

Requesting support

NSW public schools work with families and carers every day to identify and support children who require additional support at any stage of their time at school.

This support can be for a short time or it can be for their whole time at school and it can change over time.

You can ask about extra support at any time during your child's life at school, including in the middle of the school year.

If you would like to discuss additional learning and support for your child, the first step is always to contact your child's school and ask who the best person is to speak to.

All schools are able to adapt the way they teach students to give support to children with disability or additional learning and support needs. You may hear school staff talking about these changes as 'adjustments'.



You and your child can work with the school to:

- identify their strengths, interests, and areas for development
- plan ways to adjust and support your child's learning
- monitor and review your child's progress.

Support at school is flexible and caters for each child's individual needs. You and your family can ask questions and make requests while you plan how your child can be best supported at school.

Some things you can discuss with the school could include:

- the factors affecting your child's learning
- any current support or adjustments the school may be providing
- what other supports or adjustments your child could need.

Your child can also be involved in these plans and discussions.

Your child's school may recommend or discuss the following support with you:

- Integration Funding Support (IFS)
- support classes in mainstream schools and schools for specific purposes
- itinerant support teachers vision and hearing
- early intervention support.

To get some kinds of additional support, you may need to work with the school so that they can submit an access request.



Access requests

An access request form is a document that is submitted by your local school or educational office with your input. It is used to apply for Integration Funding Support or a support class placement if your child meets the department's disability criteria and this is what you want. You will be notified about the result of the application.

Disability confirmation

If an application has been created for additional funding or support for your child, a disability confirmation is also required.

It confirms your child's eligibility for additional support services or resources or that an enrolment in a support class can be allocated.

You can talk to your school counsellor or school psychologist about this document and how it is reviewed.