

Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [I] BENDER, ASHLEY

Reference Type: Access to Special needs schooling SSP

State or territory: NSW

Serial Identification Number: 472996

Responses

Curriculum and assessment

Get rid of the one size fits all approach. No student is the same. Children have different backgrounds and abilities. They have different interests and are engaged using different measures.

The curriculum needs to be tailored around a students capability and understanding. We need to take on a more holistic approach to ensuring that each child who attends school is receiving access to learning opportunities that provide outcomes that they are able to achieve.

Rating: 7

Teachers and teaching

Teachers need training on how to support a diverse range of needs. Students should not have a standard mould to fit. Some teachers place too much pressure on children and expect that all children should behave in the same way. Some children are able to achieve academically and some will never grasp the concept no matter how many times they are made to try. Teachers should build a profile on each child and tailor programs specific to a child's interests and capabilities and they should take a more flexible approach to keep children engaged.

Rating: 5

Leaders and leadership

Some children are never encouraged to lead. They are let down at home and then let down at school. Generally the leaders become those who are organised and achieve great marks across all subject matters at school. The children who struggle and sometimes for reasons beyond their control could achieve great outcomes if they received guidance and support from teachers and their peers. We need to start filling the gaps and focusing on encouraging all students - all students want to learn and make those around them proud - sometimes they just need a hand up to encourage them to do so.

Rating: 5

School and Community

I believe it is important for children to engage in school and within the local community.

Rating: 4

Information and Communication Technology

Information and communication technology should be a subject in every school - regardless of age or ability. The modern world revolves around the use of technology. We rely on devices and systems to function daily whether it's at school, at home or at work. Children should be taught at an early age

how to navigate a computer. All children should be involved in learning some aspect of programming or coding.

Rating: 7

Entrepreneurship and schools

Entrepreneurship like information, technology and communication is the way towards the future. Children should be exposed to entrepreneurship and the endless opportunities that are possible.

Rating: 5

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

The assesment process to access special education is not fair and not transparent. It is a long drawn out process and an unnecessary stress for parents who are already struggling. The Department of Education will not reveal if the school has vacancies and is does not provide clear information to parents.

Current Public school student or private school student- the process should be straightforward and swift. Especially for a children who have confirmed diagnosis's of disabilities and current copies of reports and assesments.

Many kids that don't fit in a mainstream environment are getting declined for places at special needs schools. Please tell me at what point is a disabled child - not disabled enough for a special needs school?

Having a child with special needs is mentally draining. When the time comes a parent should be able to transition their child from a mainstream school to a special needs school smoothly and efficiently.

Rating for enrolments: 5

Rating for clusters: 2

Rating for distance education: 2

Rating for boarding: 2

Diversity

In every classroom - children are exposed to diversity. The class is made up of children from different races, religions and abilities. Children should be encouraged to develop skills to embrace diversity.

Rating: 7

Transitioning beyond school

A lot of kids need support and guidance when leaving school. If I had the support through a transitional program I certainly would have achieved more in my lifetime.

Rating: 3

Additional Comments

The education system needs a huge reform - it is outdated and too standardised.