



EMERALD SECONDARY COLLEGE

SELECT ENTRY ACCELERATED LEARNING (SEAL) POLICY

PURPOSE

The SEAL program at Emerald Secondary College aims to address the learning needs of academically gifted students who are capable of working at a significantly faster pace and in greater depth than their peers. Emerald Secondary College's SEAL Program is designed to provide an enriched and in some areas accelerated educational environment for high achieving, academically gifted students from Years 7 to 10. Emerald Secondary College recognises that students with such learning needs must have access to a supportive environment and enriched curriculum program that enhances their learning potential.

AIMS

To meet and extend the academic and environmental needs of an identified group of students who have shown;

- High academic aptitude and who have high educational aspirations
- That they are working beyond 6-12 months of the State standards in at least two or more subject areas. These must include English and/or Mathematics
- That they maintain academic standards beyond State Standards
- That they show positive learning behavioural attitudes to continue to build upon their capacity
- To ensure the processes of selection of students into the program is thorough
- To guide transition of students from the mainstream program into the SEAL program
- To guide transition of students from the SEAL program into the mainstream program to suit the learning and wellbeing needs of the student.

The school aims:

- to help staff identify and assist higher ability students
- to enable parents to understand the provision that is available
- to develop a consistency of approach within the school
- to make catering for higher ability students an integral part of the school's approach to teaching.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Promotion and publicity for the Emerald Secondary College SEAL program will take place during Term 1 and early term 2. Advertisement in the local Newspaper to reach the wider community will be placed with key dates and processes. A SEAL information evening will be held in term one for prospective SEAL families. Feeder primary schools will be targeted with brochures, posters and newsletter articles, as well as recommendations requested from grade 6 primary teachers.

2. In-line with DET expectations students will be invited to join the Emerald Secondary College SEAL Program after students and families have completed the following college expectations;

- Fully completed written application and examination fee including the applicant's Year 5 NAPLAN report and most recent school report.
- Attend and complete the college entrance examination.
- Following the ranking results of the entrance exam in conjunction with the application, NAPLAN report and previous school report highly qualified candidates will be invited to attend an interview where educational aspirations and attitudes to learning will be taken into consideration

Criteria	Proportion of places	Description
Academic Merit	At least 85%	Entrance exams from Year 6 students are scored and ranked in order of performance in the exam.
Equity	Up to 10%	Grounds for equity consideration are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status • Holders of Health Care or Pensioner cards.
Principal and College discretion	Up to 5%	The College compiles a possible selection list based on the academic performance and written application as well as the interview and perceived aspirations and attitude to learning.

3. Future promotion into the Emerald Secondary College SEAL Program after the initial Year 6 placement for Years 7, 8 and 9 will be determined by a combination of academic results, teacher recommendation, testing and an interview conducted by the SEAL coordinator.

4. Future changes Emerald Secondary College SEAL Program are entirely at the College discretion.

5. Underperforming students in the SEAL Program will have their position reviewed. Underperforming students are those students whose attitude and/or academic results across a number of subjects are deemed to be below the capabilities of the individual student. Any student wishing to move out of the SEAL program (whether into a mainstream program or to attend a different educational setting) must attend an exit interview with their parents/guardian and the SEAL coordinator.

6. Students moved out of the program after the initial Year 6 placement will be determined by a combination of;

- End of Term or Semester teacher assessment where student's academic achievement in two or more subjects fall in-line or below State expectations and below the SEAL program expectations where students should be working 6-12 months ahead of State expectations.
- On-Demand PAT testing showing students to be working below, at or close to State Expectations
- Teacher recommendations that show students exhibit a low or poor attitude to learning. This includes study skills, independent study, homework and classroom behaviour

Where a student is perceived to be underperforming the SEAL Coordinator, along with the Head of Junior School or the Assistant Principal will interview the parents and child. The child will be given the opportunity to improve. If there is insufficient improvement after a determined time, the SEAL

Coordinator will make recommendation for a student to discontinue in the program to the Principal. The decision of the Principal will be final.

6. The SEAL Professional Learning Team of teachers will plan, execute and evaluate curriculum programs, new teaching practices and strategies. The team will organise “special activities” to cater for the particular academic and social needs of the SEAL students providing enrichment opportunities.

7. All SEAL students are expected to become involved in a wide range of extra curricula activities and events, including Academic Competitions, the College music bands, Sports, Performing Arts, Community Service, Leadership and Public Speaking.

8. Program evaluation will be managed through ongoing review; feedback will be sought from teachers, parents and students.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- VCCA - <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/>

REVIEW CYCLE

- This policy was last updated on September 2019 and is scheduled for review in September 2020.