

Making learning more inclusive

What we learned from our research

Easy Read report



How to use this report



The NSW Government Department of Education wrote this report.

When you see the word 'we', it means the Department of Education.



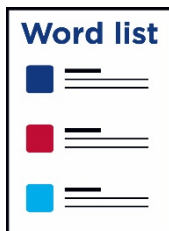
We have written this document in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Not bold
Bold

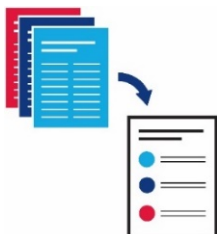
We have written some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 27.



This Easy Read report is a summary of another report. This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website at education.nsw.gov.au



You can ask for help to read this report.
A friend, family member or support person
may be able to help you.



We want to thank everyone who took part in
our research for:

- talking to us
- sharing their stories.

What's in this report?

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Inclusive public schools in NSW



We want public schools in NSW to be **inclusive**.



When something is inclusive, everyone can take part.



In NSW we want schools to be inclusive for students with disability.

All students need an equal chance to:



- go to school



- take part in learning.



All students should get the support they need to get an education that is right for them.

We call this **inclusion**.



We did our research to find out how to make NSW public schools more inclusive.



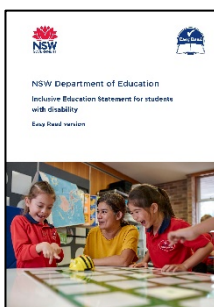
We also wrote two documents to help make NSW public schools more inclusive.

You can find them on our website.

These documents are our:

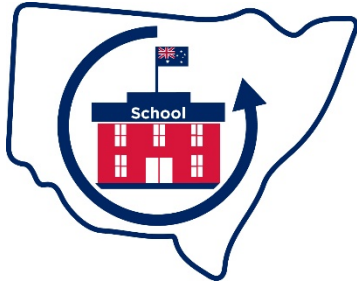


- [Disability Strategy](#)



- [Inclusive Education Statement.](#)

These documents will help make:



- public schools in NSW more inclusive



- school better for students with disability.



You can read these documents on our website education.nsw.gov.au.

How did we do our research?

We worked with EdCapital to talk to:



- school leaders



- teachers



- **School Learning Support Officers (SLSO).**

School Learning Support Officers help students with disability:



- at school



- in the classroom



- with their learning.



EdCapital is an organisation that makes schools better throughout Australia.

Who did we talk to?



635 people answered our online survey.



62 people took part in our **focus groups**.

A focus group is a group of people who meet to talk about their:



- experiences



- opinions.

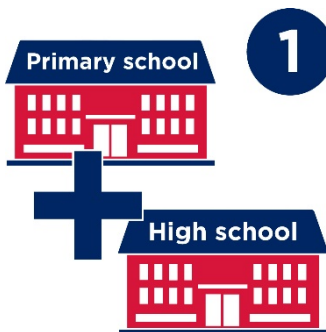
We had focus groups with:



- 2 primary schools



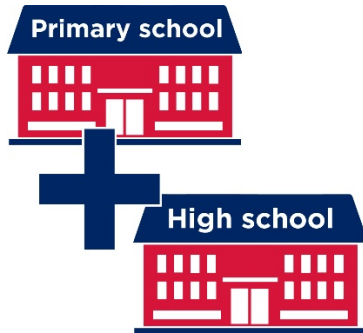
- 2 high schools



- 1 central school



- 3 schools for specific purposes (SSPs).



A central school is a school that has both a:

- primary school
- high school.



SSPs are schools for students with different types of disability.



SSPs provide extra support to students with different types of disability.



We call all the people who helped us **participants**.

What did people tell us?

Challenges schools experienced



Some school leaders told us they want more support for students with disability.



School leaders also said more people should be part of making schools inclusive.

Teachers told us they sometimes found it hard to:



- support students with disability



- include students with disability.



Lots of participants told us teachers don't have the right skills.



They find it challenging to change how they teach to support students with disability.

Teachers said they:



- work too much



- don't have enough time to plan well.



They told us they don't have enough time to change their schoolwork so it includes students with disability.



Teachers also said it can be hard to support students with disability and make sure other students take part in the class.

Some School Learning Support Officers told us they:



- didn't have enough information to support students with disability



- weren't included in meetings about students with disability.

School Learning Support Officers also said there aren't many chances for:



- training



- learning.



Teachers at SSPs told us they face challenges when they support students with disability who need a lot of support.



One of these challenges is changing how they teach to support their students with disability.



Teachers at SSPs told us about the challenges of supporting students with disability when they move into **mainstream schools**.



Mainstream schools are schools where everybody can go and learn.

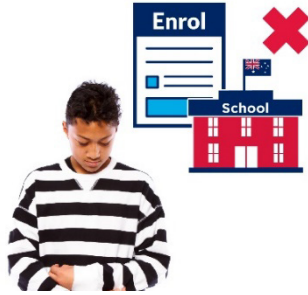
They include:



- primary schools



- high schools.



They also said students with disability are put off from **enrolling** in mainstream schools.

When you enrol, you:



- tell a school you want to become a student



- give the school important information about you.



Some teachers at SSPs told us the NSW Department of Education isn't interested in how well students with disability do in SSPs.

What do schools want help with?



There were 3 main ideas participants told us about.



These 3 ideas can help make NSW public schools more inclusive.

Idea 1



Participants told us it should be easier to change how we work out what students with disability need.

Idea 2

Participants told us we should help teachers understand how to be inclusive in their:



- school



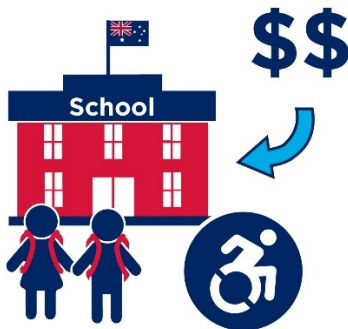
- classroom.

Idea 3

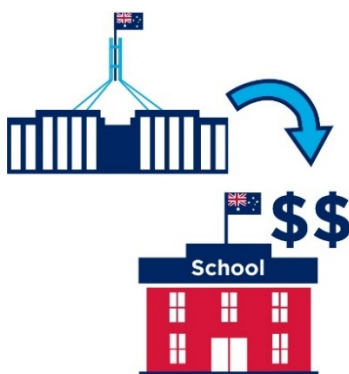
Participants told us there should be more:



- time for teachers to plan how to teach their students with disability



- **funding** for schools to support students with disability.



Funding is money from the government to pay for supports and services in schools.

What helps make schools more inclusive?

Mainstream schools



Participants told us how mainstream schools could be more inclusive.



Participants told us strong school leaders should share stories about how to be inclusive.

Participants said teachers should support students with disability by:



- helping them take part in learning



- changing how they teach.

Participants told us there should be more:



- classes for students with disability



- teachers who can support students with disability.

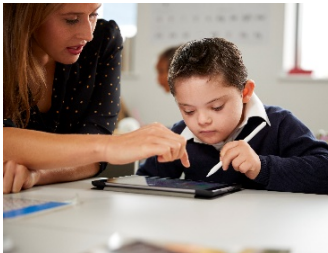


Participants told us it should be easier to change how the school works to support students with disability.

Participants said students with disability will be more supported if teachers have more:



- tools for teaching



- ways to communicate with students



- training.



Participants told us teachers should have stronger relationships with:

- School Learning Support Officers
- students with disability.

Schools for specific purposes (SSPs)



Participants gave us different ideas about how SSPs can be more inclusive.

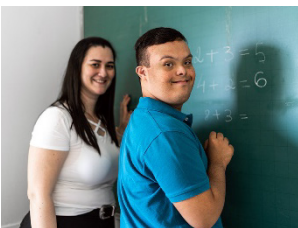


Participants told us school leaders should speak up for all students.

Participants said there should be **consistent** ways to:



- communicate



- support students.



When something is consistent, it's done the same way each time.

Participants told us School Learning Support Officers and teachers should:



- work together



- support all students.



Participants said teachers need more support to help them teach students with disability.



For example, they asked for more teachers to help them support students with disability.

Participants told us there should be stronger communication with:



- parents



- carers



- people who support people with disability.

This will help support students with disability with their:

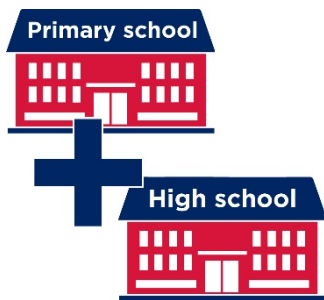


- learning



- wellbeing.

Word list



Central school

A central school is a school that has both a:

- primary school
- high school.



Consistent

When something is consistent, it's done the same way each time.



Enrolling

When you enrol, you:

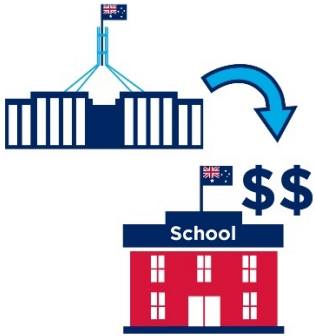
- tell a school you want to become a student
- give the school important information about you.



Focus group

A focus group is a group of people who meet to talk about their:

- experiences
- opinions.



Funding

Funding is money from the government to pay for supports and services in schools.



Inclusion

All students should get the support they need to get an education that is right for them.

We call this inclusion.



Inclusive

When something is inclusive, everyone can take part.



Mainstream schools

Mainstream schools are schools where everybody can go and learn. They include:

- primary schools
- high schools.



Participants

We call all the people who helped us participants.



School Learning Support Officers (SLSO)

SLSOs help students with disability:

- at school
- in the classroom
- with their learning.



Schools for specific purposes (SSPs)

SSPs are schools for children with different types of disability.

SSPs provide extra support to students for children with different types of disability.

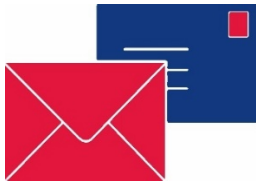
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