VICSRC STRATEGIC PLAN — 2025 2029

VicSRC VictorianStudent RepresentativeCouncil
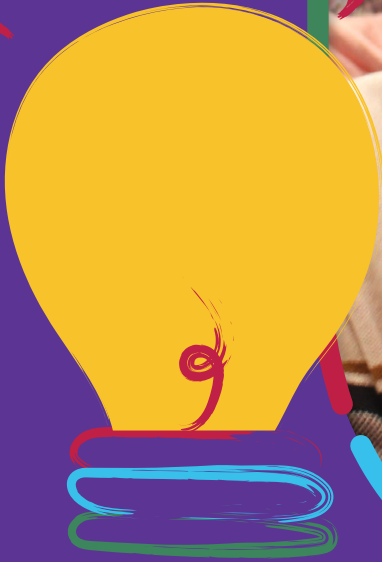
VicSRC acknowledges that our work takes place on the Aboriginal lands never ceded, and that our office sits on the Wurundjeri lands of the Kulin Nation. We recognise and pay respects to all Aboriginal peoples as the custodians of this beautiful country on which we learn, play and grow.

Education is the imparting of knowledge, and we want to honour First Nations peoples' rich and ancient practices of knowledge-sharing and the inextricable link between storytelling, people and Country. Always was, always will be, Aboriginal lands.

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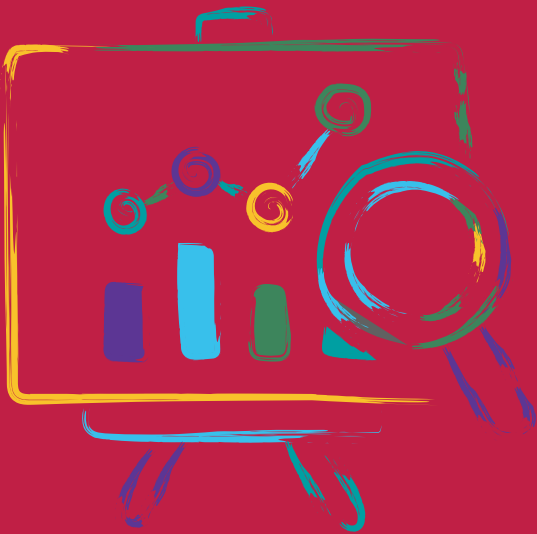
PROBLEM STATEMENT

Students are increasingly dissatisfied with an education system that doesn't always feel relevant or inclusive.

MISSION

To elevate student voices, foster leadership, and drive systemic change for a more relevant, inclusive, and equitable education system in Victoria.

VISION

A Victorian education system where all students are empowered to shape their learning experiences and influence decision-making at all levels.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2029

The Victorian Student Representative Council (VicSRC) is committed to ensuring that student voices are not only heard but actively shape the future of education in Victoria. In a rapidly evolving educational landscape, it is imperative that students are empowered to advocate for their needs and contribute meaningfully to policy and decision-making processes. This Strategic Plan outlines our vision, mission, and key strategic pillars that will guide our efforts from 2025 to 2029. Through collaboration, advocacy, and student empowerment, we aim to create an education system that is inclusive, equitable, and student-centred.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

A NOTE FROM OUR 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At VicSRC, we're all about empowering students to speak up and shape their learning experiences, driving change from the classroom all the way up to the government. This vision is at the heart of everything we do, and this Strategic Plan reflects exactly that.

> " We hope you find this plan clear, empowering, and a strong step toward making education better for all of us.

Lumina – Co-chair

We are so proud of how we have worked together with the students we represent to co-create a plan that will help guide VicSRC over the next five years. It's built around our three strategic pillars: enabling student empowerment, driving systems change and building community partnerships. From a student perspective, we're especially proud of how student-centred the plan is, and how much we've prioritised making it accessible for all stakeholders, especially students.

– Co-chairs,
Lumina (she/her) and Kevin (he/him)

Kevin – Co-chair

STRATEGIC PILLAR

1. ENABLING STUDENT EMPOWERMENT

Strengthening the leadership skills, advocacy capacity, and participation of students in shaping education policies and practices.

THEORY OF CHANGE

We require student voice to shift inequitable policies and practices – in the classroom and across the system – to transform education in Victoria. If we do not, we will continue to see policies and practices that fail to meet the diverse needs of students across the state.

GOAL: Transform the education system in Victoria to be more relevant, inclusive, and equitable for all students.

ENABLERS (The people, funding, resources, and support needed to run a program successfully)	ACTIVITIES (The actions and strategies we will carry out, like workshops or campaigns, to reach our goals)	OUTPUTS (The immediate, tangible results from our activities, such as reports, materials, or participation numbers)	OUTCOMES (The measurable changes we hope to see in 1-5 years, and the longer-term impact on the community)
Research and Evidence-based Advocacy: Continuous collection and analysis of student experiences to inform policies and programs.	**Engagement Campaigns:** Organise workshops, forums, and surveys to gather student feedback on their educational experiences. **Training Programs:** Implement leadership and advocacy training for students to effectively voice their concerns. **Practice Approach:** Embed best practice student voice across all areas of the organisation, including through the Student Executive Advisory Committee.	**Increased Student Participation:** Higher numbers of engagement opportunities (e.g. student representative councils, advocacy activities) attended by a diverse range of students. **Co-designed Resources and Curriculum:** Development of education resources and curricula collaboratively designed with students, ensuring their perspectives are integrated into teaching and learning materials.	**Short-term:** Increased visibility of student voices in discussions about educational policies. **Medium-term:** Improved student engagement in school and government decision-making processes. **Long-term:** Sustained student engagement and leadership in educational reforms.

STRATEGIC PILLAR

2. DRIVING SYSTEMS CHANGE

Driving policy and institutional reforms that embed student voice as a core element of decision-making in education.

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Co-Design Expertise: Recognised leadership in co-design, ensuring student voices shape decision-making at every level.	**Policy and Advocacy:** Develop position papers and advocacy strategies based on student feedback to address inequities.	**Policy Recommendations:** A set of clear, actionable recommendations for policymakers derived from student feedback.	**Short-term:** Policymakers and educators champion the importance of student voice, demonstrating greater understanding and action in their roles.
Funding and Resources: Financial support to enable student-led initiatives and campaigns.	**Awareness Initiatives:** Create awareness campaigns highlighting issues of relevance and inclusion in the education system.	**Awareness Materials:** Distribution of information on issues impacting students, including newsletters, social media campaigns, and community events.	**Medium-term:** Education policies and programs are transformed through student-led insights, embedding inclusion, equity, and agency across the system.
	Training Programs: Implement student voice practice training for teachers and policymakers to effectively implement student voice.		Schools actively create environments where diversity, inclusion, and student voice and empowerment are lived values, not just goals.
			Long-term: Student voice becomes a defining feature of Victoria's education culture, shaping decisions at every level of the system.
			Student success rates improve across the board, with targeted supports ensuring that every learner — especially those from diverse backgrounds — thrives in an inclusive, empowering education system.

STRATEGIC PILLAR

3. BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Building strong partnerships with educators, policymakers, and communities to support student-led initiatives and inclusive education.

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Collaboration: Strong partnerships with schools, educators, and policymakers to sustain impactful initiatives.	**Leading Co-Design:** Advocate for the inclusion of student voice and co-design models in developing education resources and curriculum. Collaborate with key partners and stakeholders to deliver co-design initiatives in education, improving broad student voice practice and the value of investing in co-design.	**Educational Resources:** Creation of toolkits, guides and training opportunities for schools to foster inclusive practices. **Commitment to Co-Design:** Strengthened commitment from education partners and schools to adopt co-design methodologies, leading to broader implementation of student voice practices within educational settings.	**Short-term:** Strengthened collaboration between students, schools, and policymakers. Increased number of schools and partners actively participating in student voice and co-design initiatives. **Medium-term:** Stronger, more consistent integration of student voice and co-design practices into school and community programs. **Long-term:** A sustained culture of collaboration where students, educators, and communities work together to create equitable and inclusive learning environments.

THE PROCESS UNDERTAKEN

The development of our Theory of Change and five-year Strategic Plan was a collaborative effort involving VicSRC's Student Executive Advisory Committee, staff team, and Board of Trustees. This process included a series of in-person and online workshops held throughout 2024, culminating in this incredible vision for a Victorian Education system that is well-suited to the needs of all students.

This Strategic Plan has been enriched by feedback and insights gathered through surveys of the more than 1000 students in our student community, and the 70+ Partner Schools in our network, as well as consultations with student members and other key stakeholders, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach to shaping our future direction.

2025–2029 STRATEGIC GOALS & KEY INITIATIVES

1. ENABLING STUDENT EMPOWERMENT

Goal: Equip students with the tools, confidence, and opportunities to advocate for their educational needs and priorities.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Expand leadership and advocacy training programs for students.
- Develop accessible toolkits and digital resources to support student-led initiatives.
- Strengthen and refine the student leadership of VicSRC, especially through the Student Executive Advisory Committee, so that all activities are genuinely student-led.
- Increase student participation in representative councils and advocacy groups.

2. DRIVING SYSTEMS CHANGE

Goal: Ensure student voices are central to education policy, curriculum development, and school governance.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Demonstrate the value of student voice in policy and program design, and in schools, to secure funding and other resources so that VicSRC can sustain and increase its impact.
- Advocate for student representation in school and government education decision-making bodies.
- Develop and publish annual Congress Reports with recommendations for policymakers.
- Implement student voice training for educators and school leaders to integrate student perspectives into decision-making.
- Push for reforms that promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in schools.

3. BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Goal: Strengthen collaboration between students, educators, policymakers, and community stakeholders to co-create impactful education policies.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Formalise partnerships with education departments, advocacy groups, and research institutions to enhance evidence-based policy advocacy.
- Develop community engagement campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of student voice.
- Facilitate statewide forums and summits to bring together students and education leaders for direct dialogue.
- Secure funding and resources to sustain and scale student-led projects.

MEASURING SUCCESS

HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE'VE ACHIEVED OUR GOALS?

Success will be evident when more students actively participate in leadership programs, engage in advocacy initiatives, and contribute to shaping education policy.

In the time it takes a student to complete primary or secondary school, we expect to see policy changes that reflect student recommendations, widespread adoption of student voice frameworks, and stronger collaboration between students, policymakers, and educators.

Ultimately, in the time it takes a student to complete their entire schooling from Foundation (Prep) to Year 12, we hope to see a transformed education system where student voice is embedded in governance structures, sustainable student-led initiatives shape policy, and equity, inclusion, and student agency are central to the education culture.

WHAT ARE THE KEY THINGS WE NEED TO BE AWARE OF THAT MAY SUPPORT OR HINDER OUR PROGRESS?

VicSRC's success is driven by strong partnerships with policymakers, educators, and advocacy groups, along with dedicated funding and robust training programs for students and school leaders. However, we must navigate challenges such as resistance to change within traditional education structures, ensuring diversity and inclusivity in student representation, and securing sustained funding and government support, in order to achieve our vision of a more relevant, inclusive and equitable education system for Victorian students. By leveraging our strengths and working in partnership to address these challenges, we can create lasting systemic change in education.

CONCLUSION

This five-year Strategic Plan sets a bold agenda for embedding student voice as a driving force in shaping Victoria's education system. Through student empowerment, systemic change, and collaborative expertise, VicSRC is committed to creating a future where all students have a meaningful role in their education and beyond.

JOIN THE ROAR
OF STUDENT VOICE

VicSRC
VictorianStudent
RepresentativeCouncil

www.vicsrc.org.au