

Who is Big Picture

Big Picture was originally established in America in 1995. Big Picture Education Australia (BPEA) commenced in 2005 and now works with over 50 Australian schools. The number of schools adopting this learning framework continues to grow as the Big Picture initiative continues to meet the learning needs of young Australian students.

Big Picture's Philosophy

Big Picture's philosophy is grounded in educating "one student at a time". To this end, Big Picture promotes the creation of personalised educational programs that are uniquely tailored for each student.

Who is Big Picture for?

The Big Picture Design accommodates the passions of individual students. This may be the academic interests of those seeking entry to University, more traditional trade based pursuits, students seeking skills to transition to the workplace or individuals wishing to pursue artistic endeavours.

The Big Picture design suits students of all learning abilities from those who find aspects of school work disengaging or challenging to students who are extremely academically able. Examples of students transitioning to the workplace or further study within Big Picture include those who have gained some form of apprenticeship, achieved opportunities in music or the arts, to those who have matriculated to University.

The following web link highlights stories surrounding Big Picture (<https://www.bigpicture.org.au/news-archive>).



How does Big Picture work?

Big Picture schools promote highly personalised learning by engaging students in real world activities and making connections to the communities in which they live. The Big Picture learning model promotes intellectual rigour as well as critical and creative thinking. Parental involvement is encouraged to support the learning and real life immersion of students.

All students have an individualised learning plan that includes their passions, interests and any future career and social goals. Their learning is then tailored to their needs with the emphasis on engagement in authentic educational opportunities.

To support their learning and passion, students undertake an internship. This involves students being placed for 1 or 2 days per week in a work place in an area identified in their learning plan. They are mentored within this real life environment by an expert who will support their learning in that chosen field. Together the student and the mentor develop a project that is of benefit to the workplace and supports the student's achievement of school based academic goals.

Assessment is authentically linked to what students learn. One form of assessment requires students to present a portfolio of their work and show what they have learnt at the end of each term. This presentation, known as an exhibition, is held before their teacher, family and selected peers.



What the Big Picture learning model claims

Compared to mainstream students, Big Picture students are likely to have:

- ◆ Improved student outcomes;
- ◆ Higher attendance rates;
- ◆ Greater student participation in the local community;
- ◆ Greater parental participation in the school community.

Why study through the Big Picture Model?

- Too many of our young people are failing in our schools and this is because school is not relevant to their lives and to their needs. They are not engaged in their own learning.
- 20% of young Australians fail to complete year 12 or its equivalent. In contemporary society, this significantly limits their career prospects.

Expectations of every Big Picture Student

All BP students will explore their interest in the world by participating in at least three excursions with the college or their advisory class. This is designed to:

- ◆ Demonstrate the connection between school based subjects and understanding the world;
- ◆ Explore with your advisory teacher the BPEA learning goals.



Expectations of every Big Picture Student

BP students are also expected to engage in a range of learning activities:

- ◆ Read books
- ◆ Reflect on gaps in their learning and address them through project and course work
- ◆ Create at least four Learning Plans during the year.
- ◆ Complete the work in the Learning Plan.
- ◆ Meet with the full Learning Plan team at least four times a year.
- ◆ Complete one advisory research project that has real world concern.
- ◆ Build a portfolio of work
- ◆ Exhibit publicly four times a year
- ◆ Write in a journal three times per week
- ◆ Complete personal narratives
- ◆ Use a calendar every week and implement time management best practice
- ◆ Come to school each day on time
- ◆ Be responsible for all actions
- ◆ Show respect for others and yourself
- ◆ Take responsibility for your learning process
- ◆ Have a positive impact on the community by participating with the advisory in at least one service learning activity
- ◆ Take advantage of opportunities and make summer plans
- ◆ Plan at least two significant travel excursions before graduation



Q & A

Are students eligible to receive a Year 10 RoSA?

✓ Yes, all students are eligible to receive a Year 10 RoSA

Are students eligible to receive a HSC?

✓ Yes students are eligible to receive an HSC

Are students eligible to receive an ATAR?

✓ Students seeking a placement at University would do so through their portfolio.

Arrangements have been made with an increasing number of universities for Portfolio entry. A pattern of study may allow students to attain an ATAR.

We have a commitment from Wollongong University to accept Big Picture students based on their portfolios.

