



2025 Review of the Disability Standards for Education

Inclusive decision-making

The Australian Government is reviewing the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards). The law says the Standards must be reviewed every 5 years.

One of the areas we are looking at is **inclusive decision-making**. This means how well students, their families and carers are supported to be involved in decisions. It covers being supported through complaints handling.

About the Standards

The Standards help to make sure students with disability can access and participate in education and training on the same basis as students without disability. They outline what education providers must do to comply with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (the Act).

All education providers must meet the Standards. This includes preschools and kindergartens and public and private schools. It also includes training, vocational and higher education providers.

Supporting students and families with decision-making

The Standards require education providers to involve students with disability, and their families and carers, in decisions that affect them. This includes being consulted about adjustments and other decisions. It also includes being supported when there are concerns about the decisions being made.

But students with disability, and their families and carers, are often being excluded from decision-making. They may experience challenges if they make a complaint or have issues that need to be resolved.

Changes to the Standards have been suggested to help education providers make sure they are meeting the requirements for consultation and involving students, families and carers in decision-making.

We consulted with key disability and education peak bodies, and a Reference Group with states and territories and non-government school sectors, to develop a **set of draft principles**. These principles are for consultation, issues resolution and complaints handling.

The draft principles cover areas like:

- asking students, family or carers about adjustments and making sure their views are considered
- providing students, family or carers with information about decisions or complaints
- providing information about how students, family or carers can access support with decisions or complaints.

Through the 2025 review, we want to hear if the draft principles will work, or if they need to be changed. We also want to know how the principles could be included in the Standards.

We want to hear from students, families and carers about:

- Whether you have had success or difficulties in using the Standards to solve problems with access or participation in education
- Whether the principles should be included in the Standards and how this could work
- How else we could improve inclusive decision-making and support a clear, open and more accessible complaints process.

We want to hear from educators and organisations about:

- Whether you feel confident consulting with students, and their families or carers, about decisions (and how well your organisation does this)
- What support or guidance would help you consult with students to make decisions
- Whether you think the principles should be included in the Standards and how this could work
- How else we could improve inclusive decision-making and support a clear, open and accessible complaints processes.



How to have your say

Visit the [Disability Standards for Education consultation page](#) for more information and to find out how to share your ideas.

There are lots of different ways to have your say.

- **Complete an online survey or send us a submission**
- **Contribute to the Ideas Wall**
- **Take part in an online workshop.** There are workshops for students, and for parents, carers, educators and other stakeholders.

You can also contact the Department of Education at DisabilityStandardsConsultation@education.gov.au

If you want to get involved in the review or need help to prepare for or access an event, contact The Social Deck at engage@thesocialdeck.com or phone **0458 228 142**.