achieverSA™

DECS learner achievement software

Term 4 Trial

The Department of Education and Children’s Services (DECS) has completed an extensive and rigorous selection process for the purchase of a whole of department learner achievement software called achieverSA™. This software will provide valuable support for teachers and schools in monitoring learner achievement, planning curriculum programs and reporting achievements in relation to learning outcomes and standards to learners, parents and the school community. This software addresses the need identified by teachers and school leaders to effectively and efficiently manage achievement data in schools.

achieverSA™ is the departmentally selected learner achievement software and will be the only product that is endorsed and supported by the Department. Resource and support arrangements for the implementation of the product have been established as part of the overall implementation strategy.

achieverSA™ was developed to support an outcomes-based approach to teaching and learning.

What is the purpose of the achieverSA™ trial?

The purpose of the achieverSA™ term 4 trial is to:

- trial the software in a range of school types, with a range of IT infrastructure (including multi-campus sites)
- trial specific elements of the curriculum database (eg Learning Areas, ESL Scope and Scales)
- gather feedback on the achieverSA™ users manual
- test the EDSAS data transfer processes
- test the stand-alone version of achieverSA™
- identify future possible customisations based on the needs of teachers in schools

How many schools can be involved in the trial?

The significant interest in the trial of achieverSA™ requires careful management. To achieve the purposes outlined above a trial would need to involve 30 schools in total. The usefulness and manageability of the trial would be put at risk if more than 30 schools were involved.

How will schools be selected for the trial?

Involvement in the term 4 trial of achieverSA™ is voluntary. Teachers and leaders within a school will decide whether to volunteer for the trial by considering their existing commitments and workload. Districts will manage their own processes for identifying and selecting sites interested in volunteering for the trial. Decision making processes must be documented and transparent.
The selection of schools for involvement in the trial will be managed at the district level through district-based decision making processes (e.g. District SACSA Implementation Group). The achieverSA™ selection committee has developed a criteria list for each of the four Groups of Districts. One school will also be selected from the Anangu District. The criteria lists describe schools based on their levels of schooling.

Most districts within the Groups of Districts can have one school each involved in the trial. Some districts with a significantly larger number of FTE (full time equivalent) teachers can have two schools involved in the trial (these districts are Central East, Salisbury Plains, Tea Tree Gully, Central South and Central South West).

Next to the criteria list for each Group of Districts is a list of supplementary criteria. The set of schools selected by each Group of Districts also have to collectively meet the supplementary criteria (i.e. if the supplementary criteria is ‘uses Mac computers’ at least one of the schools selected needs to be able to trial the software on Mac computers).

Groups of Districts will need to negotiate how they will use the criteria list to identify which school type each district within the group will select for the trial. District selections for the trial need to be forwarded from the District Office to the achieverSA™ Project Team by **Tuesday 15 October**.

It is expected that teachers and leaders from schools involved in the term 4 trial are:

- enthusiastic and interested in using the software to support teaching and learning. Not every teacher in the school needs to be involved in the trial but a core group of teachers involved in each trial school will enhance the success of the trial.
- using the SACSA framework and have a sound understanding of the structure of the framework (Birth-Year 12 continuum, Bands, Outcomes and Curriculum Standards, Learning Areas) and the explicit inclusion of Essential Learnings, Equity Cross-Curriculum Perspectives and EVE.
- competent and regular users of technology (eg able to load software on to a computer, regular user of e-mail).

**What is the criteria list for each Group of Districts?**

**Underlined districts can nominate two schools for the trial. All other districts can nominate one school for the trial.**

**North Group of Districts (Barossa/Gawler, Elizabeth/Munno Para, Salisbury Plains, Lower North, Riverland, Yorke):**

- Total: 7 schools
  - 2 x high schools
  - 1 x area school
  - 1 x combined JP/primary campus
  - 3 x primary schools

**Supplementary Criteria**
The North Group of Districts will ensure that at least one or more of the selected schools:
- will record against the ESL Scope and Scales
- will use the home version of the software

**South Group of Districts (Fleurieu, Southern Ranges, Southern Vales, Murraylands, South East)**

- Total: 5 schools
  - 2 x high schools
  - 2 x primary schools
  - 1 x multi (2 or more) campus school

**Supplementary Criteria**
The South Group of Districts will ensure that at least one or more of the selected schools:
- use Mac computers
- will record against Languages
East Group of Districts (Central East, Central North East, Hills, Tea Tree Gully, Eyre, Far North)

Total: 8 schools
• 3 x high schools
• 1 x area school
• 3 x primary schools
• 1 x junior primary school

Supplementary Criteria
The East Group of Districts will ensure that at least one or more of the selected schools:
• will record against Languages
• will use the home version of the software
• will focus on the Essential Learnings

West Group of Districts (Central North West, Central South, Central South West, Central West, Pirie, Whyalla/Pt Augusta)

Total: 8 schools
• 2 x high schools
• 1 x R-12 school
• 1 x area school
• 2 x primary schools
• 1 x junior primary school
• 1 x special school

Supplementary Criteria
The West Group of Districts will ensure that at least one or more of the selected schools:
• use Mac computers
• will record against the ESL Scope and Scales

Anangu District
• 1 x area school

Who is on the selection committee?
• Jen Emery, Superintendent, Learning Standards
• Wendy Bruce, Director, Schools and Children’s Services
• Anne Lamont, Project Officer, Learner Achievement
• John Sloan, Project Officer, Learner Achievement Professional Development

How will the testing of the range of IT infrastructure happen?
Separate to this trial, IT Services are managing extensive and rigorous testing of the software on school based IT infrastructure.

How long is the trial for?
The trial will begin with a training day in week 2 of term 4. The trial will finish on Friday 29 November (week 7).

What is expected of schools involved in the trial?
• Provide constructive and detailed feedback which progresses this version and future versions of the achieverSA™ software.
• Follow a selection of ‘test scripts’ which use specific functions in the software. Test scripts will provide teachers with specific instructions for using the components in the software e.g. a test script might ask a teacher to record anecdotal comments for a student about their engagement with an Outcome, then assign the Outcome to the student, and then generate a report for that student. The instructions for carrying out these actions will be described in the test script.
• Identify a core group of staff who are interested in trialing the software (it is not necessary for all staff in a school to be involved in the trial however it is expected that a significant proportion of the staff are involved in trialling the software).
• Support teachers who receive training to train other interested staff.
• Select two staff members to attend a one-day training session at TSOF to be held in week 2, term 4.
• Some additional places are available in the one-day training sessions for school leaders who wish to be involved in the achieverSA™ training.

**When is the training?**

The achieverSA™ training days for term 4 trial schools are:
Monday 21 October, 9am – 4pm at Technology School of the Future (TSOF), Milner St, Hindmarsh
Tuesday 22 October 9am – 4pm at Technology School of the Future (TSOF), Milner St, Hindmarsh
Friday 25 October 9am – 4pm at Technology School of the Future (TSOF), Milner St, Hindmarsh

**What support is available for trial schools?**

• TRT release for the two staff attending training (2 x TRT days for each school).
• Additional training places have been allocated for school leaders to attend (additional TRT release is not available for leaders).
• Each trial school will have a support person. These support people are from District and State Offices and have been involved in some initial software training. The support person identified for each trial school will be the trial school’s first point of contact. The support people are not ‘expert-users’ of the software and their role is to support trial sites with the identification and recording of issues.
• A cash grant of $500.

**Who are the achieverSA™ project team?**

The achieverSA™ project team include officers from Curriculum and IT Services.

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