

In brief: What are the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*?

The Disability Standards for Education makes sure that students with disability have the same access to education and training as other students. We will call them the Standards.

The Standards explain to schools what they must do to follow the law, the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*(DDA).

What do the Standards do?

The Standards explain the rights of students with disability and what schools should do to make sure students with disability are treated fairly.

There are five parts to the Standards. They explain that students with disability have the right to:

1. Go to the school they choose.
2. Do the same sorts of things at school that others do.
3. Be taught in the way that works best for them.
4. Get the support they need to be at school, to learn and be assessed.
5. Be treated with respect.

What do the Standards say schools must do?

All schools must follow the Standards. This includes pre-schools (including kindergartens), public and private schools, TAFEs and universities. They must do three things:

1. Talk to students with disability and their families about what the students need at school.
2. Make changes so that students with disability can be at school and learn all they can.
3. Treat students with disability with respect.

Consultation

Schools must talk to students with disability and their families about:

1. The student's needs.
2. What the school can do differently to support the student.
3. What changes the schools will make.
4. How the changes are working, and what the school will do next.

Changes to the way schools do things

Sometimes schools must change the way they usually do things. This is to help students with disability do the same things at school that other students do.

Sometimes schools make changes to help students with disability learn more easily.

These changes must be fair to everyone.

A change which makes things very difficult for schools is not fair. A change which makes things very difficult for other students or teachers is also unfair.

Schools must explain when a change would be unfair, and talk with students and their families about other ways of helping students with a disability.

Treating everyone with respect

Schools must treat students with disability and their families with respect.

If you are a student with disability and another student or a member of staff makes you feel bad about a disability, you or your family can tell the school. The school must fix this, and must make sure that you are treated fairly afterwards.

What happens if the school does not follow the Standards?

You or your family can tell the school it is not following the Standards.

If the school does not fix the problem, you can tell the Australian Human Rights Commission. You can also talk to the Human Rights people in your own state or territory.

The Commission will get everyone together to talk about the problem and decide how to fix it.