

Koorie Families at the centre of Individual Education Planning

Individual Education Plans



Koorie families are essential in the individual education planning process used by schools to support students to achieve to their potential, succeed in life, and feel strong in their cultural identity. During the process, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is created.



An IEP describes the goals, strategies and supports used at school to help students to reach their aspirations. Schools must ensure all Koorie students have an IEP.



IEPs are strengths-based with a focus on the student's potential to achieve positive educational outcomes, they include short-term goals that will lead to the achievement of long-term goals and they communicate individual and shared responsibilities.

Student Support Groups



IEPs are developed with the student, their family, their teachers, school leaders and others who know or support them. This group is called the Student Support Group (SSG). Koorie Engagement Support Officers can be consulted in the development of the IEP.



Koorie families are encouraged to be part of the SSG to talk about their child's strengths and interests, discuss ways to remove barriers to learning and identify ways to support their child to achieve their best.



An IEP documents the decisions made at the SSG meeting. The plan provides the student and the SSG with a structured and clear course of actions for the student to progress with their learning and achieve their goals.



It is preferable for the SSG to meet each school term (or at intervals decided by the SSG) to review the student's progress and set new goals or adjust the supports provided.



Koorie students who are living in Out-of-Home-Care, will also have a cultural support plan. The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing lead the development of this. A cultural support plan is an individualised plan or support agreement that aims to develop or maintain children's cultural identity through connection to family, community and culture, while they are in care. An IEP (which focuses on education) sits alongside the student's cultural support plan.



School staff will invite Koorie families to join the SSG meetings to talk about their child's IEP. More information about IEPs can be found at

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/individual-education-plans-ieps/policy>