



**Community
Language
Schools SA**



Strategic Plan 2023-2026





Who we are

Our mission is to support Community Language Schools (CLSs) to sustain and develop the languages and cultures of our diverse Australian communities.

Our vision is empowering multilingual students.



Community Language Schools SA (CLSSA) is a not for profit, for-purpose peak body that represents 99 Community Language Schools (CLSs) across South Australia. These schools offer programs teaching 47 languages to over 8,000 students every year. We support these schools to develop and deliver programs that aim to educate, maintain and promote their unique linguistic and cultural heritages.

What we stand for

We value the **collaboration** between communities and the connections built through sharing stories, experiences and resources. We believe in **fostering intercultural relationships** and acknowledge their complexity in developing both multilingual literacies and the cultural identity of our students. **Cultural appreciation** and **sharing of experiences and heritage** is at the core of what we do.

We believe in maintaining a **strength-based approach** to develop young people's knowledge and skills. We know this approach will lead to them becoming confident, creative individuals, successful lifelong learners and active and informed members of a multicultural Australian society.

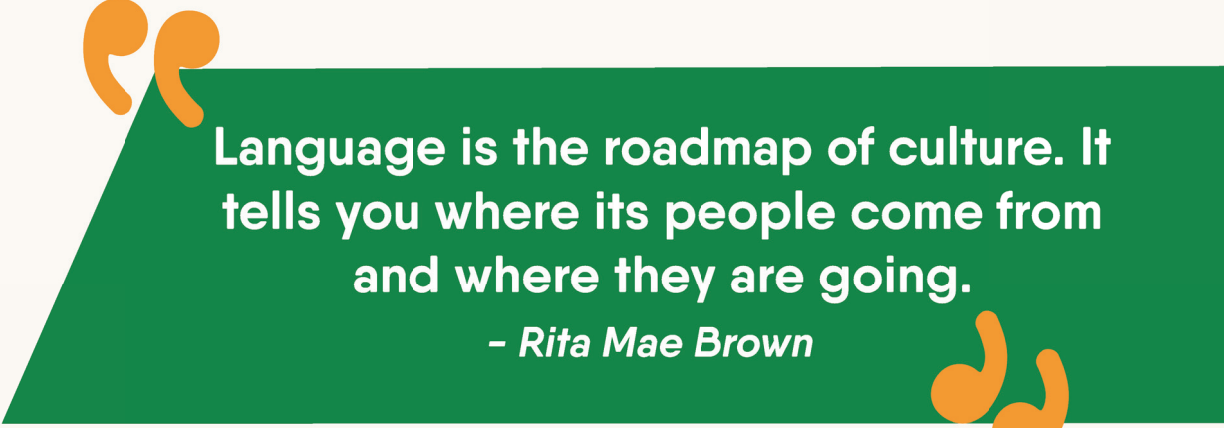
Finally, we value the vast **diversity** of our students and their voice when supporting the development of language learning programs that meet their academic, personal and social needs.

What we do

Prior to 2022, Community Language Schools SA (CLSSA) was known as the Ethnic Schools Association of South Australia Inc. (ESASA). Since 1979, we have represented and advocated for ethnic schools with the principle belief that all individuals have the right to maintain, develop, express and share their cultural heritages.

An analysis of feedback from CLSs has helped us to determine our areas of priority for the strategic planning period of 2023-2026. The main themes have informed our four key strategies:

1. Strengthening the professionalism of CLSs,
2. Supporting CLSs in building effective language curricula,
3. Improving student learning experiences at CLSs, and,
4. Nurturing communities' development.



Language is the roadmap of culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going.

- Rita Mae Brown


2023 School Snapshot



47
languages taught



99
schools



over
8,000
students

CLSSA Census
March 2023

Strategy 1: Strengthen CLS Professionalism



1.1. Recruit and retain more professionally trained teachers

- a. Raise the value and appreciation of the role of teachers and support personnel in the CLS community.
- b. Increase the overall teaching and professional capacity of CLS teachers and support personnel.
- c. Collect data on CLS teachers' challenges, teaching requirements and professional development needs.



1.2. Increase volunteer participation and parent relationships with CLSs

- a. Promote the value of community strength and lifelong connections through volunteering. Acknowledge that volunteers and families provide a vibrant and interactive learning environment for students and maintaining languages and cultures in a multicultural Australian society.
- b. Provide opportunities for volunteers to develop a sense of belonging, achievement and purpose in the CLS communities. Recognise and celebrate the diverse perspectives and deep appreciation for heritage each volunteer contributes.
- c. Support CLS in increasing volunteer job descriptions and compartmentalise tasks to decrease workload - giving volunteers more time to offer personalised attention to students.



Community is about doing something together that makes belonging matter.

- Brian Solis



1.3. Build the CLS authorities' organisational capacity

- a. Support CLS leaders in developing strength-based and growth mindset cultures at their CLS in fostering healthy and collaborative working environments and strong relationships with their personnel.
- b. Provide discussion forum opportunities where leaders, staff and parent/caregivers can share ideas, resources and knowledge on strengthening their CLS communities, improving their teaching and learning environments and building strong intercultural relations with other CLS.

Strategy 2: Support CLS in Building Effective Language Curricula

2.1. Revise and update current curriculums to suit the unique needs of individual students

- a. Support CLS in enhancing the quality of their curricula by including research-based teaching strategies, quantifiable objectives and learning experiences that suit the learning needs and linguistic abilities of diverse cohorts of students.
- b. Encourage the establishment of research-informed teaching practice in CLS by collecting accurate and reliable data on the effectiveness of curriculum programs.
- c. Train CLS curriculum leaders on curriculum development, creating effective and reliable strengths-based assessments, developing accurate reporting strategies and fostering reflective practice as they work towards continuous improvement of their learning programs.
- d. Support CLS in enhancing the retention of student enrolments in high school and establishing SACE programs in more languages.

**Just 9% of our students are
enrolled in a SACE program.**

*CLSSA Census
March 2023*

2.2. Support the inclusion of educational cultural programs

- a. Support CLS in including more culturally focused courses in their teaching programs.
- b. Advocate collaboration and intercultural relationships between CLS in hosting multicultural events for their wider communities.

2.3. Update contemporary and digital learning resources in CLSs

- a. Support schools in updating their teaching resources to suit the learning needs of students developing their linguistic skills studying in Australia.
- b. Develop a Digital Learning Platform to host a Resource Bank of a variety of interactive, adaptable and flexible learning experiences, specifically designed from a conceptual approach and intercultural orientation.
- c. Increase the presence of digital technologies and equipment at CLS.

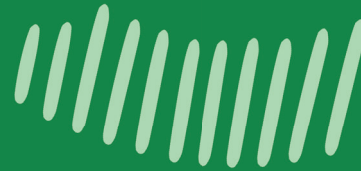


In teaching you will learn and
in learning you will teach.

- Phil Collins



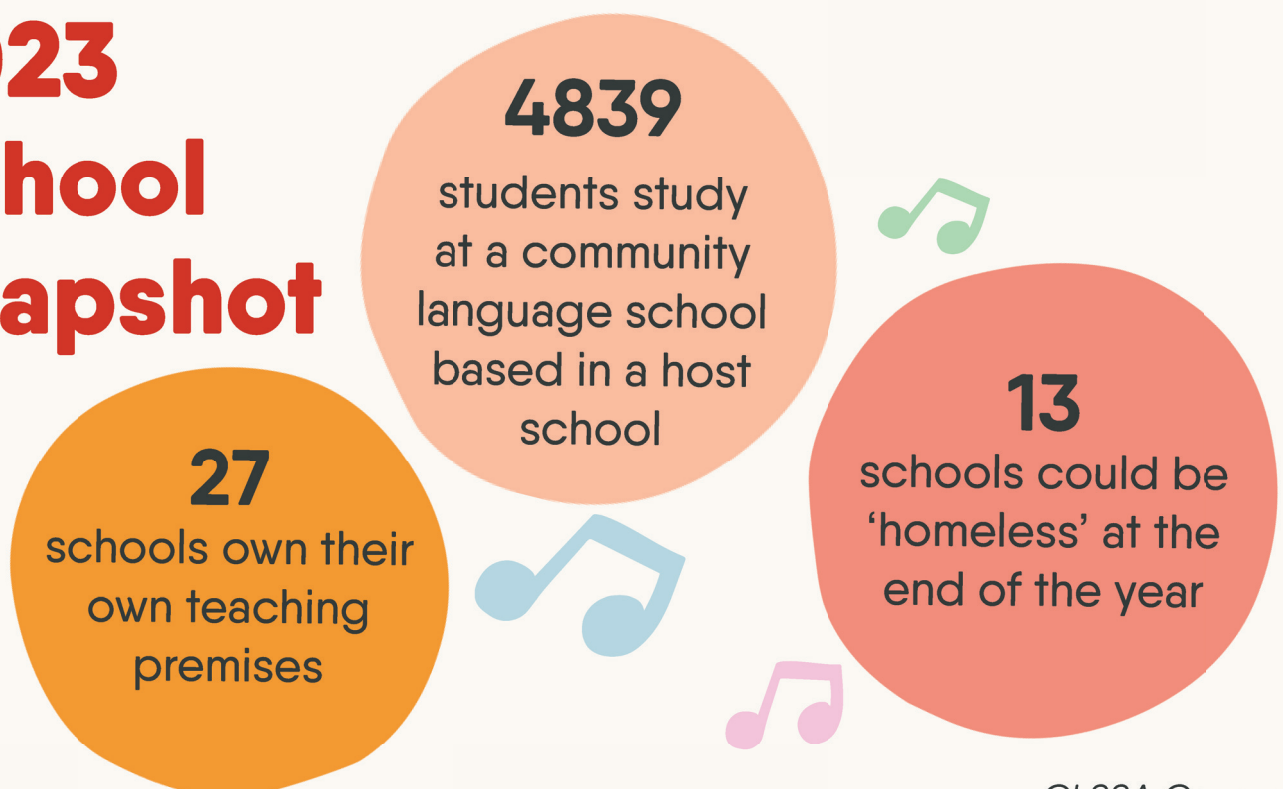
Strategy 3: Improve Student Learning Experience at CLSs



3.1. Improve the standards of the physical learning environment of CLS

- a. Continue to assist CLS in securing suitable host schools and adequate teaching facilities to accommodate new classes and more students.
- b. Provide safe and collaborative operating environments for CLS where they can access and share digital technology tools and equipment, teaching resources and physical spaces.

2023 School Snapshot



3.2. Ensure students are offered equitable opportunities to develop their linguistic skills

- a. Seek regular feedback from students on their overall CLS experiences, challenges and successes.
- b. Support CLS in actioning themes derived from “student voice surveys” to improve their overall learning experience.
- c. Assist CLS in creating a sense of belonging for their students at their schools and communities.
- d. Provide vocational opportunities for CLS students where they get to build their multilingual skills and intercultural relationships by exploring exciting career pathways.

“Understanding languages and other cultures builds bridges.”

- Suzy Kassem



Strategy 4:



Nurture Communities' Development



4.1. Encourage community and family engagement and connection with CLS

- a. Support CLS in increasing their school's reputation, strengthen their relationships with their wider community and improve their communication with families.
- b. Raise awareness in the wider community about CLS language and cultural programs
- c. Support CLS in engaging with businesses and other organisations in collaborative opportunities which can support the growth of CLS.
- d. Encourage past CLS scholars and community elders to seek out opportunities to give back to their schools and communities.



2023 School Snapshot

59%
of student are learning Arabic,
Mandarin, Vietnamese, Greek
or Farsi

67%
of languages have only
one school in SA

36%
of languages are offered in
more than one region

53%
of schools are within the
Adelaide Inner Metro Area

2%
of schools are in regional
areas

CLSSA Census
March 2023



Community Language Schools SA

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