Students with disability

The requirements for providing the Australian Curriculum, for all students, are specified in the P-12 curriculum, assessment and reporting framework and the Providing the Australian Curriculum in Prep to Year 10 in Queensland state schools from 2017 and in Whole school approach to differentiating teaching and learning. This document provides additional advice to ensure that students with disability can access, participate and achieve so that every student with disability is succeeding.

Legislative requirements for students with disability

All Queensland state schools must comply with Commonwealth and state legislation which requires that, as far as practicable, people with disability access, participate and achieve in education on the same basis as those without disability. The relevant legislation includes:

- the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) (DDA)
- the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (Cth) (DSE)
- the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld) (ADA).

The Department of Education recognises all students with disability as defined by the DDA definition of disability. This definition is broader than the department’s six categories within the Education Adjustment Program. Students with disability include those identified in the Nationally Consistent Collection of School Students with Disability (NCCD).

Access, participation and achievement in education

Under the DSE, students with disability are entitled to reasonable adjustments to enable them to participate in education on the same basis as other students. Education providers must consult with the student (if possible) and parents before making a reasonable adjustment.

Providing the curriculum

All students are entitled to all eight learning areas of the Australian Curriculum in Prep to Year 10 without exception. Students are taught, assessed and reported on against the relevant learning area and/or subject achievement standards of the Australian Curriculum. The whole school curriculum, assessment and reporting plan with three levels of planning, details how and when all Australian Curriculum learning areas will be taught, assessed and reported on. It details how the curriculum will be provided in ways that support continuous improvement in student achievement and for students with disability describes the reasonable adjustments made to curriculum delivery, pedagogy, assessment, and reporting.

For a small number of students with disability schools may need to make decisions about the number of learning areas and/or subjects provided each semester and the appropriate year level of the curriculum – refer to Individual Curriculum Plan. The decision is informed by:

- student response to the differentiated teaching and learning that has been provided
- interrogation of student assessment and reporting data
- consultation with students (as appropriate) and parents.

Years 11 and 12

Ensure that every Year 10 student has completed a Senior Education and Training (SET) plan and has opportunities for review in Years 11 and 12.

Some students with disability may need Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments to address barriers to assessment. Students with disability enrolled in Years 11 and 12, in conjunction with their Senior Education and Training (SET) plan, progress towards a Queensland Certificate of Education or undertake an individual learning program that leads to the recording of achievement on the Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement.

Schools must consider the long term implications of making adjustments to curriculum provision. Ongoing alterations to the number of curriculum learning areas and/or subjects provided, the time taken to progress through the curriculum, and the year and/or bands of year levels provided may affect students' future pathways, as they progress towards either a Queensland Certificate of Education or a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement.

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1 Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) Portal - Disability Standards for Education: A Practical Guide for Individuals, Families and Communities – Consulting on Adjustments.
2 Provision of the eight learning areas of the Australian Curriculum is a requirement of the P-12 curriculum, assessment and reporting framework.
3 Australian Curriculum: Student Diversity (Personalised learning) advice provides information regarding using the Australian Curriculum to meet the learning needs of all students across all educational settings and contexts, without exception.
4 Additional information about three levels of planning, quality summative assessment aligned to the Australian Curriculum achievement standards, and whole school moderation processes is available in the P-12 curriculum, assessment and reporting framework, the supporting document Assessment and moderation in Prep to Year 10 and the Assessment and Moderation Hub.