



# ESPERANCE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

*A strong community, creating  
opportunities for personal excellence.*

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Painting by Jennell Reynolds

## Acknowledgement

**NGALEL TAUNN-GAK KARDITCH WUDJARI NYUNGAR BRIDYIAS  
BOODJA NGALORL KUMBAAL YEY. NGALAK JINANG BOLONG  
NGABIN BA BOODJA, WUDARN, BA WARL. DIT GULING NGALEL  
NAAN KUTTITCH BOLONG DEMANS BA DEMAN YORKS KOORA  
KOORA DWORDAK BA MOORDITJABINY.**

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand, the Wudjari Nyungar people, and we recognise their continuing connection to land, sea and skies.

We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.



# Principal's Welcome

Esperance Senior High School is a leading Independent Public School on the south coast of Western Australia. Esperance is located in an area famous for its world-class beaches, national parks and pristine environment. The Esperance Shire is well-established as a leading agricultural region, and an active business, industry and services community. The local Port Authority services farming and the mining hinterland. For all of these reasons Esperance is a sought-after destination for residents and tourists alike. The Esperance community offers many opportunities for Esperance SHS to value add to the students' experiences and learning outcomes.

Esperance Senior High School is a Year 7 to 12 comprehensive senior high school with a population in Semester Two 2025 of 761 students, including 124 Aboriginal students. The school is a multi-faceted campus, comprising a partnership of the Senior High School, including the Esperance Farm Training Centre (EFTC), Esperance Education Support Centre, Esperance Residential College and South Regional TAFE. This partnership extends the educational opportunities for students, particularly in the vocational education and training field in upper school. Support for Aboriginal students from Clontarf, Stars and Follow the Dream programs assist in closing the gap. An industry standard Trades Training Centre, a fully commercial 800-hectare school farm: Esperance Farm Training Centre 35km out of town, an agricultural demonstration block on site and an inviting and visually appealing library, all contribute to making Esperance Senior High School a modern, vibrant and welcoming place to be for all students.

Reflecting on the achievements and progress of 2025, I would like to express my sincere gratitude in acknowledging the collective efforts of our students, staff, parents, and community partners. This year has been marked by significant advancements and milestones that have further consolidated our commitment to providing an exceptional educational experience for our students.

Academically, our students have excelled. In our WACE-eligible Year 12 cohort, 93% of students achieved their WACE -well above like schools, and above the state average of 90%. In a range of ATAR courses, across a number of Learning Areas, final average results were above the State average. For example in ATAR English, the State mean was 57.82%, Like-schools was 51.25%, and the ESHS mean was 59.72%. This is a clear indication of the standards set by the school, the teaching expertise and rigour of the program, and the students' engagement in their learning.

Our Vocational students achieved exceptionally well. In a range of Certificate II, III and IV qualifications, including Certificate IV in Preparation for Health and Nursing Studies, and Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management, 100% of students achieved the qualification. The school's National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results were also noteworthy, exceeding those of like schools, reflecting the effectiveness of our whole school approaches to literacy and quality teaching and learning. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our teachers and students, and it underscores our commitment to academic excellence.



In 2025, the school made significant progress in embedding effective and consistent approaches to behaviour learning. The Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) Program, underpinned by our SPARK values of Safety, Persistence, Achievement, Respect, and Kindness, promotes positive behaviour, enhances student well-being, and creates a supportive and inclusive school environment. This year we have engaged in a whole-school collaborative approach to ensure all staff have had input into the PBS procedures, thus ensuring we have a shared, clear and consistent approach across the school. This has had a significant impact on improving our school culture, on promoting the calm, orderly learning environment, and achieving a sense of safety for teachers and students - that is the result of shared and consistent procedures. It has also provided a strong platform to develop our whole-school quality teaching and learning agenda.

Staff engagement with the Department of Education's Quality Teaching Strategy: Teaching for Impact has further strengthened our focus on evidence-based teaching practices and continuous improvement. This work has been supported through professional learning and collaboration with partner school Rossmoyne Senior high School. This partnership has proven valuable for our teachers and has benefited both schools in sharing innovative learning initiatives.

One such initiative is the development of our Year 7 and Year 8 STRIVE program. The STRIVE program at Esperance SHS has been developed to nurture future ready learners. It incorporates the Capabilities our students require for success at school, in their future beyond school, and in the world of work, as well as Career Learning.

The innovative approaches to learning at ESHS also resulted in our school being selected as one of 20 secondary schools across Australia to take part in the 2026-27 Entrepreneurial Schools project, funded and run by ASPA (Australian Secondary Principals Association) and Young Change Agents.

The strides made in 2024, in developing a comprehensive school-rebuild master-plan, to guide the future development and modernisation of our facilities, has been further discussed with the Education Department in 2025, however despite concerted efforts from our school, P&C and local community, the State Government has not yet committed any funding to the building project.

Our partnerships with the local community have been instrumental in our success this year. We have collaborated with various organizations and stakeholders to enhance the educational experience for our students and provide them with real-world learning opportunities. These partnerships have enriched our curriculum and provided valuable support to our school community.

The year 2025 also saw the whole staff collaborate to create our Strategic Plan for 2026-28. This is a visionary and aspirational plan, that builds on our proud culture of excellence, and clearly sets out the strategic pillars for growth and development. As we look ahead to the future, I am confident that Esperance Senior High School will continue to thrive and excel. Our collective efforts and unwavering commitment to teaching and learning excellence and wellbeing, will ensure that we remain true to our vision of fostering a strong community, creating opportunities for personal excellence.

Janet Silburn Barker

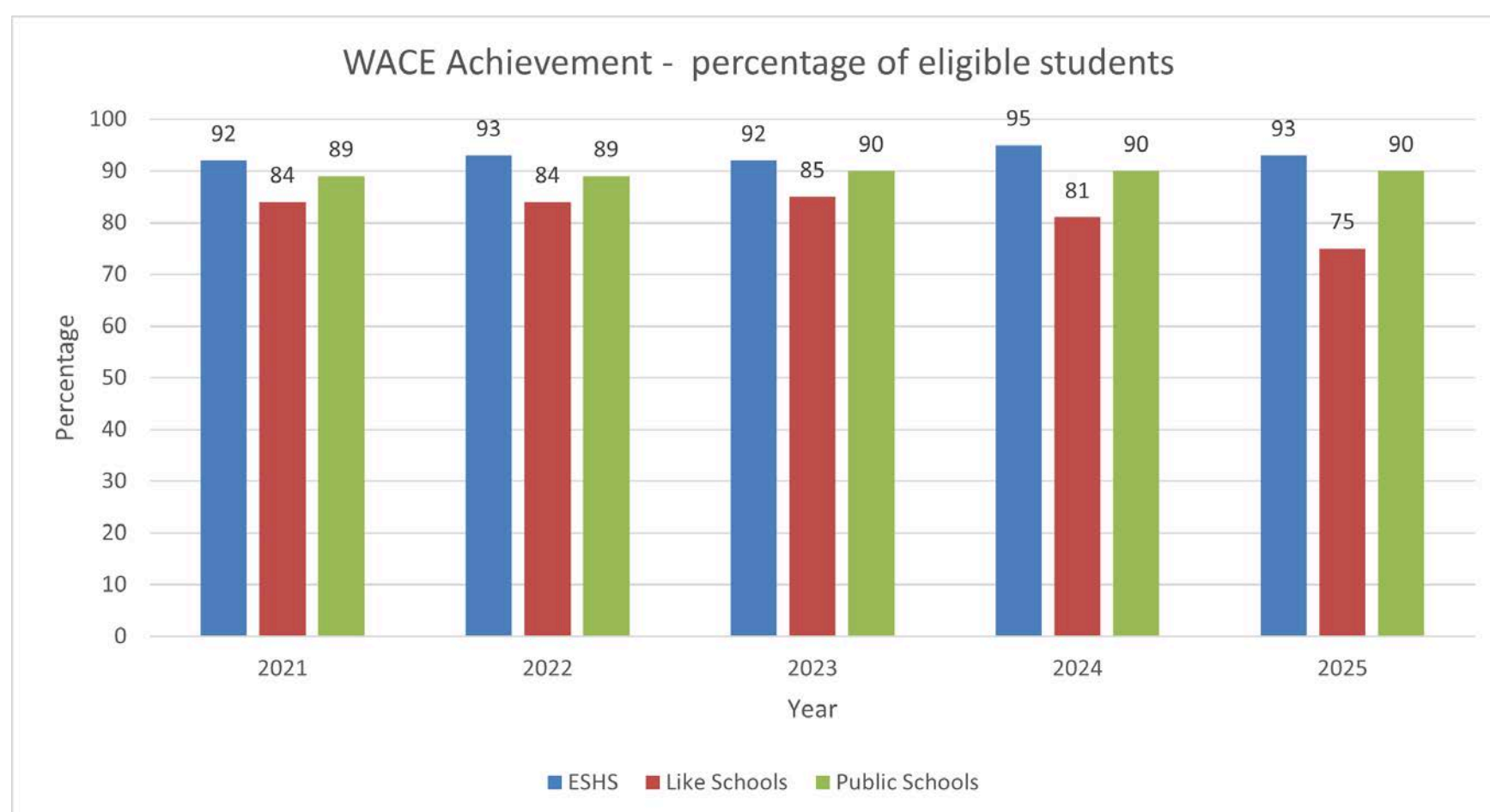
Principal

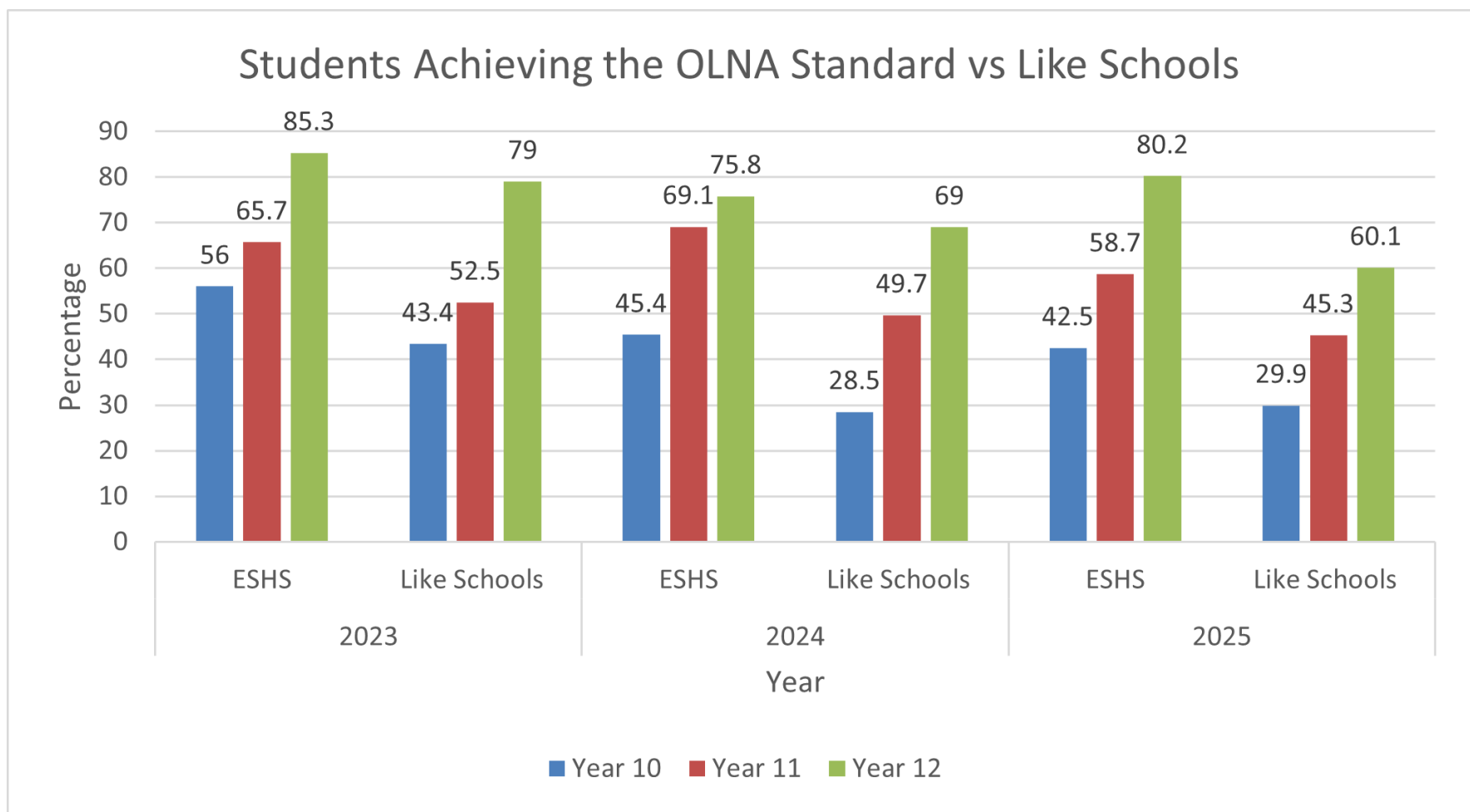
# Successful Students

*A culture of high standards and expectations supports all students to achieve their own personal excellence.*

## Year 12 results

- Five Year 12 students completed the rigorous nomination process for the School Curriculum and Standards Authority 2025 VET Outstanding Achievement Awards.
- Three Year 12 students were shortlisted for the School Curriculum and Standards Authority Awards for Outstanding Achievement in VET.
- One student was awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Retail and Personal Services.
- Kavinu Kahatadeniya and Zachary Warren were awarded Certificates of Distinction.
- Year 12 students received ten School Curriculum and Standards Authority Awards.
- Nine students achieved a Certificate IV, eight students achieved a Certificate III, 35 students achieved a Certificate II.
- Thirteen Aboriginal students achieved their Western Australia Certificate of Education.
- Ninety percent of ATAR courses offered at ESHS achieved a scaled score higher than like schools.
- Thirty percent of ATAR students received an ATAR greater than 90.
- Sixty-nine percent of ATAR students received an ATAR greater than 80.
- Esperance Senior High School recorded a Western Australian Certificate of Education achievement rate of 93 percent. While marginally below our aspirational business plan target of 95 per cent, it was very pleasing when compared to like schools' 75 per cent and public schools' 90 per cent.





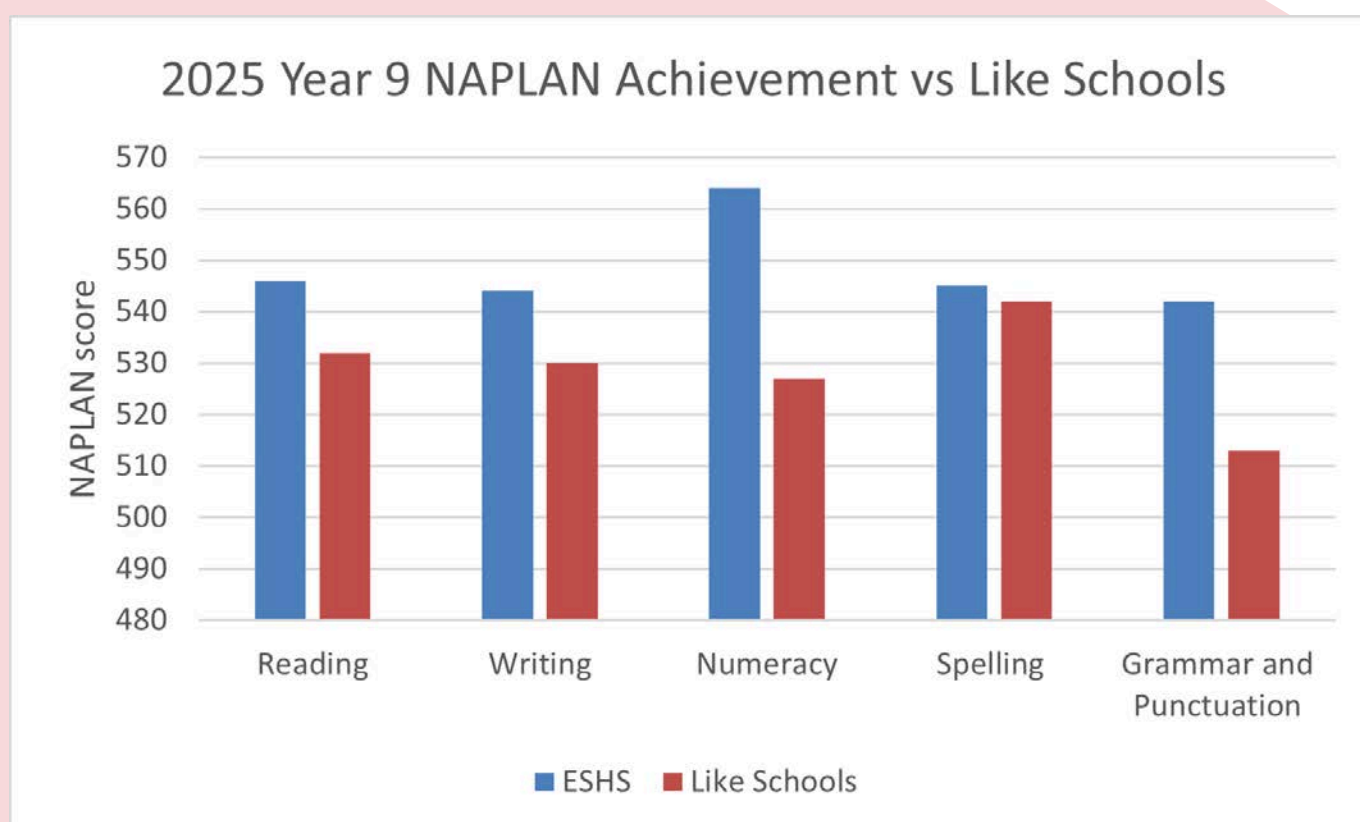
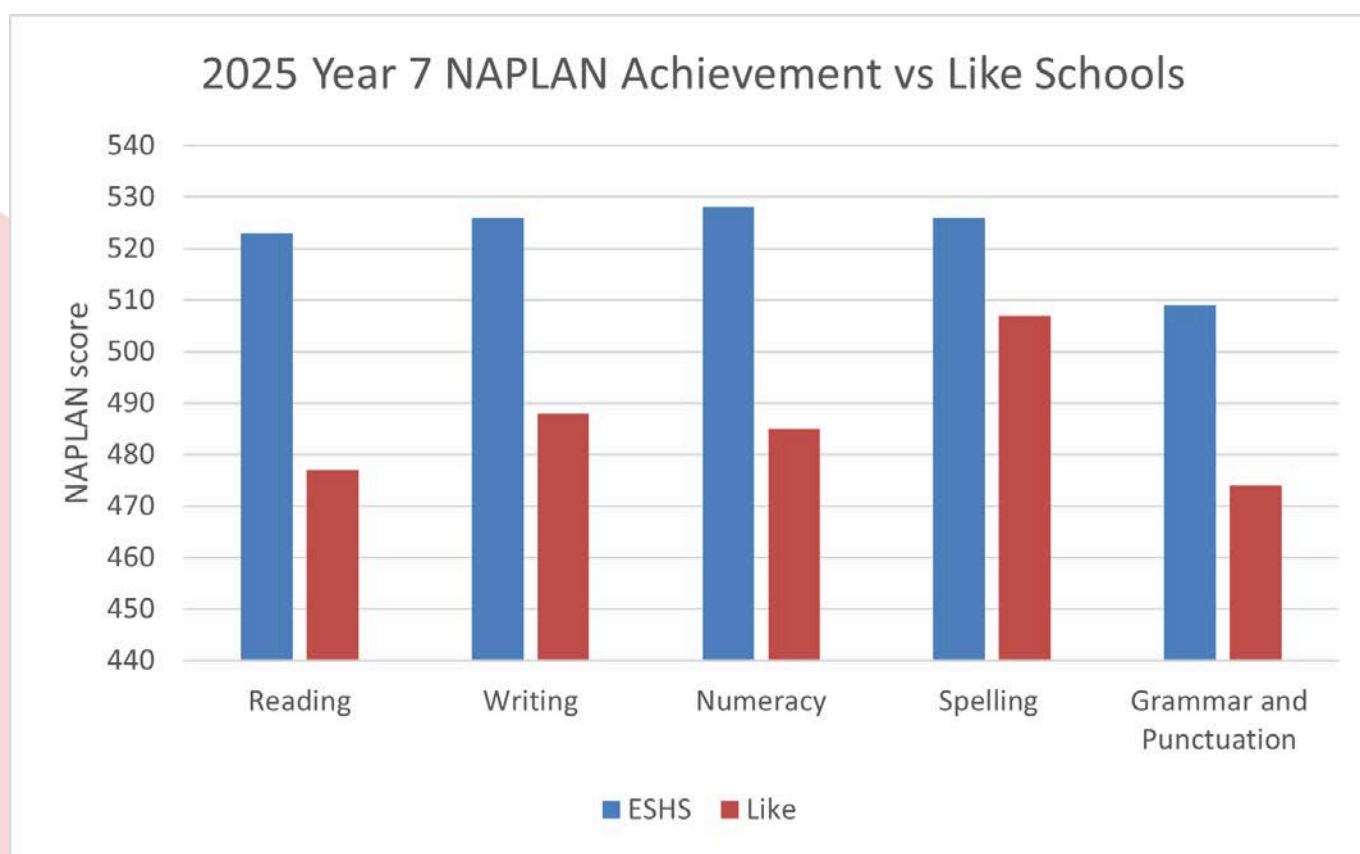
## Online Literacy and Numeracy (OLNA) results

- Pleasingly, the percentage of Esperance Senior High School students passing the OLNA assessment by the end of 2025 exceeded like schools in Years 10, 11, and 12, thereby meeting the relevant 2022-2025 Business Plan target.
- The Department’s Schools Online data indicated that 50 percent of Aboriginal students achieved the OLNA standard compared with only 40 percent in 2022. While Aboriginal students’ achievement continues to be below the Year 12 cohort achievement rate, it compares very well with like schools where percent of Year 12 Aboriginal students achieved the standard.
- There has been a four percent increase in the number of WACE-eligible students achieving the OLNA writing standard since the implementation of this business plan. This reflects the whole-school approaches to writing implemented over the last four years.



# NAPLAN RESULTS

- The following percentages of students who sat the NAPLAN assessments in Year 9 prequalified for each of the OLNA domains: numeracy 52 percent, reading 40 percent, and writing 30 percent.
- Like school comparisons of OLNA prequalification are no longer available due to the changes in NAPLAN reporting.
- Year 9 NAPLAN achievement at Esperance SHS exceeded like schools in all five domains, with Numeracy exceeding like schools' achievement by 37 NAPLAN marks.
- Year 7 NAPLAN achievement at Esperance SHS exceeded like schools in all five domains.
- Year 7 to 9 NAPLAN progress between 2023 and 2025 exceeded like schools in grammar and punctuation, spelling, and numeracy.
- The percentage of Year 9 Aboriginal students at ESHS who recorded high or very high numeracy progress was 30 percent compared to like schools' 26.3 percent.
- The percentage of Year 9 Aboriginal students at ESHS who recorded high or very high reading progress was 41.7 percent compared to like schools' 27.9 percent.





## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACHIEVEMENT

- The school continued its tradition of success at the prestigious Tournament of Minds. Both the Social Sciences and Language Literature teams made it to the State finals. The Social Sciences team won the State final and progressed to the International final where they achieved second place and were awarded honours.
- Esperance Farm Training Centre students won several ribbons at agricultural shows throughout the state. Including Tess Riordan winning 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 14-17 years cattle handling at the Wagin Woolorama.
- Keenan Rymer was selected Captain of the Western Australian Clontarf state of origin AFL team. Keenan led the WA team to national success and was named the captain of the All-Australian Clontarf team.
- Sharni Martin was the recipient of the Goldfields Women in STEM Futures Program bursary.
- The Esperance Senior High School football team won the Grand Final of the Girls Fremantle Cup. Ava Niell winning the best and fairest.
- The boys hockey team won the Albany hockey carnival, remaining undefeated throughout the tournament.
- The school's surf teams excelled in difficult conditions in the Southern Zone Surf Carnival in Albany, with two teams making it to the quarter finals and one to the semi-finals.
- Year 8 and 9 boys AFL team won the 2025 Eagles cup in Kalgoorlie.

*Community*

*Opportunity*

*Excellence*

# Excellence in Teaching and Leadership

*High quality teaching and leadership are underpinned by a common understanding of effective teaching and learning practice and a culture of collaboration.*

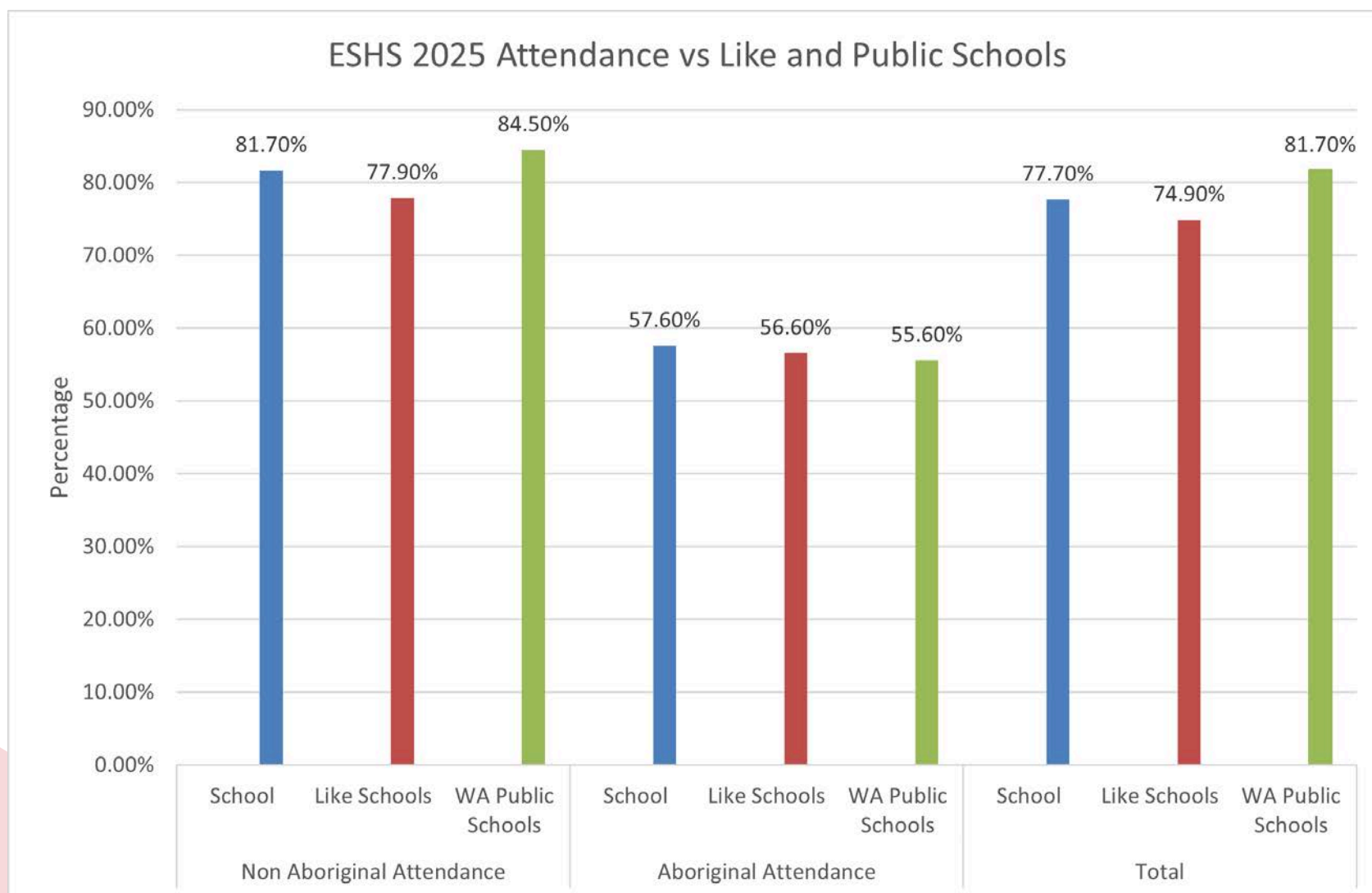
- In Term 4, 2025, a Teaching and Learning Committee was established, comprising representatives from all learning areas across the school. The committee undertook a comprehensive review of the existing instructional framework and led the development of a new framework aligned with the Department of Education's Teaching for Impact strategy. The new instructional framework will be implemented across the school in 2026, supporting a consistent, evidence-informed approach to high-quality teaching and learning at Esperance Senior High School.
- The development of staff instructional practice was strengthened through a range of targeted professional learning opportunities delivered throughout 2025.
- Performance management processes and classroom observations, conducted across 2025, reinforced alignment between the school's strategic direction and classroom practice, ensuring accountability and consistency in teaching standards.
- Staff also engaged in ongoing moderation processes to ensure alignment between student achievement, demonstrated progress, and grade allocations, supporting accuracy and consistency in assessment practices across the school.
- In 2025, the school enhanced its digital learning environment through the installation of BenQ interactive panels in classrooms across the school. These interactive boards have strengthened teaching and learning by enabling more interactive presentations and increasing student engagement.
- The Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program was also further developed to improve consistency of access to digital tools and learning resources. Ongoing improvements to wireless infrastructure have ensured that technology continues to support effective teaching practices and meaningful student learning at Esperance Senior High School.
- In 2025, Esperance Senior High School was selected to participate in the Department of Education Artificial Intelligence (AI) Trial. English staff engaged in professional learning and provided detailed feedback on the practical application of AI in teaching, learning, and planning. The quality of their feedback resulted in the school being selected to take part in the Department's AI pilot program in 2026.
- Esperance Senior High School formed a strategic partnership with Rossmoyne Senior High School as part of the Department of Education's Quality Teaching Strategy (QTS) partnership initiative. This collaboration enabled five teachers and administrators to attend the QTS Partnerships Conference in March 2025. Additionally, these staff members visited Rossmoyne SHS to engage in knowledge sharing and collaborative practices aimed at improving teaching and learning outcomes.
- As a result of the Quality Teaching Strategy partnership and the school's self-assessment processes, Esperance Senior High School identified a clear need to explicitly teach capabilities for learning and life. Consequently, the school has developed an innovative program called STRIVE, designed to explicitly teach students capabilities to support self-management, teamwork and collaboration, resilience, vision, and employability. This exciting program will be introduced in 2026 and delivered to Year 7 and 8 students for one period per week.
- Students requiring additional literacy support participated in the RISE program, a targeted direct instruction reading initiative designed to meet the individual needs of each student.
- In 2025, Esperance Senior High School continued to provide exceptional STEM opportunities for students, building on the momentum of the STEM building commissioned in 2024.
- Eight teachers participated in the Classroom Management Strategies professional learning program. This included six teachers completing the Foundation program and two teachers engaging in the Conference Accreditation Training. This program supported school staff in developing classroom observation and conferencing skills.
- Members of the HASS staff led a six-day educational tour to Sydney and Canberra for 32 students. The tour provided valuable opportunities for students to deepen their understanding of Civics and Citizenship, History, Geography and Economics through a range of authentic learning experiences.
- Science Week was celebrated with a range of engaging activities, and Year 8 students showcased their scientific skills and knowledge at the annual Science Fair.



## Safe and Supportive Learning Environment

*Through the provision of a breadth of opportunities, we aim to develop resilient and responsible young people who are prepared to take on challenges in pursuit of personal excellence.*

- The school's total attendance rate in 2025 was 77.7 percent. This result was above the like schools' total attendance rate of 74.9 percent. As a result, the school achieved the attendance target established in the 2022-2025 business plan. However, the school's total attendance rate was below the WA Public Schools' rate of 81.7 percent.
- The total attendance rate of Aboriginal students was 57.6 percent. This was one percent above Aboriginal student attendance at like schools and two percent above Aboriginal student attendance at WA public schools.
- Pleasingly, the regular attendance rate of students at ESHS showed a small improvement over 2024. Additionally, the severe at-risk category appears to have stabilised after an increase between 2023 and 2024.
- In 2025, Esperance Senior High School progressed to Stage Four of the Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) framework, with a whole-school focus on raising student engagement. This stage aimed to strengthen students' connection to their learning, increase participation across school activities, and reinforce positive contributions within the school community.
- Throughout 2025, the role of career practitioners continued to evolve, resulting in the introduction and refinement of several career education and development initiatives for students. Key improvements included the streamlining of the Year 10 pathway information session, Careers Camp and course counselling processes. The use of Department of Education secondary metrics data also strengthened the guidance provided to students, ensuring advice was informed by accurate data and enabling students to make well-considered decisions about their future pathways and aspirations.



- A Primary to High School Transition Coordinator was appointed in 2025 to strengthen connections with local primary schools and support students moving into secondary education. In this role, the coordinator worked closely with feeder schools to organise a range of initiatives, including student leadership events, transition activities and school visits, helping students feel confident and prepared for the move to high school.
- Harmony Week was celebrated at the school with a range of activities recognising Australia’s cultural diversity and promoting respect, inclusion and a sense of belonging for all students. The week provided opportunities for students to learn about different cultures and reflect on the importance of building a welcoming and inclusive school community.
- A Year 12 Intentions Survey was implemented during Term 1 to provide timely, targeted support based on students’ post-school plans, whether university-bound or pursuing employment and apprenticeships. University-bound students participated in a series of workshops covering TISC applications, scholarships, and received individualised support tailored to their chosen courses and institutions, ensuring all key deadlines were met and students were well-prepared for the next stage of their education.
- Do It For Dolly Day provided students with a range of engaging activities, including yoga sessions, face painting, lawn games, and teachers participating in the Ice Bucket Challenge. The day focused on fostering connections among students, promoting kindness, and raising awareness of mental health, reinforcing a safe and supportive school community.
- A key focus in 2025 has been the ongoing improvement of school facilities to support a safe and supportive learning environment. New half-court basketball courts for Year 7 and 8 students have provided a popular and active space for recreation during break times, promoting student wellbeing and engagement. In addition, significant upgrades to the Front Office Administration area have created a welcoming and professional entry to the school, enhancing the experience for students, staff and visitors alike.



# Community Engagement and Educational Partnerships

*Extending relationships into the school and local community to enhance learning opportunities at the school.*

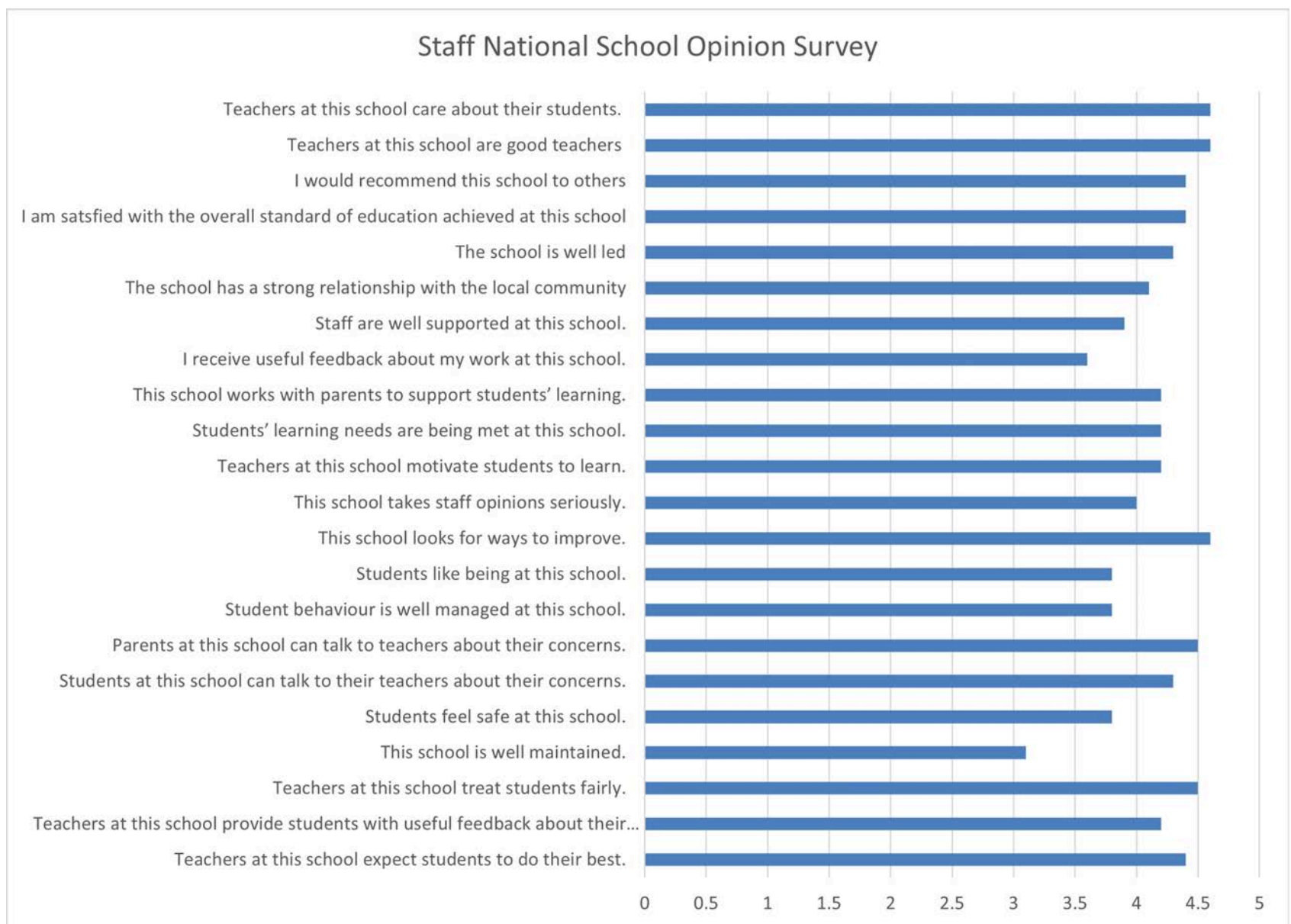
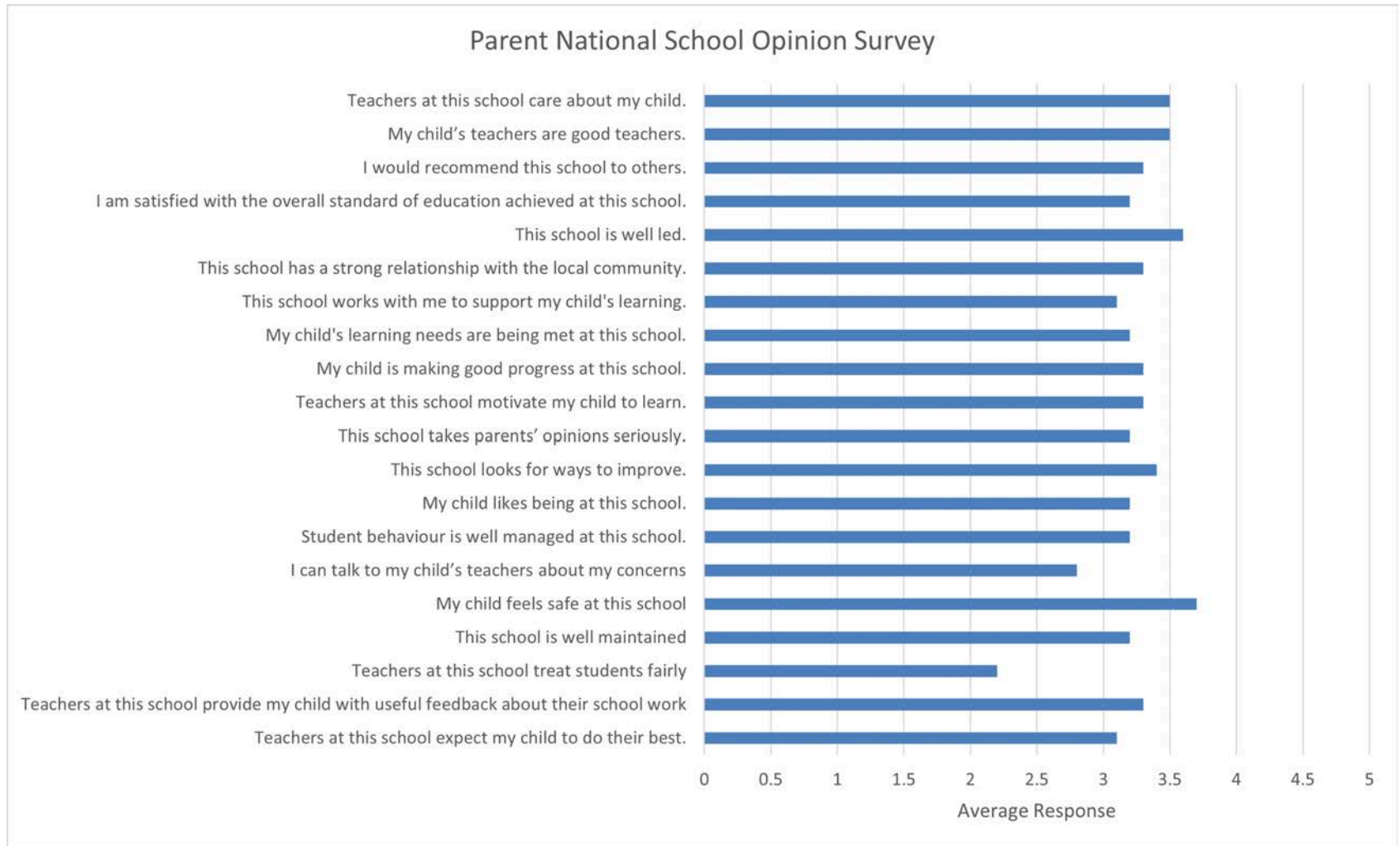
- In 2025, our NAIDOC celebrations brought the whole school community together. Australian singer-songwriter Scott Darlow delivered performances for students, followed by the official opening in the library with Elders and families joining us for morning tea. The main celebration in the school quad featured a spectacular sand mural, cultural activities, and food tasting. This year's theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy," was brought to life through the efforts of our Aboriginal Education Team, staff, students, and partnering external agencies.
- In 2025, the Esperance Senior High School Board welcomed parent representatives Sandra Prosser, Ulrike Sinnot and Terry Fleeton, along with student representatives Rhiannon Willis and Keiren Morcombe.
- A six-week Kick Start to Construction course was developed and delivered in partnership with South Regional TAFE, alongside a Career Taster Program for identified at-risk Year 9 students. Ten students participated in the program, with eight successfully achieving their White Card qualification, equipping them with practical skills and industry-ready experience.
- Student Services staff delivered Teen Development sessions for parents and carers, focusing on strategies for sound decision-making and understanding adolescent brain development.
- The school continued to build upon existing and develop new relationships with local agencies to support students and their families.
- Over 150 local Esperance employers continued to partner with the school by providing opportunities for students to participate in work experience and VET Workplace Learning.
- The partnership between Stars Foundation and the school continued to strengthen, providing opportunities for Aboriginal girls to achieve their personal excellence.
- The school continued to provide opportunities for Aboriginal boys to achieve their personal excellence through the school's partnership with the Clontarf Foundation.
- Over the course of 2025, the school expanded the Year 9 Career Taster Program in partnership with South Regional TAFE, offering more than 20 tasters across a variety of industries—almost double the number from the previous year. Around 80 students participated in hands-on experiences that provided insight into adult learning environments, increased engagement at school, and supported pathways into VET Certificate courses in Year 11.



- Esperance Senior High School, in partnership with The Cannery Arts Centre, hosted a student exhibition showcasing outstanding creative work produced across a range of subjects and mediums. The exhibition featured painting, drawing, jewellery, ceramics, textiles, photography, woodwork, and metalwork, highlighting the diverse talents and achievements of our students throughout the year.
- A highlight again this year was our school production, The Next Big Thing, that showcased the incredible talents and creativity of our students. The performance was a resounding success, bringing together the entire school and wider community in celebrating the arts and fostering a sense of unity and pride.

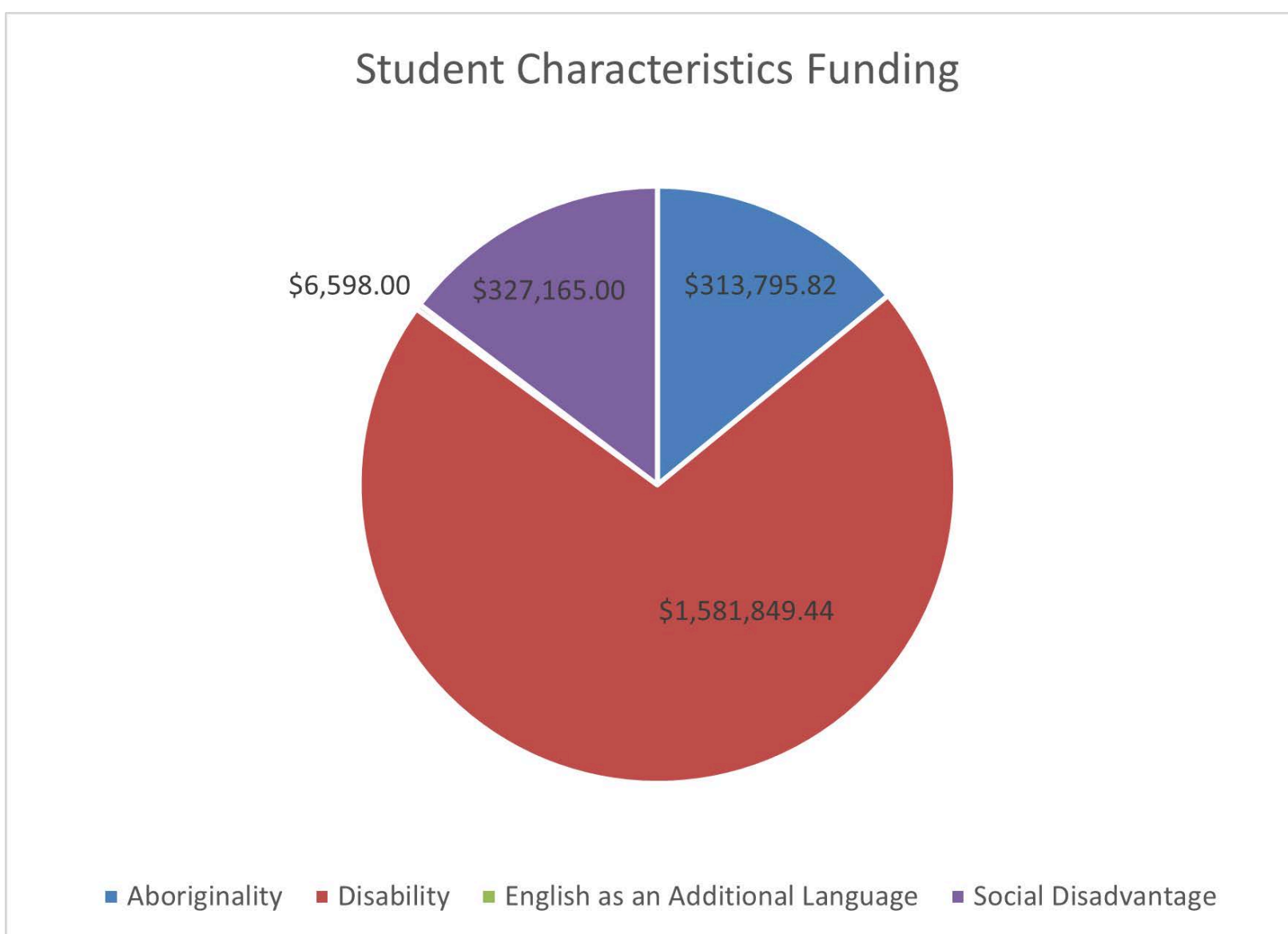
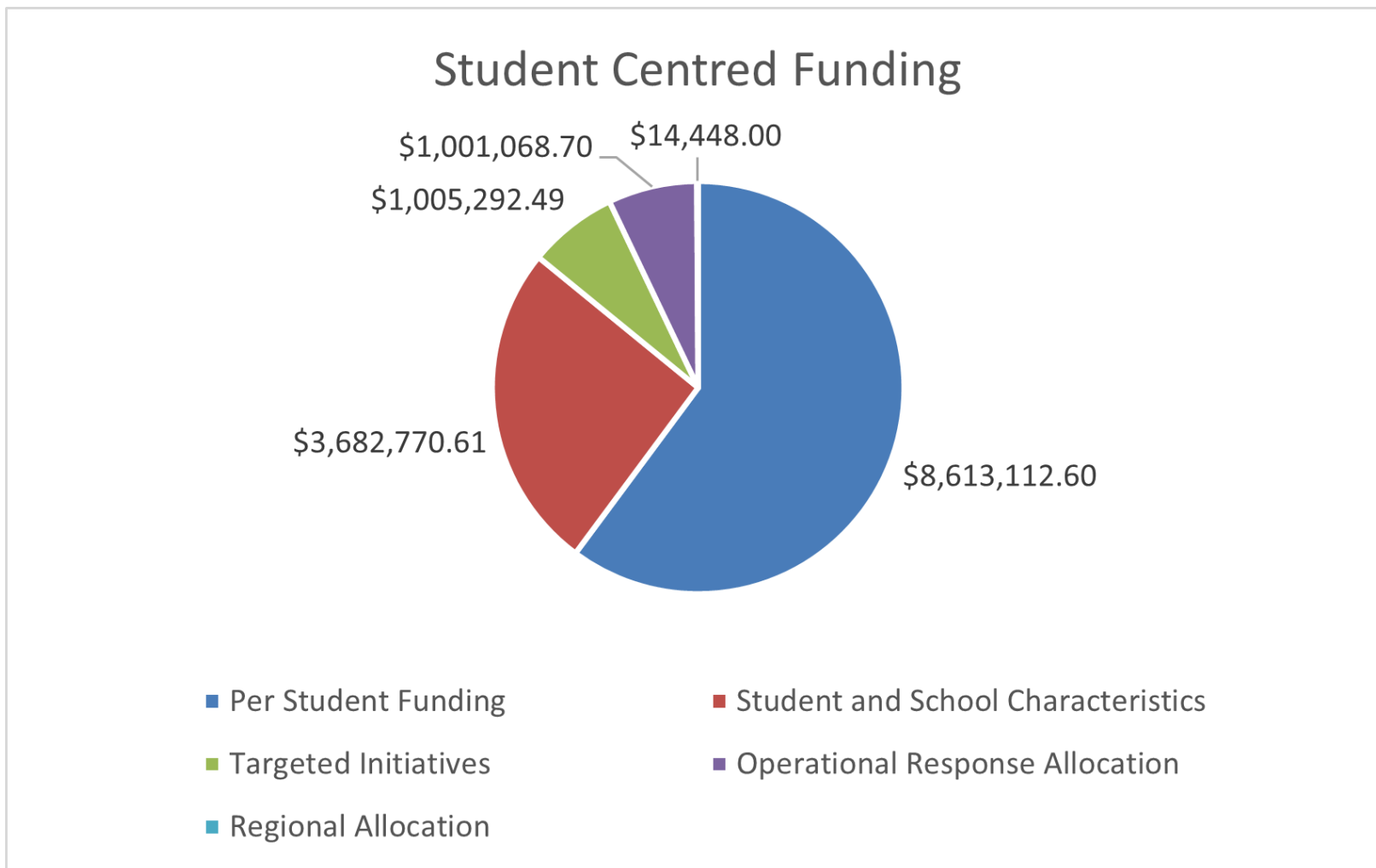
- The Arts Faculty strengthened community engagement and educational partnerships in 2025 through a range of initiatives that connected students with local primary schools, industry professionals, and the wider community. Key events included the Primary Schools Tour, Make Music Day, and visits from artists such as Ingrid Riollot and Paul Svoboda.
- Esperance Senior High School's Year 8 students participated in the local Sorry Day Walk to mark the beginning of National Reconciliation Week, joining community members and primary school students on the foreshore. Student involvement demonstrated a strong commitment to community engagement and respect for shared histories and cultures.

# National School Opinion Survey

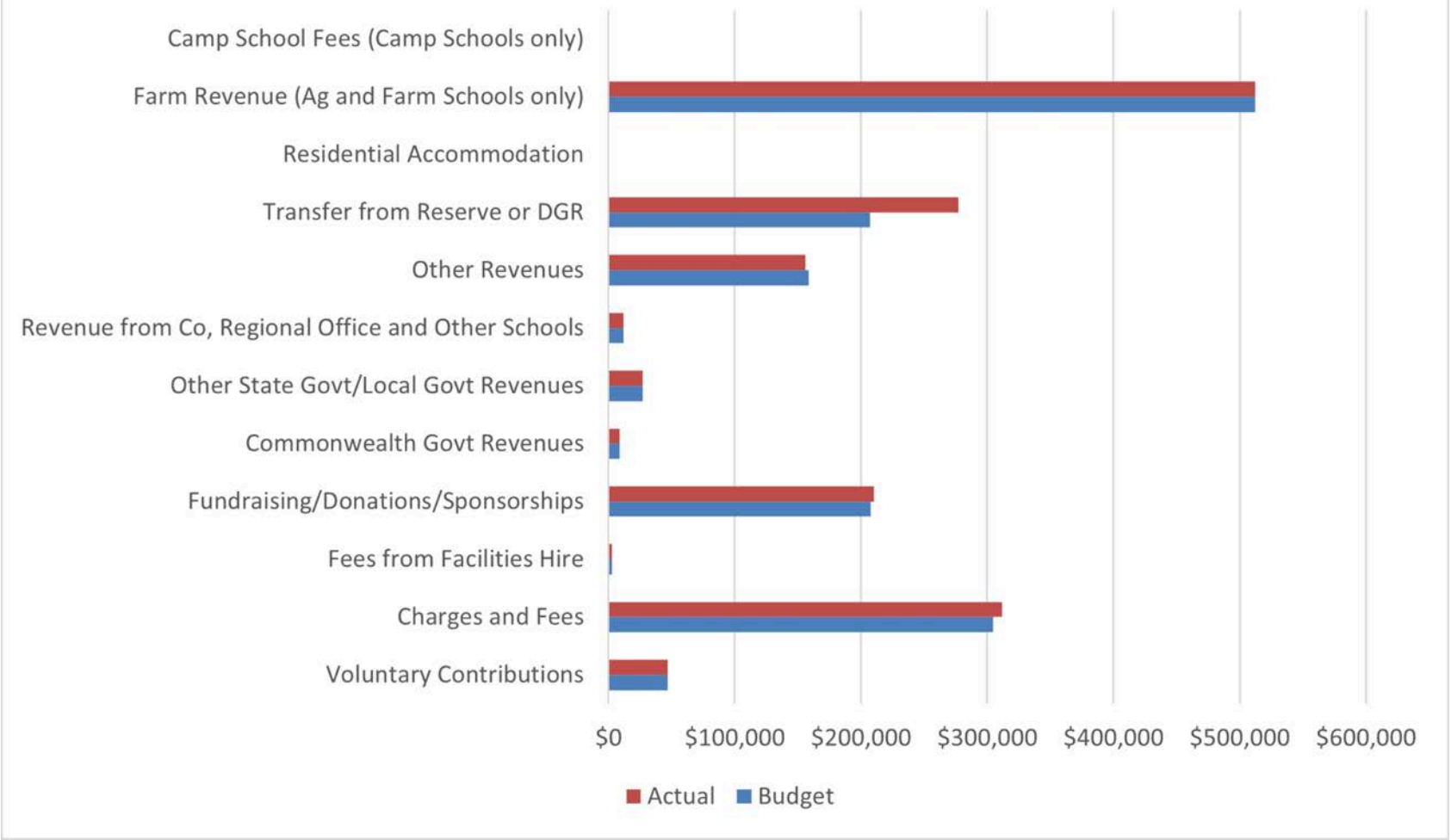


Note - the student National School Opinion Survey was not conducted in 2025 due to the late release of the Department of Education's survey tool.

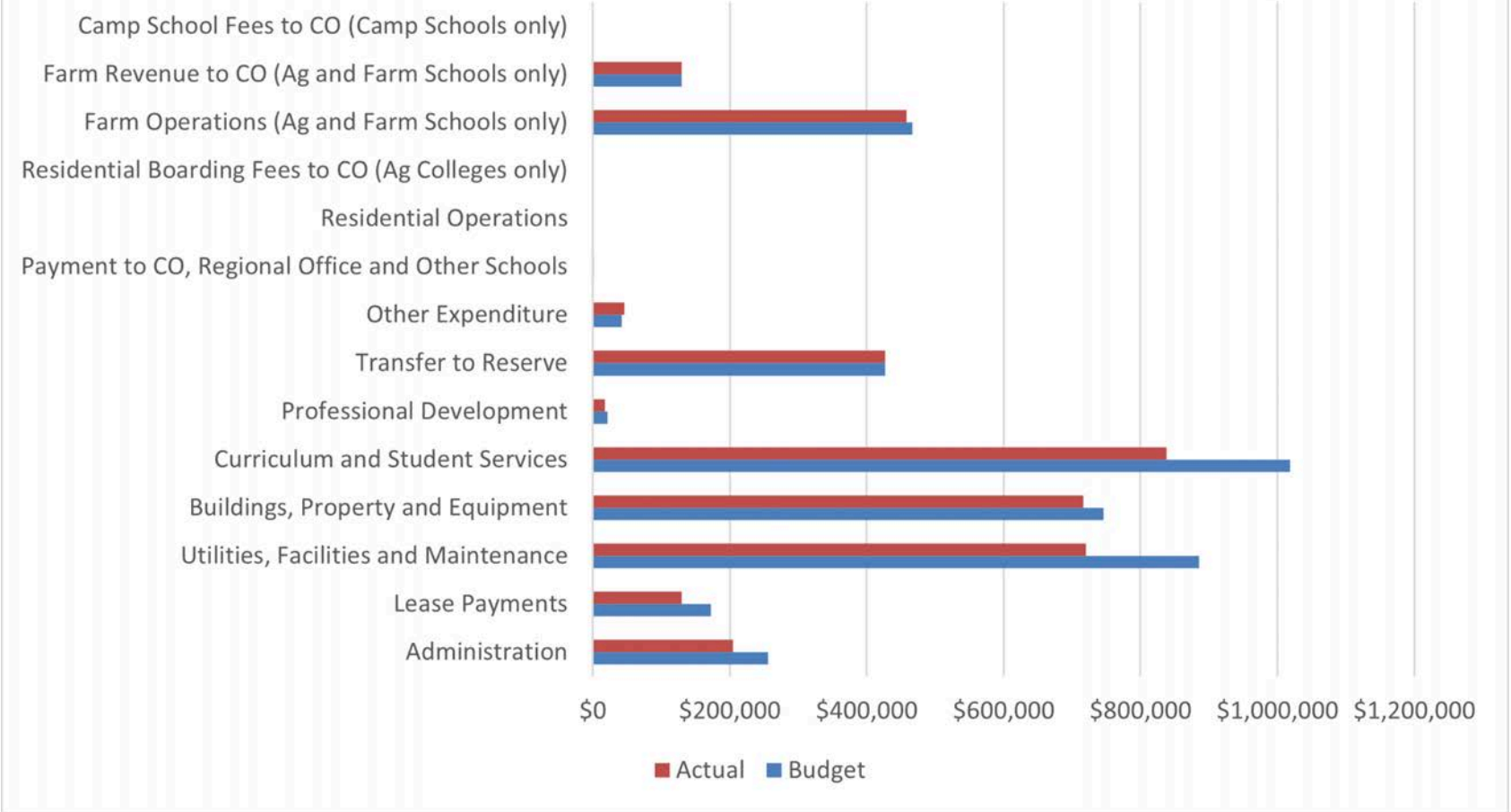
# Financial Summary



### Locally Generated Revenue - Budget vs Actual



### Goods and Services Expenditure - Budget vs Actual





## ESPERANCE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Pink Lake Road  
PO Box 465  
Esperance, WA 6450

(08) 90719 555 (Main Office)  
[Esperance.SHS@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Esperance.SHS@education.wa.edu.au)

[WWW.ESPERANCESHS.WA.EDU.AU](http://WWW.ESPERANCESHS.WA.EDU.AU)