



Disability Rights Advocacy Service Inc

Disability Standards for Education 2005

This fact sheet provides a brief overview of the purpose of the Disability Standards for Education 2005, and the best resources for further information.

What are the Disability Standards for Education 2005?

The Disability Standards for Education 2005 outlines the obligations of education and training providers under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (“DDA”). The Disability Education Standards seeks to ensure that students with disability can access and participate in education on the same basis as students without disability.

The Disability Standards for Education explain:

- The rights of students with disability and
- What education providers must do to help students with disabilities to get their rights.

Must know facts

- You do not need a diagnosis for the Disability Standards for Education to apply to you. If a student is thought to live with disability, then the Disability Standards for Education can be used.
- The Disability Standards for Education also protect people who have a connection to someone with disability. This can include:
 - A spouse or relative
 - A carer or caregiver
 - A person who lives with them
 - A person in another relationship with them
 - Students who are caregivers.
- All education providers have to follow the Disability Standards for Education. These are generally people and places that provide education or training. This includes:
 - Preschools and kindergartens
 - Government and non-government schools
 - Vocational education and training (VET) providers, including TAFEs
 - Higher education providers, including universities.



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- Students with disability have the right to join in all parts of education. You have the same rights as students without disability to:
 - Apply to enroll or be admitted somewhere
 - Take part in a course or program – this includes using services and facilities
 - Take part in learning experiences – this includes modifying the course or program and also how it is assessed
 - Use support services, including specialized support services.
- What do education providers have to do?
 - If you're a student with a disability, your institution must:
 - **Consult** with you
 - Make **reasonable accommodations**
 - Put steps in place to **prevent** you from being mistreated.

Summary of the 2020 Review of the Disability Standards for Education 2005

The recommended changes made were:

- Empowering and supporting students with disability and their families
 - Information for students with disability and their families
 - Clearer rules on consulting with students with disability and their families and handling issues and complaints
 - Sharing information when students change schools
- Strengthening the knowledge and capacity of educators and providers
 - Information for education providers
 - Training on the Standards for school teachers and leaders
 - Including the Standards in higher education policies and practices
- More accountability for the Standards throughout education
 - Making sure the education policies match the Standards
 - Improving vocational education and training for students with disability
 - More public information on how schools support students with disability
 - Data and reporting about school students with disability
 - Checking how well the Standards are followed



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- Building awareness and capacity in the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector
 - Information for parents and carers about their children's rights
 - Information for Early Childhood Education and Care providers
 - Making sure Early Childhood Education and Care policies match the Disability Discrimination Act 1992
 - Change that Standards to include Early Childhood Education and Care

Helpful resources

[Disability Standards for Education 2005 - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)

[The Disability Standards for Education - CYDA](#)

[2020 Review of the Disability Standards for Education 2005 - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)

[Supporting students with disability: General Information - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)

[Information products for educators and education providers on supporting students with disability - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)

[Information resources for students with disability and their caregivers - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)