

Disability Strategy Overview

Improving outcomes for children and young people, and their families



Our Vision

We aspire to build an education system in which children with disability thrive academically, develop good physical, mental and emotional health, and gain the skills to live a fulfilling, independent life post-school.

Specifically, we want to ensure that all children and young people attending NSW schools are known, valued and cared for and that they:

- **Are welcomed and included in their local school community**
- **Enjoy a wide range of experiences**
- **Learn to their fullest capability, achieving demonstrable learning, wellbeing and independence outcomes, in a safe, supportive and healthy environment**
- **Receive an excellent education, with expertise available to support access to the full curriculum in a way that is relevant to them**
- **Build friendships, interact with other students, and feel a sense of belonging**



Our Plan

The department, in consultation with teachers, families, carers, other education experts and stakeholders, identified four areas crucial to reform.

- 1. Strengthen support**
Investing in teachers and other support staff.
- 2. Increase resources & flexibility**
Enabling schools to operate with more flexibility.
- 3. Improve the family experience**
Making experiences better and easier.
- 4. Track outcomes**
Building an evidence base to measure progress.

What Success Looks Like

Children and young people with disability are the main focus of our strategy, yet they are not the only ones who stand to benefit from our proposals.

In moving to a more inclusive system with support that better reflects the changing needs of children we will improve the experience of teachers, families and other students.



Students will

- Feel welcomed into their local school community
- Experience more responsiveness to changes in their needs
- Have more involvement in decisions about their education
- Experience smoother transitions between schools and settings
- Receive a clearer demonstration of learning outcomes from teachers



Families will

- Be treated as partners and recognised as experts of their child
- Receive earlier identification and support for their children
- Find it easier to connect with other families with similar needs
- Have better and easier experiences with our system (including complaints)
- Be provided with more consistent information from schools, NDIS providers and health services



Schools will

- Have more resources, and those resources will be more flexible
- Find it easier to find and use evidence-based professional learning and tools
- Be able to access specialist teachers and other experts
- Experience more celebration and sharing of what schools are doing well
- Be supported by facilities that are progressively designed and built to cater better to all students needs