculum Connections and Engagement	Essential: Nil Desirable: Relevant tertiary qualifications in a related discipline

• Leader, Engagement Curriculum Connections and Engagement • Assistant Director Online Curriculum and Learning, Curriculum connections and Engagement • Leader Programs and Branding Curriculum Connections and Engagement • Publishing Team Curriculum Connections and Engagement • Senior Manager Projects & Planning External working relationships: • Learning Area Associations: Subject-specific professional organisations • School Leadership Teams: including the Principals, Deputy Principal, and Assistant Principals and Curriculum Leaders	
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Corporate responsibilities	Special conditions
Keep accurate and complete records Act appropriately in line with the Public Sector Code of Ethics at all times Support diversity and promote an inclusive workplace for everyone Maintain a commitment to Work Health and Safety legislative requirements	You may be asked to work out of hours You may need to travel within or outside South Australia You need to achieve mutually agreed performance goals You must have a current Working with Children Check You must do Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect – Education and Care training You must be an Australian resident or provide evidence you have a current work permit

Assessed by: Valentina Lopez, People & Culture Advisor	<i>Valentina L</i>	Approved by: Amanda Rice, Director, Curriculum Connections and Engagement	
Date: August, 2026		Date: 18 August, 2026	