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Schools' obligations to students with disability

All students are entitled to access and participate in education. A disability should not be a barrier to that access.

The [Disability Standards for Education 2005](#) (also known as 'the Standards'), and the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992 \(DDA\)](#), require Australian school students with disability to be provided with the same opportunities at school as other students. This applies to all students with disability.

Watch the Introduction to the [Disability Standards for Education](#) animation to learn more.



What are the Standards?

The Standards explain the obligations of schools to provide access to education to students with disability on the same basis as their peers. The Standards cover the following five areas:

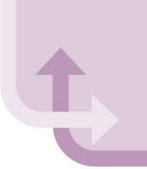
- enrolment
- participation
- curriculum development, accreditation and delivery
- student support services
- elimination of harassment and victimisation.

What are the responsibilities of schools?

The Standards clarify the obligations of schools under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). 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.

[Reasonable adjustments](#) are the ways in which schools support students with disability. Reasonable adjustments are measures or actions taken which help students take part in education on the same basis as their peers.



The adjustments provided to a student are determined by their needs and may include adjustments to the curriculum, equipment, and physical and human resourcing requirements. Some examples include:

- modifying a corner in your classroom into a quiet space
- creating visual schedules of your classroom routine
- differentiated learning activities
- access to learning support programs.

Schools can help to meet their obligations under the Standards by:

- creating and implementing inclusive policies and procedures, for example, developing inclusive spaces in classrooms to accommodate the needs of all students
- ensuring all staff complete professional development on disability awareness, rights and obligations, for example, providing professional development opportunities in working with children on the autism spectrum for all staff.

The [Disability Standards for Education e-learning](#) provides self-paced professional learning for educators to develop their understanding of the Standards in this area appropriate for their individual role.

Important considerations

Remember, schools have an obligation to support all students with disability under the Standards and the [DDA](#). The Standards can also help support families and their child to have fair and accessible consultation when it comes to their child's schooling.

What should I do as a teacher?

- Communication and consultation with families are key, including using information provided (such as observations and transition statements) by families about the student.
- Consult with your support staff, the student and their family to implement reasonable adjustments to support the student.
- Observe the student in your classroom and communicate regularly with the student's family.