

Students with Disability Program for Non-State Schools Policy

September 2023



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All Queensland schools are required to adhere to the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) and the [Disability Standards for Education 2005](#). All schools therefore must make reasonable adjustments to ensure students with disability are able to participate in education on the same basis as students without disability.

Eligible students with disability in non-state schools receive support from the State Government through the *Students with Disability Program for Non-State Schools* (the Program).

Purpose and objectives

The purpose and objectives of the Program are to:

- improve access to and participation in the curriculum for students with disability in non-state schools through implementation of appropriate adjustments in the areas of:
 - curriculum
 - communication
 - social participation/emotional wellbeing
 - health and personal care
 - safety
 - learning environment/access.
- support the educational outcomes of eligible students with disability by:
 - ensuring teachers have the support and training they need to plan, implement, review and monitor educational adjustments that promote access to and participation in the life of the school and personalised planning;
 - supporting teachers and school leaders to implement strategies that proactively engage all students in all aspects of schooling, including students who require specific strategies to support their participation;
 - respecting and embracing parents and families as partners in their child/ren's education;
 - using technology and existing networks to share good practice; and
 - considering the needs of students with disability in any reviews of school resourcing.

Target group – eligibility

The Australian Government's Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) is used to identify students with disability. Students reported in the NCCD's highest three levels of adjustment (supplementary, substantial and extensive) are eligible for support through the Program.

Funding

A set percentage of the total recurrent funding provided for non-state schools in the State Budget is allocated to the Program.

Use of funds

The funds are to be used to support eligible students through:

- the improvement of in-school resourcing for students with disability. In-school support may include: teacher aide time, professional development for teachers working with eligible students with disability, purchase of external support services to enable access

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and participation in schooling (including therapists and other specialist support), the purchase of specialised equipment, and resources for the student and/or their teachers to use for schooling purposes; and/or

- the provision of centralised or regionalised services to support eligible students with disability.

Administration of the Program

The Program is administered for each non-state sector by two approved authorities – Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) and Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) – under a three-year service agreement. The service agreement provides specific information about the funding, service provision and reporting requirements for the Program.

Accountability overview

The State Government requires QCEC and ISQ to account for the allocation and use of the funds and therefore requires the collection of information from relevant authorities and/or schools to facilitate this.

Schools are required to:

1. hold relevant documentation that validates the inclusion of each student in the NCCD and the educational adjustments in place for each eligible student;
2. develop, implement and review education/personalised plans for each eligible student, which includes any adjustments required to support improved educational outcomes; and
3. provide audited statements to their respective authority verifying that the funds were expended to support the educational adjustments in place for the eligible student.

Accountability information submitted by QCEC and ISQ for the previous year must be approved by the State Government prior to a scheduled funding payment occurring.

Allocation of funds

The distribution of funds between the two approved authorities for any financial year will be based on the NCCD most recently provided by the Australian Government to the Queensland Department of Education (the department). A weighting is applied to each level of adjustment based on the Australian Government's loading percentages.

QCEC and ISQ must employ allocative methodologies to disburse the funds in accordance with the purpose and objectives of the Program.

Transitional arrangements for 2024

The distribution of funds to QCEC and ISQ will be transitioned over two years. Funding provided in 2024 will be based on 2023 EAP and NCCD numbers, with a 50/50 weighting, transitioning to 2025 funding based fully on NCCD numbers.

Policy authority

Sections 420, 420A and 422 of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* provide the legislative basis for the policy and the payments made through the Program.

Review of the policy

This policy was developed in consultation with QCEC and ISQ. To maintain relevance, the policy is reviewed every three years or as required.