

School Excellence cycle cohorts from 2021

Quick reference guide

In 2020 the current school planning and external validation cycles conclude, and all schools will develop their 2021-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) for approval and implementation from 2021.

Each school will be assigned to one of four School Excellence cohorts (A, B, C, D), for the purpose of external validation during the four-year School Excellence cycle. Each year, one cohort – approximately one quarter of all schools – will complete external validation.

The distribution of schools across the four years has been primarily determined by the timing of each school's external validation during the 2016-2020 cycle, and to maintain each cohort as a representative sample of all schools. The cohorts have been reviewed by Executive Directors, School Performance.

School improvement is a continuous process which does not begin or end with any one Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP). Each school will develop a four-year SIP in the year external validation is undertaken. The external validation process and the evidence collated for the external validation submission will form part of the situational analysis for the development of a school's new SIP.

Within the 2021-2024 School Excellence cycle, schools in cohorts A, B and C will adjust their Strategic Improvement Plan to align their external validation and Strategic Improvement Plan. For details, please refer to the timeline below.

Support and resources are available through the Director, Educational Leadership and Principal, School Leadership teams, as well as the School Excellence in Action website, to assist in developing and implementing the SIP, and preparing for external validation.

This quick reference guide provides information and timelines regarding School Excellence components specific to each school's cohort.

Further information and support:

- **W:** education.nsw.gov.au/2021-school-excellence
- **E:** sparo@det.nsw.edu.au
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Timelines

The following tables summarise the timelines for implementing the School Excellence components specific to each school cohort (A, B, C, D). Each school's cohort will be apparent in SPaRO.

Timeline – Cohort A

Cohort A	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Situational analysis	Complete situational analysis	Complete situational analysis				Complete situational analysis				Complete situational analysis
		External validation				External validation				External validation
Strategic Improvement Plan	Develop 2021-2024 SIP	Adjust plan for next four-years				Develop 2026-2029 SIP				Develop 2030-2033 SIP
	Final year 2018-2020 School Plan	Implement 2021-2024 SIP	Implement 2022-2025 SIP				Implement 2026-2029 SIP			
Implementation and progress monitoring	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
Annual reflection	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete

Timeline – Cohort B

Cohort B	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Situational analysis	Complete situational analysis		Complete situational analysis				Complete situational analysis			
			External validation				External validation			
Strategic Improvement Plan	Develop 2021-2024 SIP		Adjust plan for next four-years				Develop 2027-2030 SIP			
	Final year 2018-2020 School Plan	Implement 2021-2024 SIP		Implement 2023-2026 SIP			Implement 2027-2030 SIP			
Implementation and progress monitoring	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
Annual reflection	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete

Timeline – Cohort C

Cohort C	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Situational analysis	Complete situational analysis			Complete situational analysis				Complete situational analysis		
				External validation				External validation		
Strategic Improvement Plan	Develop 2021-2024 SIP			Adjust plan for next four-years				Develop 2028-2031 SIP		
	Final year 2018-2020 School Plan			Implement 2021-2024 SIP				Implement 2024-2027 SIP		
Implementation and progress monitoring	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
Annual reflection	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete

Timeline – Cohort D

Cohort D	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Situational analysis	Complete situational analysis				Complete situational analysis				Complete situational analysis	
	External validation				External validation				External validation	
Strategic Improvement Plan	Develop 2021-2024 SIP				Develop 2025-2028 SIP				Develop 2029-2032 SIP	
	Final year 2018-2020 School Plan				Implement 2021-2024 SIP				Implement 2025-2028 SIP	
Implementation and progress monitoring	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
Annual reflection	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete