The Department has a range of guidance and resources to promote schools’ support for students with disability.

# **Key activities to coordinate support**

Personalised student-based approaches ensure that appropriate educational supports are being provided. Some students may require additional or different strategies at this time.

* Use the [Student Support Group (SSG)](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/learningneeds/Pages/student-support-groups.aspx) to work with families to identify and plan responses for areas of concern and need.
* Update [Individual Education Plans](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/individual-education-plans-ieps/policy) to reflect any changed context for students’ learning.
* To support alternative meeting arrangements, see [SSG meeting via video or teleconferencing](https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/sites/i/Shared%20Documents/video-teleconferencing%20quick%20guide.docx?Web=1).

# **Curriculum and planning resources**

Ensure educational programs contain adjustments to accommodate each student's learning, support and engagement needs.

* [Inclusion Support FUSE page](https://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/inclusion-support) contains resources that can be used by teachers with examples of effective teaching and learning in schools as well as extending learning to the home environment.
* [AllPlay Learn](https://allplaylearn.org.au/) helps to create inclusive education environments through practical online information, courses and resources for teachers, as well as resources for parents, children and the community.
* Guidance, tips and advice to parents, carers and families of children with [diverse learning needs](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.deafeducation.vic.edu.au%2Fpplenvironments&data=04%7C01%7CAmanda.Bowker%40education.vic.gov.au%7Cafbdd10196d04e1fa61408d9354fa887%7Cd96cb3371a8744cfb69b3cec334a4c1f%7C0%7C0%7C637599438520309686%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=LvBFwjNWXtIqooSXSRkCnR0LSqgbeSixU9MKGK%2Bu2vM%3D&reserved=0)

# **Professional learning and development**

[Inclusive](https://www.deafeducation.vic.edu.au/inclusive-classrooms) Classrooms offers professional learning opportunities for individual education planning for school staff on creating and implementing IEP

[Behaviour Support](http://detbehavioursupport.vic.edu.au/) offers a range of free online courses for educators to complete independently at their own pace.

[AllPlay Learn](https://allplaylearn.org.au/) helps to create inclusive education environments through practical online information, courses and resources for teachers, as well as resources for parents, children and the community.

[Resources](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/behaviour-students/resources) are available to support safe, healthy and hygiene behaviours.

# **Accessing support for students**

Schools continue to have access to a Health and Wellbeing Key Contact.

* [Students at Risk Planning Tool](https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/sites/i/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/sites/i/Shared%20Documents/students-at-risk-planning-tool.docx&action=default) can assist schools to identify students who may be vulnerable and require support to maintain engagement and connection with education.

Schools are able to access support for students through [Student Support Services](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/student-support-services/policy).

[Support student mental health and wellbeing](https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/sites/i/Pages/school.aspx#/app/news/detail/4988/) with resources available for schools, students, parents and carers.

The [student check-in resource](https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edrms/IEPP/IEPPDETResources/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fedrms%2FIEPP%2FIEPPDETResources%2FStudent%20Check%2DIn%20Resource&FolderCTID=0x012000F149130BAC63554FBB8397A075FEE6E2&View=%7B16357C5E%2D99F9%2D4A5E%2D9511%2D9E2775232F9A%7D) to help teachers quickly evaluate the social, academic and emotional behaviours of students.

# **Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD)**

Schools are reminded to [submit PSD applications](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/learningneeds/Pages/psdhandbook.aspx) as soon as possible for student enrolment, support and transition planning. This includes:

* New applications for students currently enrolled and not supported by the PSD
* Year 6–7 and short-term reviews required to confirm students’ PSD eligibility for 2022; and
* New applications for new students commencing school in 2022 (i.e. Preps beginning in 2022 and transfers from other systems).

# **Students who may be medically vulnerable**

Parents/carers of students with a chronic medical condition should seek advice from the student’s medical practitioner about attending school on-site at different stages in the COVID-19 pandemic, see the [Schools Operations Guide](https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/sites/i/Pages/production.aspx#/app/content/3336/).

Schools must ensure students with medical needs have an up-to-date [Student Health](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/health/studenthealthsupport.doc) [Support Plan](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/health/studenthealthsupport.doc) and accompanying condition specific health management plan based on medical advice from the student’s medical/health practitioner and consultation with the student and parents/guardians.

# **Keeping COVIDSafe at school**

For steps that schools can take to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission within the school environment, see: [Health and safety advice for all Victorian schools](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/health-and-safety-advice-all-victorian-schools).

# The [Schools Operations Guide](https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/sites/i/Pages/production.aspx#/app/content/3336/) provides point-in-time and detailed advice on specific activities and operations for all schools, informed by COVIDSafe principles and Department of Health advice.

# **Vaccinations for school employees**

The Victorian Chief Health Officer has issued directions that require COVID-19 vaccinations for people who work in schools.

Book your COVID-19 vaccine at a pharmacy, participating GP clinic, community health service, state vaccination centre or Commonwealth vaccination centre through the [Vaccine Clinic Finder](https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility?lang=en), or call the vaccine provider nearest to you.

The coronavirus.vic.gov.au website includes [more information about the COVID-19 vaccine](https://list.comms.educationupdates.vic.gov.au/track/click?u=770f4d1425f14b0d9936ca688e358872&id=9b97bf84635465a3&e=fceb44ce07605627).

# **Vaccinations for students**

Children aged 12 and over can get a COVID-19 vaccine.

People with a disability may visit any [Victorian vaccination centre](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-centres) to get vaccinated, without needing to book an appointment.

Nine Victorian [vaccination centres](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-centres) have enhanced accessibility, including on-site hearing augmentation devices and communication tools.

Disability Liaison Officers (DLOs) help people with a disability access health services, including vaccinations.

The DLOs can help people with disability to:

* book a COVID-19 vaccination.
* get a vaccination if they’re not able to attend a [vaccination centre](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-centres).

Schools may contact a DLO to organise a [group booking for service providers or groups of people with disability](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/group-bookings-service). Complete the [Registration of Interest form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=H2DgwKwPnESciKEExOufKHpulVBvb-NDoBA8IZgRuaFUNjMySkhVNUZRRU1NNkM3VkJYQ0NWR1VFNy4u&wdLOR=c07712B3C-39DB-49C4-9699-7CFA0F4C3C24) to make a request.

For information and resources, including contact details for DLOs, see [vaccine information for people with a disability](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-people-disability).

# **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**

[Latest advice NDIS](https://www.ndis.gov.au/coronavirus/latest-advice-ndis) contains NDIS information for participants including what support is available.

Schools can contact the NDIA [Local Area Coordinator](https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/locations.html) in their area for local information about the NDIS.

# **Transition**

# **Requests to repeat a year level**

[Repeating a year level policy](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/repeating-year-level/policy) is aimed at ensuring students move through schooling with their peers.

* [Resources](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/repeating-year-level/resources) outline the evidence and support principals to have conversations with families.

# **Starting school**

No matter what experiences children have had in their kindergarten year, they will have developed a range of skills and abilities that form the basis for further learning.

* [Enhanced transition planning contains](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/professionals/learning/Pages/transsupport.aspx) guidance on supporting children to make a positive start to school.

# **Moving to secondary school**

Schools will support students to finish their final year in primary school strong and with the confidence to progress to the next year level in 2022.

* Take the time to celebrate with students, and complete final year rituals.
* [Transition to secondary school for students with a disability](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/transition-year-6-7/guidance/transitioning-secondary-schools-students-disability) contains advice and resources to support a successful transition.
* Submit PSD Year 6–7 review applications, if required.

# **School leavers**

Schools have implemented opportunities to consolidate learning and educational experiences, which will support students’ transition to post-secondary destinations.

* As a general rule, students should be progressed to their post-school setting in 2022.
* Support students’ readiness for life after school through conducting [SSG meetings](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/student-support-groups/policy), making adjustments in [IEPs](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/individual-education-plans-ieps/policy), reviewing career aspirations and post-school plans, and facilitating transition.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funds a range of post school supports to help young people with disability move from school into employment or other options. For information, see the [Leaving School](https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/finding-keeping-and-changing-jobs/leaving-school) page of the NDIS website.