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Schools' obligations to students with disability

Every child should be able to access and participate in their schooling. A disability should not be a barrier to those rights.

The [Disability Standards for Education 2005](#) (also known as 'the Standards') aim to ensure that every child with disability gets the same opportunities at school as other students. The Standards help ensure support for students with disability, including students on the autism spectrum, so that they can participate in education on the same basis as their peers.

All schools must follow the Standards, as well as the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992 \(DDA\)](#).



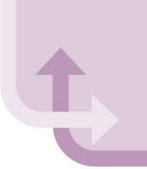
What do the Standards explain?

The Standards explain what education providers, including schools, must do to support students with disability.

There are five standards.

Select each of the titles in the table below to find out about the areas they cover.

Enrolment	<p>Education providers must ensure that all students with disability can enrol in school on the same basis as students without disability and without experiencing discrimination.</p> <p>Schools need to take reasonable steps to assist students with their enrolment, for example, providing opportunities for families and caregivers to visit schools and view students' classrooms to help them make informed enrolment decisions.</p>
Participation	<p>Education providers must ensure that students with disability can participate in school on the same basis as students without disability.</p> <p>Reasonable adjustments must be made by schools to ensure this is the case. These adjustments could include providing appropriate lighting for students with light</p>



	sensitivity or making the classroom less busy visually for students who might experience sensory overload.
Curriculum development, accreditation and delivery	<p>Education providers must ensure that all students can access the curriculum on the same basis as their peers.</p> <p>This means that if students need learning experiences modified to meet their individual needs, schools must do so, provided the adjustment is reasonable. One example might be allowing students with disability access to visual timetables ahead of time, so they know their classroom routine.</p> <p>Regular consultation is important. Schools should consult and communicate regularly with families about a child's needs when it comes to student learning and wellbeing.</p>
Student support services	<p>Education providers must ensure that all students can access support services to enable equal access to learning.</p> <p>Support services can include providing specialist equipment, such as fidget toys and 'wobble' stools, or access to learning support programs.</p>
Elimination of harassment and victimisation	<p>Education providers must ensure that students with disability attend school in an environment that is free from harassment and victimisation.</p> <p>Schools should take steps to support students with disability by, for example, developing and implementing school policies which deter harassment and victimisation.</p>

What are schools' obligations under the Standards?

Under the Standards, schools must do three things:

- They must consult with students with disability and their families.
- They must make reasonable adjustments to help students with disability.
- They must ensure students with disability are not treated less favourably than students without a disability.

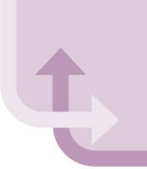
The Standards support you and your child to have fair and accessible consultation and discussion about your child's education.

A helpful resource to learn more about the Standards is the [Practical guide for individuals, families and communities](#).

What is a reasonable adjustment?

Reasonable adjustments are how schools support students with disability. Reasonable adjustments are changes or accommodations which are made to help students access education on the same basis as their peers. Schools are obliged to make reasonable adjustments to support students with disability. Adjustments might include:

- changes to the classroom environment (for example, modifying a corner in the classroom into a quiet space if a child needs a calm corner)
- additional teaching support
- changes to the way things are taught.



More information on reasonable adjustments can be found in the booklet [Explaining the Disability Standards for Education](#).

What does this all mean for you?

Your child is entitled to access to, opportunity for and enjoyment of their education at all times. The Standards ensure that:

- you can be heard and consulted, along with your child, about their education
- you are the best advocate for your child and your child is protected by the Standards
- communication is key between families and schools to support your child in their education.