



# 2025 Review of the Disability Standards for Education

## Clear responsibilities for assessment authorities and course developers

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 making sure there are **clear responsibilities for assessment authorities and course developers**. This means having clear guidance so students with disability can participate in assessments and workplace learning on the same basis as students without disability.

### 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.

## Making sure students can participate in courses, assessments and placements

Education providers that design a course or program have obligations under the Standards.

The Standards require courses and programs to be designed so that students with disability can fully participate. This includes when students are doing assessments, courses or work placements.

## Responsibilities when students move outside of their classroom or regular learning environment

Students may need to move out of their classroom for some learning or assessment activities. Students with disability have experienced problems with getting adjustments or having their supports maintained when they move out of their classroom or regular learning environment.

This may happen because:

- more than one organisation is responsible for making adjustments
- organisations who are not education providers are part of decision-making
- people might not know who is responsible for making adjustments.

## Knowing about the Standards and obligations

There may be low awareness and understanding of the Standards among people and organisations who:

- develop course material
- set rules for the accreditation of courses and assessments, especially in vocational education and training and higher education
- deliver training or work placements.

**Through this review, we want to know what more could be done to make sure the Standards are supporting students with disability to access and participate in assessments, work experience and placements. We also want to know how we can make sure the responsibilities for education providers are clear.**

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

- What your experience has been with accessing and participating in exams.
- What more could be done to make sure organisations with responsibilities under the Standards are meeting them.
- What else could be done to support students with disability to access and participate in exams, work experience, or work placements.

## We want to hear from educators and organisations about:

- How your organisation considers accessibility when developing courses and assessments for students in Year 11 and 12, vocational education and training and higher education.
- Whether you have supported students with disability to access and participate in exams, work placements or work experience.
- Whether the Standards are clear enough about requirements and who they apply to.
- If further guidance is needed for supporting students with disability to access and participate in exams, work placements or work experience.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:engage@thesocialdeck.com) or phone **0458 228 142**.