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State axes country classes

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Country students will no longer be able to complete Years 11 and 12 at district high schools.

Students at 21 schools face extra travel or moving away from home because the State Government is phasing out their senior school courses.

Education Minister Liz Constable said only district high schools with very low numbers would be affected.

She said students could travel to a bigger school, board at a hostel in another town or study through distance education.

Dr Constable told the ABC this morning that the move would provide more opportunity for students.

"It's not motivated by cost, in fact it doesn't save very much money at all," she said.

Shadow education minister Michelle Roberts said country students would be further disadvantaged.

She said the former Labor Government had considered the same option but decided against it because it did not want to penalise country families.

The decision comes as metropolitan schools are forming alliances so students can commute between schools to access traditional academic subjects.

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