

Media Release

The Hon James Merlino MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education
Minister for Mental Health
Acting Minister for Health
Acting Minister for Ambulance Services



Saturday, 22 January 2022

JUMP IN THE JOB POOL TO SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL

The Andrews Labor Government is helping schools stay open safely and reducing disruption to students' learning, with a staffing pool to fill COVID-related vacancies in Victorian government schools at short notice.

As schools prepare for the beginning of Term 1, the Government is calling on inactive or retired teachers, education support staff, retired principals and staff with administrative experience to join the Job Opportunity Pool.

Staff will be deployed to local schools on a fixed-term basis to fill any short-term gaps caused by teachers, school leaders or education support staff who contract COVID-19 and need to isolate.

Government schools will be able to access this pool to assist with their daily operations – from face-to-face teaching to student support, school-based allied health or administrative assistance, as well supporting school leaders in managing COVID-19 matters.

All staff employed through the pool will hold a valid Working with Children Check or valid Victorian Institute of Teaching registration prior to the commencement of employment – and must be fully vaccinated, as with all adults who enter school sites.

While a comprehensive return-to-school plan will be released soon, the Government has spent the summer holiday period delivering more than \$190 million in measures to keep schools COVIDSafe.

Education staff interested in being part of the Job Opportunity Pool are urged to apply now at <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/hrweb/careers/Pages/advacsSCH.aspx>.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino

"Every sector is under pressure from the Omicron variant, and education will be no exception – but we're taking action early to make sure staff absences don't mean huge disruptions for students' learning."

"If you're a retired or inactive teacher, school support staff member, allied health professional or administration worker – we want you to support our schools in 2022, so please get online and apply now."