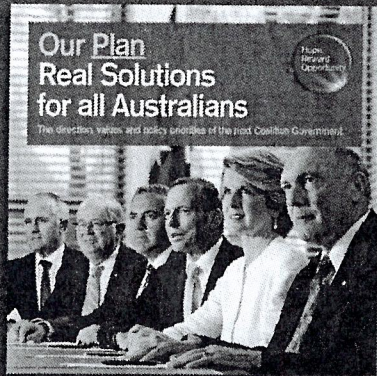


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# The Coalition's Policy for Schools: Students First

August 2013

# Key Points

The Coalition will improve schools and education outcomes for students.

We will do so through policies proven to deliver better education outcomes: more say for parents and teachers, a sound national curriculum, improved quality teaching, and certainty over school funding.

Since 2007, education outcomes in Australian schools have gone backward.

Rather than develop comprehensive solutions to declining performance, the Rudd-Gillard Government has focussed debate on funding models and the amount of money available to schools. While these are important considerations, they are only one component in creating better schools.

More money is not necessarily the only solution for better education outcomes.

Instead of addressing falling standards, Labor's plan for schools is little more than a Commonwealth takeover of local schools. Labor's plan will impose a rigid and inflexible system that will stifle the autonomy and local level responsiveness needed to generate better education outcomes in the long-term.

The Coalition believes that schools are best run by those on the ground who can make decisions to deal with local issues. We will encourage school communities to make a greater contribution in deciding what suits their school because the last thing anyone wants is for Canberra to control what happens at the local school.

If elected, we will implement real change that gives all Australian schools and local communities the best chance to improve education outcomes.

**There will be no cut to school funding under a Coalition government.**

The Coalition's *Policy for Schools: Students First* builds on four key principles:

- a stable, simple and sustainable approach to funding that gives schools, teachers and parents certainty for the future;
- a renewed focus on what students learn through a robust national curriculum;
- improved quality of teaching and related support services; and
- a greater say for teachers, principals, parents and the community about how their school is run.

The Coalition is committed to improving teacher quality. Domestic and international studies have consistently shown that teacher quality has the greatest impact on student learning outcomes.

