

Disability Strategy Our Progress Report for 2022

NSW Department of Education

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 NSW Government Department of Education.



We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

We wrote some words in **bold**.

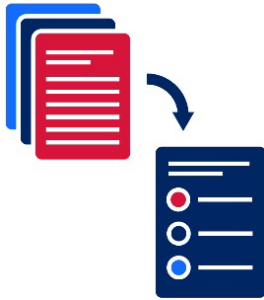
Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 16.



This Easy Read report is a summary of another report.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the full report on our website.

education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/disability-learning-and-support/our-disability-strategy/disability-progress-report



You can ask for help to read this report.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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About our Disability Strategy



Our Disability Strategy sets out our goals to make NSW public schools:

- better for students with disability
- more **inclusive**.



When something is inclusive, it means everyone can take part.



The NSW Government released the Disability Strategy in 2019.

In this report, we just call it the Strategy.



You can find an Easy Read version of the Strategy on our website.

www.education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/disability-learning-and-support/our-disability-strategy/disability-strategy



Every year we write a report to share:

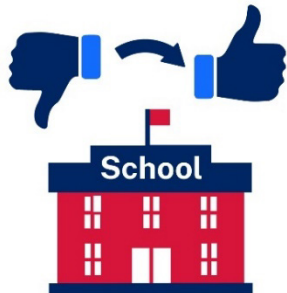
- how the Strategy is going
- what we have achieved.

We call this our Progress Report.



This is our Progress Report for 2022.

What we did in 2022



This report explains how we are making schools better for more than 183,000 students with disability.

This is 1 in 5 students in NSW.

We did this by delivering:



- support



- **policies** – a plan for how we should do things



- **funding** – money from the government to pay for services



- important projects.

Support



We shared better information for staff about supporting students with disability.



We hired new staff who focus on supporting students with disability.

This includes 5 new inclusive education coordinators.



Their job is to make schools inclusive by training and supporting staff.



We also wrote the Student Behaviour Strategy.

This plan explains how to support students with their behaviour.

Policies



We released an Inclusive Education Policy.

It explains how schools can deliver inclusive education for students with disability.



It also explains the **rights** of:

- students with disability
- parents
- carers.



Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated:

- fairly
- equally
- with respect.



We also released policies and plans to stop **restrictive practices** in schools.



Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

- moving
- doing what they want.

Funding



In 2022, NSW public schools received \$334.5 million of funding for students with disability.



This helped hire teachers who understand the needs of students with disability.



The funding also helped schools pay for other support students with disability needed.



An extra \$300 million of funding supported 15,400 students with higher needs.

Important projects in 2022



We are doing a lot of work with The Forest High School.

We want this school to be an example of what good inclusive education is like.



We also continued the Assessment for Complex Learners project.



The project aims to help us understand how students learn when they:

- live with disability
- have complex needs.

Our goals for 2023



We have done almost everything we said we would do in the Strategy.



But we will keep working hard to get the best **outcomes** for students with disability in NSW.



Outcomes are important results we want to achieve.



We are writing an Outcomes Framework.

This document explains how we will keep track of outcomes for students with disability.



This includes how they are going with:

- their learning
- their wellbeing
- doing things for themselves.



In 2023, we want to:

- finish writing it
- start using it.



We also want to get better at learning what each student with disability needs.



We will do this by testing a new tool called the Needs-Based Assessment Tool.

It will help schools understand what each student with disability needs to learn well.

How to find out more



If you want to learn more about our 2022 Progress Report, you can contact our Disability Strategy team.



You can send them an email.

disability.strategy@det.nsw.edu.au



You can send them a letter.

Disability Strategy Team
NSW Department of Education
GPO Box 33
Sydney NSW 2001

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Funding

Funding is money from the government to pay for services.



Inclusive

When something is inclusive, it means everyone can take part.



Outcomes

Outcomes are the important results we want to achieve for students with disability.



Policy

A policy is a plan for how we should do things.



Restrictive practices

Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

- moving
- doing what they want.



Rights

Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated:

- fairly
- equally
- with respect.



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