

How to apply:

To be considered for entry into the Academic Excellence Academy, students must demonstrate:

- High levels of academic achievement in primary school
- Strong results in national testing, including NAPLAN
- A commitment to learning and positive participation in school life

Applications for the Academic Excellence Academy are completed as part of the enrolment process at Mackay State High School and should be submitted at the enrolment interview, along with enrolment forms.

Further requirements are outlined in the Academy application form.

Outcomes will be communicated early in Term 3.



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Academic Excellence Academy

**CHALLENGING MINDS.
CREATING PATHWAYS.
INSPIRING EXCELLENCE.**



OUR VISION FOR EXCELLENCE

At Mackay State High School, we cultivate a culture of excellence where high-achieving students are challenged, supported and inspired to succeed. Grounded in our motto, *Labor Vincit — Work Conquers* — we believe that sustained effort is the foundation of academic success.

Our excellence program is a highly regarded program designed to extend students who demonstrate strong academic potential. Students learn alongside like-minded, motivated peers in a dynamic and supportive environment, with access to enrichment opportunities, competitions and extension programs.

Through the AEA, students will:

- Engage in rigorous and challenging learning that promotes deep understanding
- Develop as independent, motivated and self-directed learners
- Think critically and creatively to solve complex problems
- Build confidence, leadership and collaboration skills
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to excellence, responsibility and personal growth.

Students are supported by dedicated teachers who understand high-achieving learners, and are guided to build strong foundations for senior success and future pathways.

The AEA is more than a program — it is a pathway that supports students to realise their potential, build strong foundations, and become confident, capable contributors to their community.



LEARNING AND ENRICHMENT

The Academic Excellence Academy delivers a rigorous and enriched learning experience across all areas of the Australian Curriculum. Students engage in enhanced depth learning in core subjects — Science, Mathematics, English and the Humanities — while also accessing enriched opportunities in The Arts, Technologies and Languages.

The program is carefully structured to:

- Provide connected and complementary learning experiences across subjects
- Develop a broad range of skills and capabilities
- Promote deep understanding and real-world application through assessment

Students also participate in a range of extension and enrichment opportunities, including:

- STEM challenges and competitions
- Science Fair and national testing opportunities
- Opti-Minds
- Whitsunday Voices and creative pursuits
- Excursions, field trips and the Year 9 AEA Study Tour to Brisbane

CADET PROGRAM - YEARS 5 AND 6

The Academic Cadet Program provides a valuable extension opportunity for high-achieving Year 5 and 6 students as they prepare for high school.

Cadets attend sessions twice per term, engaging in challenging, hands-on learning experiences designed to build confidence, develop skills and foster curiosity. The program also supports students to form early connections with staff, peers and the high school environment.

