



Funding for Students with Disability at School

Choosing which school to send your child to can be daunting! At SWAN, we believe that every child is different, and sometimes SWAN children will move schools to find the best fit.

There are many types of schools for students with disability: mainstream schools with individual support, mainstream schools with a supported unit (class) and special schools.

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

The [NCCD](#) helps monitor how schools are using their funding to support students with disability. Schools receive funding for each student on the NCCD, according to their needs. The amount of money a school receives depends on the number of students requiring educational adjustments and the level of adjustment they need.

Funding may be used to increase staff (teachers and teacher aides/education support) and accessibility for students (physically, socially and intellectually). It is the **school's responsibility** to organise NCCD funding for their students.

The allocation of funds is similar for students in government, non-government and special schools, as it is based on need.



Funding in Mainstream Government Schools

Government schools get allocated funding to support students with additional learning needs. The school is required to manage this funding as part of their total budget. On top of that, schools can apply for additional funding for students on the NCCD, according to their level of need. This additional funding travels with the student if they move schools. The Departments of Education in each state have different funding models to allocate funds to schools.

State	Funding Model
NSW	Integrated Funding Support
VIC	Program for Students with Disability (PSD) , transitioning towards Disability Inclusion
QLD	Reasonable Adjustments Resourcing (RAR)
WA	Educational Adjustment Allocation and Individual Disability Allocation
SA	Inclusive Education Support Program (IESP)
TAS	Educational Adjustment Disability Funding
NT	School Resourcing Model
ACT	Student Resource Allocation (SRA) Program

Table 1: Funding Model for Students with Disability in Mainstream Government Schools

*See [ACD's Fact Sheet](#) for information on the rollout of Disability Inclusion across Victoria



Funding in Independent Schools

According to the [school funding model](#) for independent schools, “loadings” are additional funds devoted to students in priority cohorts, including students with disability. These supports are government funded, according to the needs of students as determined by the NCCD.

The [NCCD Evidence Fact Sheet](#) is a useful resource for non-government schools on how to provide evidence of their support for students with disability.

Funding in Special Schools

Each state uses different words to describe special schools. The Department of Education in each state will offer placements to students based on whether they meet eligibility criteria. This criteria is state-specific. Usually, a panel is involved in the decision-making process.

State	Name for special schools
NSW	Schools for specific purposes (SSPs)
VIC	Three types of specialist schools : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special Schools – IQ 50-70• Special Developmental Schools - IQ under 50• Specialist School – IQ under 70
QLD	Special schools (a type of specialist school)
WA	Education support centres and schools
SA	Special schools
TAS	Support schools
NT	Specialist schools and centres
ACT	Specialist schools

Table 2: Different names for special schools in each state

Special schools provide funding based on need. Many schools organise and fund assessments to determine the level of support a student requires. Your school should inform you about when your child will be required to undergo an assessment. This may take place before your child starts school (Term 4 of the previous year).

Special schools have a higher teacher-to-student ratio than mainstream schools, due to the high number of students being on the NCCD. They may also provide additional support programs and access to specialist staff (therapists and behaviour support staff), depending on the way they manage funding. See the table below for the number of special schools per state.



Affiliation (Gov/Cath/Ind)	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	NT	ACT	Australia
Government	114	82	49	65	18	4	5	4	341
Catholic	14	7	14	5	5	1	1	0	47
Independent	53	27	32	11	5	3	0	1	132
• Total	181	116	95	81	28	8	6	5	520

Table 3: The number of special schools in Australia by State

Source: Australia Bureau of Statistics 2022 – [Data Download Table 35b](#)

Specialist Staff Support in Schools

Schools can apply for funding on behalf of families for specialist support, such as behavioural and allied health specialists. Parents/carers seeking this support for their child are usually required to discuss this first with their child's teacher, who will assess the need with you and the school principal. The principal will make the referral to put the appropriate support in place. Please refer to the links below for more information:

- [NSW - Specialist Allied Health Provider Scheme](#)
- [VIC – Extra support from specialist staff in schools](#)
- [QLD – Specialist Support Staff](#)
- [WA – Service providers in schools](#)
- [SA – Support services for students](#)
- [TAS – Specialist Services](#)
- [NT – External providers engaged in teaching and learning](#)
- [ACT – Supports for students with disability](#)

Other Useful Links

ACT

- [Support at School for Specialised Healthcare Access Needs](#)
- [Specialist Schools in the ACT](#)

NSW

- [Support classes in mainstream schools](#)
- [Integration Funding Support Guidelines](#)
- [Integration Funding Support Management Procedures](#)

NT

- [Special Education in the NT](#)
- [About Special Education and Disability](#)

QLD

- [General information for students with disability](#)
- [Department of Education - Students with Disability](#)
- [Supports at school for students with disability](#)



SA

- [Parent Forum – SERU](#)
- [Disability support at school](#)
- [Recent Developments in Education for Children and Young People in Care](#)

TAS

- [Students with Disability - The Department for Education, Children and Young People](#)
- [Model Overview - The Department for Education, Children and Young People Tasmania](#)

VIC

- [Supported Inclusion Schools](#)
- [Student Resource Package — Overview: Policy | education.vic.gov.au](#)
- [Assessment service for students with disability](#)
- [ACD - School](#)

WA

- [Kiind - Education](#)
- [Education support centres and schools](#)
- [Children with special educational needs](#)
- [Parent initiated service provider for students with disability](#)

Disability links

- [Disability Standards of Education 2005](#)
- [Definitions of disability and the NCCD categories](#)
- [Fact Sheet 1: Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#)
- [Fact Sheet 2: Disability Standards for Education 2005](#)
- [Disability Standards](#)



Disclaimer: The information in this document is current as of May 2023. To our knowledge, the information provided is correct and accurate. However, we do encourage you to do your own research and talk to education providers (school staff, education departments etc.) to inform any choices you make about your child's education.

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