



Education &
Communities

Public Schools NSW

Support for students with disability in regular classrooms: a factsheet for parents and carers

Every Student, Every School: Learning and Support

The Department of Education and Communities is implementing a new approach for meeting the additional learning and support needs of students with disability in all NSW public schools, through its strategy Every Student, Every School.

Many students with disability have additional learning and support needs. The level and type of support that each student needs is different. Many students need adjustments in their day to day learning. A small number of students need more intensive or specialised support.

Every Student, Every School aims to provide better outcomes for all students with disability. It will provide more immediate support for students and their classroom teachers, increase the expertise of teachers, significantly reduce administration and improve the coordination of educational services to students in regular classes who have additional learning and support needs.

To achieve this, Every Student, Every School will build a Learning and Support Framework in all NSW public schools to improve support for students with disability, wherever they enrol.

This Learning and Support Framework will ensure that students receive the highest quality education from trained teachers and support staff who are focused on personalising each student's learning experience. It will strengthen the capacity of all public schools to meet obligations to students under the Commonwealth *Disability Standards for Education 2005*.

A wide range of projects will be put in place during 2012 and 2013 to establish the Learning and Support Framework and assist all public schools to better meet the diverse educational needs of their students, including those with disability.

For more information about the Learning and Support Framework and details about the full range of projects being implemented in our schools, please go to our website at www.det.nsw.edu.au/every-student-every-school

Increased training and support for teachers and staff to better meet the needs of students with disability

Every Student, Every School has a strong focus on building the professional knowledge and understanding of teachers, school leaders and support staff.

This focus will build the skills and knowledge of all staff to better understand and respond to the needs of students with disability and to effectively work in consultation with students and their parents or carers.

More support for students with disability in regular classes

Many students with disability are enrolled in regular classes in mainstream schools. Every Student, Every School aims to improve the capacity of schools to respond more immediately and effectively to the needs of all students, including those with and without a formally diagnosed disability.

From the start of Term 3, 2012, every regular NSW public school will have a specialist Learning and Support Teacher working directly in the school. These specialist teachers will provide additional support for students and their classroom teachers, when and where it is needed. Over 400 public schools will have a specialist teacher for the first time.

Each regular public school will also receive flexible funding to support students with additional needs in learning and behaviour, regardless of the cause.

The school will use these funds to support students and their teachers. This may include using funds for extra teacher time, school learning and support officer (previously called teachers' aide) time and release for teachers to undertake planning and programming or additional training.

The allocation of specialist teacher time and flexible funding support for schools under Every Student, Every School has been calculated on the most recent data on school enrolments and an index of student learning need.

Schools may also work with other local schools to share or pool their specialist resources to meet the needs of students, according to their local needs and priorities.

Students will not need a formal diagnosis, confirmation of disability, or a separate funding application in order to receive additional support for their learning through resources provided under Every Student, Every School. This includes students with mild intellectual disability, students with a language disorder or delay, and students with autism or mental health disorders who have lower level needs for additional learning support.

Learning and Support Teams

Each school's learning and support team will play a key role in planning how learning and support resources are used and how best to meet the specific learning and support needs of students.

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education. The learning and support team will work in consultation with parents and carers to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child.

Support for students with moderate, high or complex needs

Students with confirmed disability in regular classes who have moderate, high or complex learning and support needs will continue to be supported through the Integration Funding Support Program. This is funded separately from Every Student, Every School.

This program provides additional support to schools for students with:

- moderate or severe intellectual disability
- moderate, high or complex needs in autism or mental health disorders

- physical disability
- hearing impairment; and
- vision impairment.

In addition, the Department of Education and Communities will continue to provide specialist support for students with confirmed disability through support classes that operate in special schools and in some regular schools across the State.

Your child's school principal can provide you with more information about accessing these programs and services.

Local implementation of learning and support

Each region has established a team, lead by a School Education Director responsible for leading and coordinating Every Student, Every School in its schools.

Regional teams are working closely with principals to plan and implement Learning and Support in the school.

Need more information?

Your child's school can provide you with information about Every Student, Every School and how it will be implemented in the school.

The school can also provide you with details on learning and support arrangements for your child.

Further information about Every Student, Every School can be obtained through your local regional implementation team.

Further information including Regional contact details:

www.det.nsw.edu.au/every-student-every-school