

# Case for Support

We believe that the pursuit of knowledge equips and enables our students to make a powerful difference in the world.

*Scientia est Potestas. Knowledge is Power.*

## EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Brisbane State High School (State High) is a Queensland icon. Since 1921 State High has symbolised excellence in public school education. As Queensland's pre-eminent public school, State High offers a truly unique and diverse learning environment. Students are surrounded by possibility and opportunity across the spectrum of academia, sport, arts, international experience and community responsibility.

The well-being of our society is dependent upon the delivery of high quality public schooling. Public education is about excellence and opportunity, access to learning, valuing richness in diversity and contribution to community.

A strong and progressive State High is critical to the sustaining of excellence in public schooling in Queensland. State High sets the benchmark. It personifies the best of public education; the opportunity to excel regardless of personal circumstances.

This environment coupled with high performance expectations and personalised attention, has led to an unparalleled history of success and achievement by our students. Being a State High student means something special. It is a badge worn with pride. A quality public school education is a passport to life beyond the school ground.

State High students have made their mark. They have contributed locally, nationally and internationally, through their achievements at the highest levels in public life, business, culture and community. Our Alumni carry a passion for their school. They cherish its significance in their lives and appreciate it for the opportunities it provided.

Just as our Alumni honour and respect their school's history, they believe that the opportunities they enjoyed should be available to the generations who follow.

## WHAT IS THE STATE HIGH FOUNDATION?

The State High Foundation was established to ensure sustained excellence in the educational and extra-curricular programs offered by the school. The Foundation supplements school funding through tax deductible philanthropic support from the school community and private sector for projects that enhance opportunities and support for students.

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors of prominent past students working in concert with the School, independent of the Education Department.

## WHY A PRIVATE FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION?

Common myths include:

- Public schooling is fully funded.
- Government schools always receive more public money than non-government schools.

This is not so.

Communities across the nation are realising that they must find additional funding if public education is to remain progressive and competitive.

Most private secondary schools routinely and effectively seek charitable support. Private schools have long understood that tuition fees alone are not sufficient to cover all educational costs.

In 2012, the total per student funding received by Brisbane State High School was around \$11,000. The funding available to other GPS schools was between \$16,000 and \$38,000, not including funds from philanthropic support.

Comparative figures from the MySchool website show total per student funding of a nearby public school was around \$17,000. Nearby catholic secondary schools have around \$16,000 per student, of which \$12,000 was government funding.

State High is no ordinary school. It is required to do more with less. Its budget is impacted by:

- A student population of 3000 students (from 2015).
- Two inner city campuses requiring duplication of services.
- Membership of the GPS (The Great Public Schools' Association of Queensland) and QGSSSA (Queensland Girls Secondary Schools Sports Association) – The cost of running these programs is \$2.5 million annually. Government support for these programs is limited to around 7%.
- Basic upkeep of sporting fields at Carina and Rowing Sheds at West End. The cost to run these facilities for students (in excess of \$100 000 per annum) is largely borne by the P&C Association.
- Its management and administrative support positions being capped at 1600 students.

The State High Foundation acts as a vehicle to embrace these challenges, harnessing the commitment, goodwill and generosity of the wider school community to ensure that the excellence in public school education that is exemplified by State High is not only sustained but enhanced.

*By supporting the State High Foundation you are **empowering potential** – enabling State High students to make a powerful difference in the world.*

## HOW PRIVATE FUNDS CAN BENEFIT PUBLIC EDUCATION

Philanthropic support of the State High Foundation will assist in providing State High with state-of-the-art facilities through selected building and renovation projects. It is also planned that structures be put in place in the near future to enable the Foundation to undertake other projects that may not otherwise be possible.

- Opportunities through student equity or merit bursaries
- Additional challenging academic, sporting and cultural programs to better prepare students for our changing world
- Supporting staff and students through research and development opportunities
- Developing partnerships with business and other organisations to enrich the programs provided by State High.

These projects help State High remain strong and progressive and will maintain and advance State High as a centre of excellence. The quality of public education in Queensland will be enhanced through the example set by State High, and by State High's collaboration with and sharing of these opportunities and cutting edge programs with the broader educational community.

## YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN PUBLIC EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

Your tax deductible philanthropic donation to the State High Foundation will help meet the needs of the school now and for years to come.\*

Contributions to the Foundation can be made in many ways including:

- Membership of the Foundation
- Planned Giving
- Annual Giving Campaigns
- Bursaries
- Bequests
- Partnering in special projects
- In-kind donations.