Background:
Helensvale SHS is an Independent Public School (IPS) located on the northern end of the Gold Coast, within the South East education region. The school was opened in 1990 and has a current school enrolment of approximately 2,183 students. The current Principal, Mark Blackshaw, was appointed to the position in 2012.

Commendations:
- The Principal and school leaders have accepted personal responsibility for ensuring a safe, supportive and disciplined learning environment. They demonstrate a strong conviction that student engagement and regular attendance are keys to improved student learning. The school’s mission, One Student, One Community, Many Futures clarifies the school’s direction and decision making.
- The school is driving a strong agenda around developing a positive and engaged school learning culture featuring a close alignment between the school’s pedagogical method, Explicit Teaching and the Schoolwide Positive Learning Behaviour Support (SWPLBS) process.
- The school has a small number of positively stated school wide expectations and appropriate behaviours based on the school values: I am respectful, I am responsible and I am resilient which are known by all school community members and reflected in the behaviour of students.
- A well-structured School Support Team works collaboratively to meet the social, emotional, learning and welfare needs of all students. The team supports students at risk of disengagement from learning through case management, support programs, extensive partnerships with community organisations and through organised parent development programs.
- The ACE Student Awards recognise consistent high achievement, academic improvement and high attendance and are closely aligned with the school values. They are celebrated once each semester.
- Positive Behaviour Awards and Positive Postcards are presented to students recognising good behaviour, consistent or concerted effort and to those completing extra work to contribute to the life of the school.

Affirmations:
- Expectations about students’ behaviour is enhanced in many ways. This includes the explicit teaching of the school’s expectations and is supported by presentations at school assemblies, year level assemblies, daily roll classes, staff meetings, postcards, social media and in school newsletters.
- There is a strong focus upon student attendance across all year levels, with a school benchmark of 92 per cent.
- The school makes extensive and refined use of school data to inform and improve their attendance, teaching practices and behaviour management.
- The Parents and Citizens’ (P&C) Association endorses the school’s Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students (RBPS). There is strong financial support from the P&C, as exemplified through the creation of the Student Wellbeing and e-Learning Lounge (SWELL) space as a hub of wellbeing in the school.
- The school leaders and all school staff members demonstrate a strong level of respectful and caring relationships for all school community members.

Recommendations:
- Continue to engage the teaching team in the development and implementation of consistent effective pedagogical practices. Consolidate the positive implementation of Explicit Teaching to ensure practices are consistently and rigorously implemented by the whole teaching team.
- Continue work on the LEAP program, engaging all staff members, building a review and planning cycle and linking student performance data with mainstream performance data.
- Consider developing common protocols for the recording of information in OneSchool.
- Refine the return from suspension, student monitoring and record keeping processes.
- Review the implementation of the Focus lessons to ensure they are responsive to school needs.
- Continue planning for the entry of Year 7 into Junior Secondary in 2015. Include planning on specific areas for seating and play, engagement strategies and involvement in the wider school context.
- Continue investing in the professional development of staff members that aligns with the school’s explicit improvement agenda to enhance understanding, skills and engagement.