

## Disability rights and responsibilities

The Department of Education and Training



Easy English



## Hard words

This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the word is in **blue**
- we write what the hard word means.

## You can get help with this book



You can get someone to help you

- read this book
- know what this book is about



- find more information.

## About this book



Education  
and Training

This book is written by the Department of Education and Training.



This book has information about your child's disability **rights** and **responsibilities** at school.



Rights are things every student at school should be able to

- get

- have

- do.



Responsibilities are things

- the school might expect from you



- you can expect from the school.



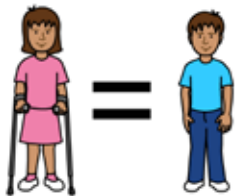
## Laws to help your child at school

There are laws to help your child get the same access to education as everyone else.



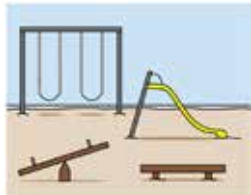
The **Disability Discrimination Act** says it is against the law to treat a person worse because they have a disability.

The Disability Discrimination Act is an Australian law.



**Disability Standards for Education** help schools treat students with disability fairly.

The Disability Standards for Education must be followed by every



- kindergarten



- primary school



- secondary school



- university

- **TAFE.**



TAFE is a place students learn new skills **after** secondary school.



The Disability Standards for Education help students with disability

- in the classroom



- in sport

- on **excursions** and camps.



Excursions are school activities that students go to outside of school.

For example, the zoo.

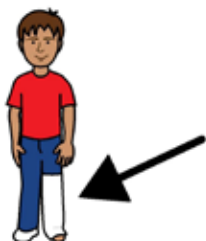
The standards help students with disability.

For example, disability that impacts

- movement



- learning.

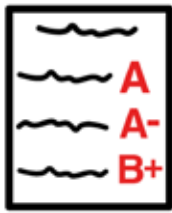


The standards also make sure children with short term problems can get help at school.

For example, students with a broken leg.

Your school might look at information to see if your child has disability.

For example



- school test scores



- a letter from a doctor



- a report from an **allied health professional**.

Allied health professionals are experts such as

- speech pathologists

- social workers

- psychologists.

## Your child has rights



Your child has the same rights as all children.

For example, rights to go to

- the same schools



- the same classes



- the same school activities in most cases,

for example

- group work



- camps

- excursions

- concerts

- **work experience.**



Work experience is a program for students to practise going to work to learn skills for a job.



## Support services for your child



Your child has the right to the same support services as all children.



Support services might be

- homework clubs



- help to find a job



- health supports, for example

- speech pathology

- social work.

## Reasonable adjustments

We know disability can make things hard for your child at school.



**Reasonable adjustments** means changes that balance the needs of all students and teachers.



You can work with the school to talk about

- your child's disability and needs at school



- adjustments your child gets at the moment



- adjustments your child might need in the future.

## Student support groups



Student support groups meet to plan ways to help your child at school.

You can

- ask for a group to be set up



- be in your child's student support group.

The school principal is in charge of the student support group for your child.



People in the student support group might include

- parents or carers
- your child's teachers
- the school principal



- **allied health professionals.**

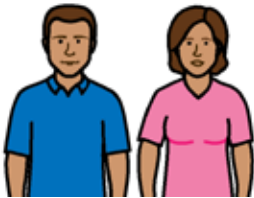
Allied health professionals are experts such as speech pathologists.

Sometimes your child will be at the student support group meeting.



If your child can **not** come to the meeting we will think about what your child might want.

## Help from an advocate



You might want help from an **advocate** at the student support group.



An advocate can help you

- understand information
  
- say what you want
  
- make decisions.



An advocate can help you at school meetings.



An advocate can be a

- friend



- family member

- volunteer

- support person.



## Get more help

If you have a problem about your child at school



- talk to the school first to see if they can fix the problem



- make a **complaint** if you are still **not** happy with the services your child gets.



A complaint is when you say you are **not** happy about something.

You can contact your closest **regional office** and tell them about the problem.



A regional office is a place where you can talk to staff at the Department of Education and Training.



You will need to give us time to talk with the school principal.



If you still need help, you can contact our central office.

The central office team will try to fix the problem.

The central office might send your complaint to the **Independent Office for School Dispute Resolution**.

The Independent Office for School Dispute Resolution



- is **not** part of the Department of Education



- helps families with school complaints.

If you are still **not** happy with the result you can contact the **Victorian Ombudsman**.

The Victorian Ombudsman can help families with school complaints.

There are links to help you find the right office to make a complaint at the end of this book.



## Learn more about your child's rights

You can learn more about your child's rights at school on the websites below.



The Association for Children with a Disability  
[www.acd.org.au/acd-support/](http://www.acd.org.au/acd-support/)

The Youth Disability Advocacy Service  
[www.yacvic.org.au/ydas/about-ydas/](http://www.yacvic.org.au/ydas/about-ydas/)

The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission  
[www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au/discrimination/how-we-can-help](http://www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au/discrimination/how-we-can-help)





## More information



Education  
and Training

### Find a Department of Education and Training office

[www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/Pages/regions.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/Pages/regions.aspx)

### How to work with your child's school

<https://education.vic.gov.au/parents/additional-needs/Pages/disability-work-with-education-provider.aspx>

### Disability standards for education

<https://parentguide.nccd.edu.au/>

### Help to make a complaint

[www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/going-to-school/Pages/school-complaints.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/going-to-school/Pages/school-complaints.aspx)

### Help to find an advocate

[www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/servicesandsupport/disability-groups-and-networks](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/servicesandsupport/disability-groups-and-networks)

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Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre

wrote the Easy English in August 2019. [www.scopeaust.org.au](http://www.scopeaust.org.au)

To see the original contact the Department of Education and Training.

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