

APPENDIX A

Submissions and comments

We have consulted with DET and we considered its views when reaching our audit conclusions. As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, we gave a draft copy of this report, or relevant extracts, to DET and asked for its submissions and comments.

Responsibility for the accuracy, fairness and balance of those comments rests solely with the agency head.

Responses were received as follows:

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Mr Andrew Greaves
Auditor-General
Victorian Auditor-General's Office
Level 31, 35 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Mr Greaves

Proposed report: ICT provisioning in schools

Thank you for the letter of 15 March 2022 and the opportunity to comment on the proposed report for this performance audit.

The department is committed to ensuring government schools are equipped with the ICT infrastructure and resources necessary for ICT-facilitated teaching and learning.

The department has reviewed the proposed report and accepts all the recommendations. An action plan that addresses the recommendations is attached.

If your team would like to discuss the content of this response further, please contact Bella Stagoll, Executive Director, Integrity, Assurance and Executive Services Division on (03) 7022 0120 or bella.stagoll@education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Atta
Secretary
Department of Education and Training
25 / 03 / 2022

Your details will be dealt with in accordance with the Public Records Act 1973 and the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. Should you have any queries or wish to gain access to your personal information held by this department please contact our Privacy Officer at the above address.



DET action plan: ICT Provisioning in Schools

#	Recommendations: That DET:	Response	#	The department will:	By the end of:
1	addresses gaps and issues in existing ICT provisions by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving internet speed allocations for schools receiving less than the department's target of 300 kbps per student identifying the extent and purpose of technical support that schools are accessing beyond its technical support to schools' program, to better understand their support needs and continually improve the TSSP program. 	Accept	1.1	Complete the internet bandwidth rollout to all schools, providing more than 1 Mbps per student per school.	May 2022
			1.2	Review the technical support needs of schools and make recommendations on how to evolve the technical support in schools program. NB: Any approved recommendations will be implemented subject to budget and agreed milestones as appropriate (independent to this action's deadline).	Nov 2023
2	monitor, evaluate and report on its ICT support and guidance and how schools use it to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand its take-up, including how schools use its School ICT Progression Strategy and PRISM ensure all guidance is up to date continuously improve and modify its guidance and support to meet schools' needs 	Accept	2.1	Develop a monitoring, evaluation and reporting process to capture school completion and maintenance of School ICT plans and usage of department ICT support tools.	July 2023
			2.2	Document all sources of ICT guidance to schools and put in place a process to monitor the maintenance of any guidance provided.	Feb 2023
3	improves its oversight and monitoring of school ICT policies, provisioning and purchasing to understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> school purchasing trends, including purchasing outside existing panels, to determine if panels require improvement or expansion to meet schools' needs provide improved value for money if schools are implementing their ICT policies, including digital technology policies, as intended if ICT assets owned by government schools meet its minimum technical specifications and standards, where specified, including considering alternative methods for conducting checks. 	Accept	3.1	Implement annual reporting from the ITAM & CASES21 databases to identify school purchasing trends, including potential significant off-panel procurements, to support school engagement, to understand why and determine if panel changes are required.	May 2023
			3.2	Include within the School ICT progression annual reporting a requirement for schools to report on the status of implementation of ICT policies, including digital technology policies.	May 2023
			3.3	Update the ITAM database to include a report to monitor minimum technical specification for those assets that have a defined minimum.	May 2024
			3.4	Review existing or new school environment monitoring capabilities to determine if there is an economical solution for addressing below specification assets.	Nov 2023

DET action plan: ICT Provisioning in Schools

#	Recommendations: That DET:	Response	#	The department will:	By the end of:
4	<p>ensure that implementation of its Digital Roadmap for schools includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engaging with schools to fully understand their needs, aspirations and future directions for digitally enabled education, including through using available data in School ICT plans and school capability assessments specifying the departments and schools' future ICT requirements to enable contemporary digital learning at all schools assessing the scope of its existing policies and provision of ICT infrastructure, resources and services in light of schools' future needs developing clear governance and communication arrangements to support ICT delivery, including clarifying roles and responsibilities for itself and schools. 	Accept	4.1	Mobilise the Digital Roadmap for Schools program as approved by the Executive Board in Nov 2021, including terms of reference, program governance and stakeholder management plans.	Dec 2022