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## **More Autonomy For Schools**

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton congratulated Premier Colin Barnett and Education Minister Liz Constable for heralding in a new era for Western Australian education by empowering schools to make decisions that best suited the needs of their students and local communities.

"The State Government has invited public schools to apply for independent status, representing one of the most significant changes to the State's education system in many decades," said Dr Nahan.

"The creation of Independent Public Schools, where schools can manage their own affairs, honours the State Government's key election commitment to hand greater control to schools and cut bureaucracy in the WA school system."

"This is a major step forward in providing more autonomy to our schools. The new system will allow principals to make their own staffing and disciplinary decisions, and give parents and the school community more of a say in how their schools are run."

"It will also allow schools to better reflect their local communities and provide a real sense of shared ownership and responsibility within the community. This marks an historic leap forward in WA public education and ushers in an exciting opportunity for schools and their communities to shape their future."

"I have written to all the schools in this electorate to let them know about the benefits of this proposal and to encourage them to apply for Independent Public School status."

Dr Nahan said the first intake of Independent Public Schools will be announced at the end of Term Three and be ready to operate for the start of the 2010 school year.

Other opportunities will be available in 2010 and beyond for more schools to nominate to become an Independent Public School.

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