



## Fair Education Ready Set Connect Cluster



### BECAUSE

Students, families, communities and schools need to authentically connect in order to support student outcomes and connected communities

### WE BELIEVE

The combined strength and knowledge of students, teachers, parents and community members from high school and primary schools is critical

### SO WE PROVIDE

An opportunity for a cluster of schools (primary and high) to work together to acknowledge and trail evidence-based practices around transition and parent engagement.

### THAT LEADS TO

Multiple evidence-based opportunities co-created by schools for students, families & community members to connect and engage in schooling

### AND RESULTS IN

Improved outcomes for students and the development of authentic learning partnerships supporting young people and communities to succeed.

### PARTNERS

Schools participating in the Fair Education initiative, Ready Set Connect Cluster, are Hilltop Road Public School, Greystanes Public School, Beresford Road Public School, Moree East Public School, Greystanes High School, Merrylands High School and Arthur Philip High School.

### PRACTICES

In the early stages of the cluster of schools forming, it was important to establish a shared vision and statements of belief. This enables the group to remain focused on the big picture and the wider focus of the project, motivating us to remember why this work is important.

We developed a learning culture across the cluster of schools with established ways of working.

- Ideating was a way to value and sort the groups ideas. It then gives us the opportunity to develop a consensus and determine a big idea valuing everyone's contributions.
- Google Drive platform was used to collate and share resources. This enables all members to remain updated with the work of the cluster at any time. We also use video footage, that we upload, so the essence is captured and can be shared with Moree East Public School.
- Prototyping is a strategy the cluster uses to test strategies we believe have merit. Rather than implementing strategies on a large scale, we think it is imperative that we trail them on a smaller scale in order to 'fail fast' to see if it has the desired impact. Every school in the cluster prototyped a new transition strategy, which resulted in successful outcomes.

The cluster of schools has also completed an audit using the RICE model. R.I.C.E. stands for Relationships, Interests, Connectedness and Engagement. We believe these four elements are essential to engage families, community and external agencies. By conducting an audit on our individual schools and then analysing the results as a cluster we were able to reflect on how we can develop and strengthen strategies to engage with families.

The cluster also participates in coaching sessions with our Fair Education coach and attends Fair Education conferences.

### RESULTS

The cluster of school has created a bank of transition strategies that have been trailed and tested in schools. Each of the transition practices feature the schools measure of success for the strategy.

A stage success criterion has been developed by the cluster in order to track the depth of each schools practices for each stake holder in regards to transition and parent and community engagement.

The cluster has shared the RICE model with other schools across Fair Education and wider educational contexts. The cluster of school are now adopting a change in mindset in regards to parent and community engagement.