Transition support for students with disability

# The provision of quality educational, wellbeing and engagement supports is essential for students with disability to successfully achieve a confident and cohesive transition. Key transition points include Kindergarten to Grade Prep, Grade 6 to Year 7, and final year students transitioning to post-secondary options.

# Return to school term 4, 2020

[**Student Support Group**](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/student-support-groups/policy)**s** are mandatory for students supported by the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) and recommended for all students with a disability, particularly:

* vulnerable, or at-risk, students
* students at critical transition points
* students with long-term absenteeism, or disengagement.

[**Individual Education Plan**](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/individual-education-plans-ieps/policy)**s** are mandatory for students supported by the PSD and recommended for all students with a disability, particularly:

* students with an existing Individual Education Plan (IEP) in place
* vulnerable, or at-risk, students
* students at critical transition points (this could be a transition-specific short-term IEP)
* students who demonstrate a need for educational adjustments, who do not yet have an IEP.

This will assist to identify supports and reasonable adjustments required to ensure a successful transition.

# PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Schools are reminded to submit completed Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) applications as soon as possible in Term 4. 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 2021; and
* New applications for new students commencing school in 2021 (i.e. Preps beginning in 2021 and transfers from other systems).

# Requests to repeat a year

The Department of Education and Training’s [Repeating a Year Level Policy](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/repeating-year-level/policy) is [supplemented with resources](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/repeating-year-level/resources) to better support principals to have conversations with families who may be considering the merits of their child repeating a year. These resources also outline the [evidence behind the impacts](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/repeating-year-level/resources) of repeating a year. Refer to the Department’s Repeating a Year Level Policy on the [Policy and Advisory Library.](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/repeating-year-level/policy)

# TRANSITION SUPPORT FOR INCOMING STUDENTS

**Early Childhood Education to School – Kindergarten to Grade Prep**

The experiences children have had in their Kindergarten year will have developed a range of skills and abilities that form the basis for further learning. Operational guidance on supporting children to make a positive start to school can be found here: [Adjustments to Transition Factsheet](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/department/covid-19/adjustments-to-transition-to-school-factsheet.docx). For more information, go to: [Transition to primary school for children with a disability](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/professionals/learning/Pages/transsupport.aspx).

# TRANSITION SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS MOVING BETWEEN YEAR LEVELS

**Supporting a Positive Start to Secondary School in 2021 – Grade 6 to Year 7**

A key focus for Term 4 is for students to finish their final year strong and with the confidence to progress to the next year level in 2021. Take the time to celebrate with students, and complete final year rituals, such as [adapted and innovative graduation ceremonies](https://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/6903677/giving-school-leavers-a-rite-of-passage-the-covid-safe-way/).

* [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)
* [Transition Year 6 – 7](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/transition-year-6-7/resources) (Resources).

Please remember to submit PSD Year 6 – 7 Review applications, if required.

# POST-SECONDARY SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

**Support for students with disability in their final year at school**

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

During this final term it is important to identify what/when/where and how transition supports are required. Schools can consider:

* How students are feeling about their transition. Do they need additional emotional support?
* How organised are families? Do families need additional administration support?
* Where students are transitioning to? Do they have a plan?
* What transition adjustments are in place? Does the student need a short-term transition IEP?
* Have students been able to make connections with appropriate services?
* What information or guidance do families need about transition to further education, employment, and engagement with community organisations?

# FINAL YEAR STUDENTS AND THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS)

The NDIS funds a range of post school supports to help young people with disability move from school into employment or other options. The NDIS School Leaver Employment Supports (SLES) is tailored for NDIS eligible Year 12 school leavers. SLES is for students who have work capacity but may need some more support before receiving ongoing employment through existing systems. For more information visit the [Leaving School](https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/finding-keeping-and-changing-jobs/leaving-school#sles-and-education) page on the NDIS website [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au). For more information and Frequently Asked Questions on NDIS employment supports, go to [NDIA employment supports.](https://www.ndis.gov.au/understanding/ndis-and-other-government-services/employment)

***Teachers and school staff are encouraged to reach out to their NDIA Local Area Coordinator if they are supporting a school leaver who does not have an NDIS plan or the right supports in their plan.***

* [NDIS Information for School](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/learningneeds/Pages/ndis-at-school.aspx)
* [The NDIS and Schools – Information for Parents](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/additional-needs/Pages/disability-ndis.aspx)
* [NDIS Pre-planning Toolkit](https://www.adcet.edu.au/students-with-disability/planning-for-post-secondary-education/ndis-and-further-education-resource/) for people with disability entering Higher Education or Vocational Education and Training.