The new Education and Children’s Services Act, 2019 will come into operation during 2020, supporting our ambition to deliver world class education.
We've created a circuit-breaking power that means a child can be moved to a different school for the health, safety and welfare of them or other students and staff in response to severe bullying or a serious assault.

New tough penalties for parents/carer that allow a child to be chronically truant – maximum fine increased from $500 to $5000.

Parents/carers will be legally obliged to take all reasonable steps to ensure their child's attendance, making it easier to prosecute offences.

We're introducing family conferences to support families to make voluntary arrangements to address chronic non-attendance.

Parents/carers will be required by law to provide a reason for a child's absence within 5 days.

We're increasing the penalty for parents/carers who don't enrol their child in school or an approved learning program – up from $500 to $5000.

The department, government agencies, schools, preschools and children's services will be explicitly permitted to share information on the education, health, safety, welfare and wellbeing of a child to support their education journey.

The department will be able to require parents/carers to provide information, including medical and other details about a child, to help a school or preschool cater to their needs.

Principals will have the right to request reports from a child's previous school or preschool to support the education, safety and wellbeing of the student and others.

The department will be able to directly employ a broader range of staff in schools, including nurses, social workers, youth workers, psychologists and other professionals that a school community may need.

The department will be able to offer special remuneration to attract and retain highly skilled school and preschool leaders and teachers.