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Parents Back Record Number Of School Bids For Independent Public School Status

Dr Mike Nahan, Member for Riverton said families and communities across Western Australia are wholeheartedly backing schools in their bid to have more authority to make decisions best suited to their students.

"Independent Public School status is extremely popular and no more so than here in the electorate of Riverton," said Dr Nahan.

"We already have Willetton and Rossmoyne Senior High Schools with Independent Public School status and I am extremely pleased that in the latest tranche, Lynwood Senior High School has been successful in its application to become an IPS next year."

Dr Nahan said the State Government's policy to empower school communities has been one of the most successful reforms in WA education over the last 30 years.

"The IPS initiative has been extremely successful. One of the best results for local families is that all schools who have taken up this option have experienced a surge in community involvement," said Dr Nahan.

"With a record 109 schools successful in the latest tranche, this equates to one in four schools across the State being free to set their own directions – all with the support of families and communities who are seeing the benefits for their children."

"Even Independent Public School principals themselves are saying they would never return to the way things were previously."

"Instead of being dictated to by the bureaucracy, they are able to work more closely with parents, communities and others with expertise to provide additional help for those students who need it, or further challenge talented students."

"By working more closely with their communities and others with expertise, principals can tailor programs and resources to benefit their unique student body."

"A key aspect which sets this policy apart from many others around the world is the fact that this is an opt-in initiative. In addition, all staff continue to be employed by the Department of Education under industrial agreements and schools must adhere to legislative requirements so it is a win-win situation all round for teachers, parents, students and the whole community."

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