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**From:** DoE Mail

**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 July 2007

**To:** DL All School Principals; DL All Assistant and Campus Principals; DL All Schools; DL All Corporate (new); DL All School Council Presidents; DL School Services Officer A-H; DL School Services Officer I-P; DL School Services Officer Q-Z; DL All Business Managers; DL TSP All Technicians; DL School Technicians; DL All HRMS Users; SDL OHS Reps; DL Learning Technology Co-ordinators

**Subject:** B26-2007 DoE MAIL Bulletin for week ending 13 July 2007

## Department of Education – Victoria

For all schools, principals, school council presidents, business managers, SSO administrative staff, and parent association/club presidents

### ***S231-2007 Proclamation of Education and Training Reform Act 2006***

#### **Main Points**

- The *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* has been proclaimed and is now in effect, as well as the associated Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007.
- The Act updates and replaces twelve separate education and training acts and provides a modern and robust legislative and regulatory framework for schools to operate under. Key features of the new Act include:
  - increasing the school leaving age from 15 to 16 years;
  - enshrining parents' rights to information about their child's education; for example, all schools will be required to provide information regarding the school's performance to the school community at least once a year;
  - establishing a new statutory authority – the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) – responsible for the regulation and accreditation of non-government and government schools, training and higher education providers, except universities;
  - affirming the principle of free instruction in government schools;
  - guaranteeing a place in TAFE institutions and participating adult education providers to young people who have not completed Year 12 or its equivalent up to the age of 20; and
  - registering children of compulsory school age for home schooling with the VRQA.

#### **Actions Required**

- Principals are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the new Act and Regulations, and where appropriate, to communicate them to their school community.

#### **Critical Dates**

- The Act and Regulations came into effect on 1 July 2007.

### **Additional Information**

- An extensive consultation process has ensured that both the Act and the Regulations reflect community expectations.
- A copy of the new Regulations can be viewed through the Victorian Statute Book at <http://www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au> (open the Victorian Statute Book, then Statute Rules 2007 and locate by the title 'Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007').
- For further information, including access to fact sheets, visit the Department of Education's website at [www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au).

### **Darrell Fraser**

Deputy Secretary

Office for Government School Education