

# Meeting legislative requirements

The Australian Government supports the right of children with disability to have the same educational opportunities as other children. This concept is reflected in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA).

All state and territory education providers, including government and non-government schools, must comply with the DDA and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (DSE) therein, as well as the relevant disability discrimination legislation of their state or territory.

As a teacher, the DSE clarify the obligations of education and training providers and the respective role a teacher will play in supporting the standards.

Some of the areas covered in the DSE which teachers must be aware of are:

- the rights of students with disabilities;
- standards for enrolment, participation, curriculum, and support services; and
- obligations to make reasonable adjustments where necessary to ensure full participation of students with disabilities.

## Rights of students with disabilities

The DSE state that all students, including those with disabilities, have the right to be treated with dignity and to enjoy the benefits of a supportive educational environment which encourages their equal participation. Students with disabilities should not be victim of discrimination or harassment on the part of school employees, agents, or other students.

You can find further information on the Disability Standards for Education [here](#) including practical guides for teachers and exemplars of practice.

Teachers considering a reasonable adjustment can obtain information pertaining to a disability provided that this information directly relates to the adjustment and will not be used in a discriminatory fashion.

## Professional learning

It is the responsibility of all teachers and school leaders to undertake professional learning relating to Standards 1.6 and 4.1. The continued learning and implementation of approaches to supporting students with disabilities through practice continues to enhance the educational experience these students receive.

Standard 1.6 of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (the Standards) addresses the obligations of teachers to understand and meaningfully implement in their practice the DSE and any other relevant jurisdictional policy. Standard 4.1 ensure that teachers are equipped to ensure inclusive student participation in their classrooms.