

In brief: What's Fair?

In Australia, everybody has the right to a good education.

Being fair means:

- Making sure students with disability get an education that is right for them.
- Thinking about the things people with disability need when we are planning and making decisions about education.
- Making sure students with disability have the same sorts of choices and opportunities as other students.

Doing things exactly the same way for all students is not fair because students are not all the same. Schools may have to do things differently for some students to make things fair for everybody.

If you think that a school is not being fair to a student with disability, it is usually best to contact the teacher or principal before going to a higher authority.

The *Disability Standards for Education 2005* list five areas in which schools must be fair. These Standards also give suggestions for how schools can be fair.

Areas in which schools must be fair for all students	Examples of how schools make things fair for students with disability
<p>Enrolling</p> <p>Students with disability should be able to make the same sorts of choices about school enrolment as other students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask students or their families if they need assistance to complete the enrolment papers. • Invite students with disability to discuss their needs with the school.
<p>Participating</p> <p>Students with disability should have opportunities to do the same sorts of activities as other students. This includes activities outside the classroom, like sport, excursions and camps.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify classroom activities so that all students can do the activities and learn. • Plan school sport and outside activities so that all students can be involved. • Discuss and plan adjustments the student might need.
<p>Learning and achieving</p> <p>Students with disability should be able to learn the same sorts of things as other students. They should be able to show their learning just as other students do.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure all students can show what they know in tests. eg. allow students who have difficulty with handwriting to type answers if necessary. • Provide a signing interpreter for students with a hearing impairment, and give reading materials in large font for students with low vision.
<p>Using support services</p> <p>All students should be able to use general support services. Students with disability may also need specialist support services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that general support services are easy for all students to find and use. • Work with specialists when students need them, e.g. speech pathologists and physiotherapists.
<p>Being free from bullying</p> <p>Students with disability should not be bullied or discriminated against because they have a disability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train staff on how to deal with bullying. • Run anti bullying programs.