

2008

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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(As presented)

(Ms Meredith Hunter)

## Education Amendment Bill 2008

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### A Bill for

An Act to amend the *Education Act 2004*

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The Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory enacts as follows:

1 **1 Name of Act**

2 This Act is the *Education Amendment Act 2008*.

3 **2 Commencement**

4 This Act commences on the day after its notification day.

5 *Note* The naming and commencement provisions automatically commence on  
6 the notification day (see Legislation Act, s 75 (1)).

7 **3 Legislation amended**

8 This Act amends the *Education Act 2004*.

9 **4 Establishing government schools etc**  
10 **Section 20 (5) and (6)**

11 *substitute*

12 (5) Before closing or amalgamating a government school, the Minister  
13 must take the following steps:

- 14 (a) tell the school community that the Minister is considering  
15 closing or amalgamating the school and the reasons why;
- 16 (b) consult with the school community for at least 6 months to  
17 identify alternatives to closing or amalgamating the school;
- 18 (c) obtain and have regard to an independent and comprehensive  
19 cost-benefit analysis of the direct and indirect educational,  
20 environmental, financial and social impact of closing or  
21 amalgamating the school on the school community;
- 22 (d) publish a proposal to close or amalgamate the school in a daily  
23 newspaper circulating generally in the ACT;
- 24 (e) consult with the school community for at least 12 months after  
25 the proposal is published;

- 1 (f) explain to the school community how the school community's  
2 views have been taken into account in making the final  
3 decision.

4 **5 Section 20 (7) (b)**

5 *substitute*

- 6 (b) consultation should be open, equitable, respectful and  
7 transparent;

8 **6 Section 20 (7) (d) (i)**

9 *substitute*

- 10 (i) relevant information is provided in a timely, equitable  
11 and accessible way to enable maximum community  
12 participation in debate about the proposal; and

13 **7 New section 20 (8) and (9)**

14 *insert*

- 15 (8) The Minister must not close or amalgamate a government school  
16 before the later of—

17 (a) 6 months after the final decision was made; and

18 (b) the end of the school year in which the final decision was  
19 made.

- 20 (9) In this section:

21 *school community*, in relation to a school that is proposed to be  
22 closed or amalgamated, means the members of the community  
23 affected by closing or amalgamating the school, including the  
24 students at the school, the students' families, the school board and  
25 the greater school community.

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## Endnotes

**1 Presentation speech**

Presentation speech made in the Legislative Assembly on 2008.

**2 Notification**

Notified under the Legislation Act on 2008.

**3 Republications of amended laws**

For the latest republication of amended laws, see [www.legislation.act.gov.au](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au).

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