

Working together in high school

Information for students and families

An Easy Read guide



How to use this guide



A group of people worked together to write this guide.

The group included:



- people with disability



- their families and carers



- Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA)



- Inclusion Australia.



They wrote this guide for the Australian Government Department of Education (DoE).



When you see the word 'we', it means the people who wrote this guide.



We wrote this guide in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

We have written some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of important words we use in this guide on page **6**.

There is a list of other words we use on page **36**.



This Easy Read guide is a summary of another guide.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other guide on our website.

www.education.gov.au/disability-standards-education-2005/information-resources-students-disability-and-their-caregivers



You can ask for help to read this guide.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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Words we use in this guide



We have some words we always use in this guide.

Knowing what these words mean can help you understand this guide better.

Disability



A disability can affect your:

- brain
- body
- **senses.**



You use your senses to understand the world around you.



When you have a disability, part of your body doesn't work:

- very well
- how it should.



A disability can affect:

- what you can do
- how much you can do on your own.

A disability can affect how you:



- communicate



- learn



- do things.

Education



When you get an education, teachers support you to learn:

- new skills
- knowledge.



Educational institution

An educational institution is somewhere you go to learn.

This could be a:



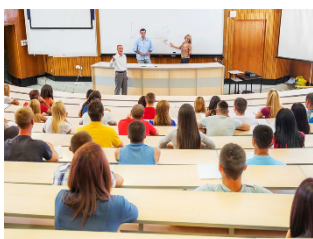
- pre-school or kindergarten



- primary school



- high school



- university



- training organisation, such as TAFE.



An educational institution might be public – this means it's run by the government.



Or it could be private – this means another organisation owns and runs it.



Reasonable adjustment

When something changes so you can join in, we call it an adjustment.

This is sometimes called an accommodation.



Adjustments can include:

- someone to support you
- doing things in new ways
- changing things.



When something is reasonable, it is:

- fair
- sensible.



Reasonable adjustments are things your educational institution must:

- do
- change.



Rights

Your rights are rules for how you can expect other people to treat you.

This includes educational institutions.

Standards



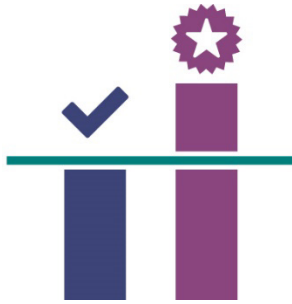
Standards are what we use to measure how well something is done.

We look at:

- what is done
- what the standard is.



Standards help us make sure things work well.



Educational institutions must:

- reach the standard
- try to do better than the standard.



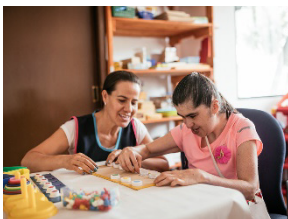
Students

Students are people who learn with an educational institution.

This includes when they learn:



- in a classroom



- at home



- at work.



Students can be people:

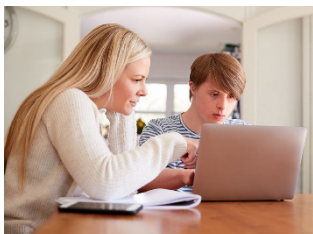
- with disability
- without disability.

Who this guide is for



This guide is for students with disability in high school.

It also has information for:



- parents



- carers.

What this guide is about



Lots of changes happen in your education.

These changes can be:

- big
- small.

Changes can happen when you:



- move from primary school to high school



- need to make decisions about your education

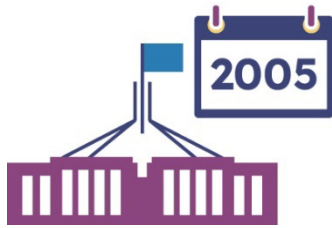


- leave high school.



This guide is about working with your high school to support your education when these changes happen.

The Disability Standards for Education (DSE)



In 2005, the Australian Government published the Disability Standards for Education (DSE).



The DSE are standards for the education of students with disability.

The DSE talk about 2 important things:



- the rights of students with disability



- what educational institutions must do.



The DSE protects students with disability.

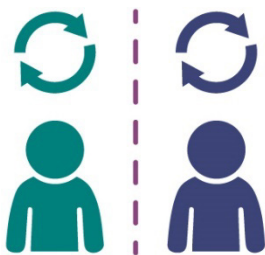
Changes in school



It is a big change when you move from primary school to high school.



And as you move through each year of high school.



A lot of change will happen.

Everyone manages change in different ways.



You will find out what you:

- can do
- are good at.



High school is a journey.

It starts when you leave primary school.

And ends when you finish high school.

Reasonable adjustments



Your school should make sure you are treated fairly.



They must also give you the support you need to:

- learn
- take part.



This means they must make reasonable adjustments if you need them.

Reasonable adjustments can include:



- **support staff** – people who help teachers work with students with disability



- technology, such as screen readers



- doing things in a different way, such as a rest break when you have an exam.



You might choose to get supports when the school year starts.



You might also choose to get supports when there are changes:

- in your life
- at school.

How to work together



If you are a parent or carer, you should work with your child to understand their:

- needs
- choices.



You should also work with your child's high school to manage their supports.

And to check how their supports are going.

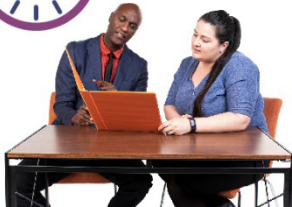
To get the result your child needs at their high school,
you might need to:



- send an email



- take part in a meeting.



But you might need to take part in more meetings too.

Working together can take time.



If you are a high school student, you should be able
to share:

- what you think
- your ideas.

You should also be able to:



- go to meetings if you want to



- try new things at school



- make changes to the way you learn.



It's a good idea to think about what type of support you need in high school.



You can spend some time thinking about this with your parent or carer.

Then bring your ideas with you when you have a meeting at your high school.

You might need support in your environment, such as:



- in the classroom

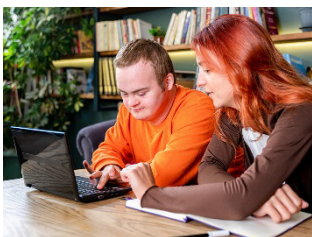


- on the playground.



You might need support with your learning.

For example, taking part in activities with other students.



You might need support with how you communicate with other people.

For example, using a screen reader.



You might need support with how you spend time with other people.

For example, working with other students.

Moving from primary school to high school



Leaving primary school and starting high school is a very big change.

There is a lot to get ready for.



You will learn new things.

And take different subjects.

You will meet:



- new adults, such as teachers



- lots of other children.

There will be new:



- buildings



- classrooms



- playgrounds.



And you will have to do more work on your own.

This includes doing exams.



You might feel nervous about these changes.

This is very normal.

Tips for students



Tell someone how you feel if you:

- are worried
- have questions.

For example, you might tell your teacher.



Tell someone if you need to make changes to:

- what you learn
- how you learn.

For example, you might tell your teacher that you need to sit somewhere else in the classroom to see the board better.



Your school should support you to take part.

It's ok to ask them to make changes.



Talk to an adult you trust about what happens at school.

For example, a family member.

When they know what's going on, they can help you.

Tips for parents and carers



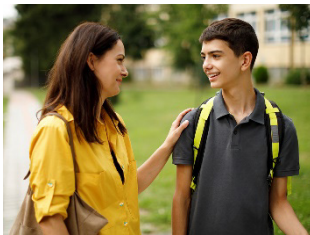
Talk to your child about what happens when they move from primary school to high school.



Learn about your child's school.

And what they will do when they get there.

This will help you when your child asks you questions.



Take your child to their new school before the move happens to help them get used to:

- the buildings
- their teachers.

When something is **accessible**, everyone can use it.



This might be:

- a place or a building
- a service
- information
- a website.



Talk about what the school will do to be accessible for your child, such as reasonable adjustments.



Support your child to make their own goals for the school year.



For example, you can ask them what they want to learn.



These goals can help you when you meet their teachers at school.



Make sure your child feels supported to share what happens at school with you.



You might ask them questions if you are worried.

Or ask their teachers how they are going.



Tell the school if something isn't working for your child.

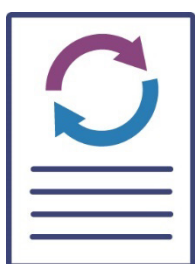


Ask your child what they want you to share
before you do this.

More support for you



We wrote other documents in Easy Read that can help you support your child when they are at school.



We wrote a document called 'Education for students with disability'.

This document is about how to help your child through changes in their education.



You can find this document on our website.

www.education.gov.au/disability-standards-education-2005/students/easyread/milestones



We also wrote a document called 'Speaking up for your child with disability'.

This document is about how to get your child what they need from their primary school.



You can find this document on our website.

www.education.gov.au/disability-standards-education-2005/students/easyread/advocating

Decision-making at school

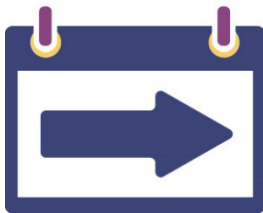


You will have to make lots of decisions when you are at school.



This can happen when you start high school.

For example, you might get to choose your subjects for the school year.



This can also happen when you finish high school.

For example, when you choose what you want to do next.



You might want to keep learning.

This can include going to:



- university



- **Vocational education and training (VET).**

VET is a type of education.

It includes:



- TAFE
- **apprenticeships.**



An apprenticeship is when someone learns how to do a job while they are at work.

For example, as a builder or hairdresser.



If you don't want to keep learning when you finish school, you might want to get a job.



You can also choose to:

- keep learning
- and
- get a job.



If you change your mind, that's ok too.

To help you make these decisions, you can think about what:



- subjects you like



- you are good at.

You can think about:



- what you enjoy doing



- how you like to learn



- what jobs you want to do



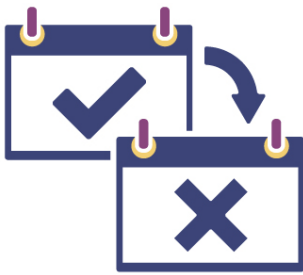
- what **career** you want to have.

Your career is the path you take in the area of work you choose.



You can also think about what you learned about yourself if you did work experience.

Tips for students



Think about what you want to do when you:

- start school
- finish school.



Ask someone you trust for help if you need it.

This might be a family member or teacher.



It's ok if you don't have all the answers.

Talk to people who can support you.

Tips for parents and carers



Let your child decide what they want to do.



Support your child if they ask you for help.



You can share what you think.

Or help them make a plan.



You can also explain the different paths they can take.

And what might happen if they choose one of them.



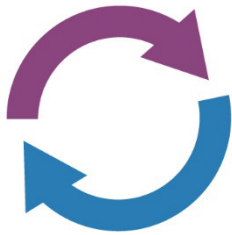
Tell your child you can help them.

You don't have to wait for them to ask you.

Finishing high school



There are lots of different paths you can take when you finish high school.



It's a big change when you leave high school.



Your daily routine will be different.



If you keep learning, you might have different subjects.



You will have more:

- schoolwork
- homework.



You might use different:

- buildings
- classrooms.



Your relationship with your teachers will change.

Tips for students



You can decide what you want to do when you finish high school.

You can also ask others to support you.

Tips for parents and carers



Support your child to make their own decisions.



You can still help them when they finish high school.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this guide mean.

Accessible

When something is accessible, everyone can use it.



This might be:

- a place or a building
- a service
- information
- a website.

Apprenticeships



An apprenticeship is when someone learns how to do a job while they are at work.

For example, as a builder or hairdresser.



Career

Your career is the path you take in the area of work you choose.



Support staff

People who help teachers work with students with disability.

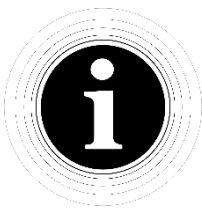
Vocational education and training (VET)



VET is a type of education.

It includes:

- TAFE
- apprenticeships.



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