



Department of
Education

Discussion paper about the review of the School Education Act 1999



Easy Read

www.education.wa.edu.au

About this information



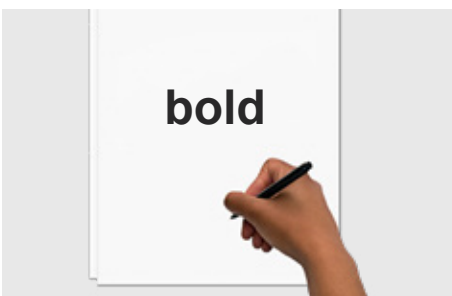
This information is written by Department of Education.



When you see the word we it means Department of Education Western Australia.



This information is written so it is easy to read.



The first time we use hard words we write them in **bold**.

Then we explain what the word in bold means.



You might want to ask someone to support you to understand this information.

About this discussion paper



This **discussion paper** is about how we can make schools better for students with disability.



A **discussion paper** is information we use to talk about something.



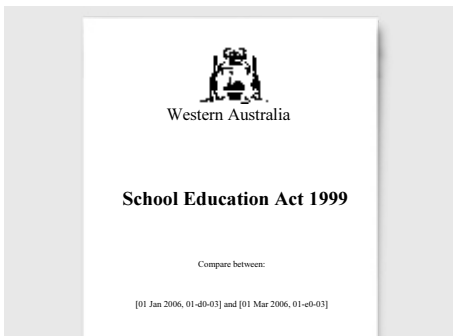
Every student with disability has the right to learn at school and feel respected.



Every student with disability should get the support they need to do well at school.



There is a law that says what schools in WA must do.



This law is called the **School Education Act 1999**.

We will call this law **the rules** for short.



The rules are for things like

- Who must go to school
- What school they can go to
- What the school must do if they think a student did the wrong thing.



We want to look at what things in the rules make it hard for students with disability.



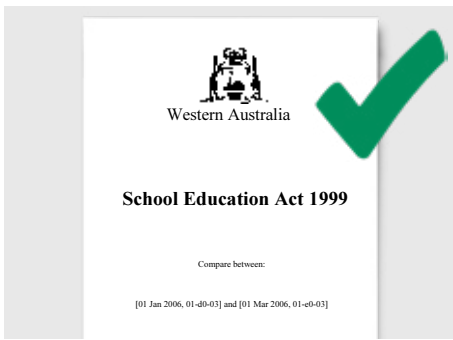
We want to hear from lots of people about their thoughts on the rules.



We want to hear what changes you think should happen to the rules.



We will ask you questions about different parts of the rules next.

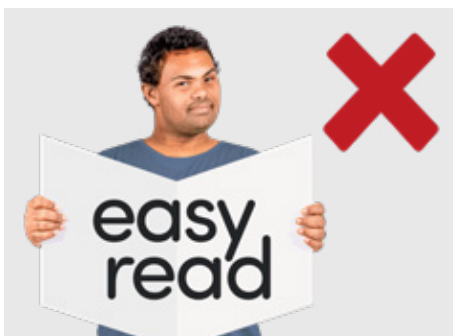


It is important that you understand what it says in the rules.



You can look at the rules here

www.bit.ly/wa-school-education-act



The rules are not in Easy Read.

You might want support to read them.

Why do we have the rules



Objects are the things that say what the rules are for.

They are a bit like goals or reasons.



Most of the objects in the rules just tell us that it is important every child goes to school and learns.

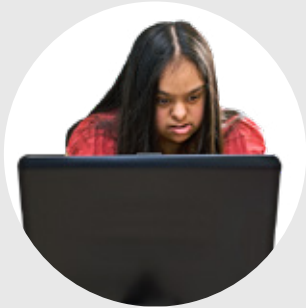


The objects also say that the rules are to make sure parents can have their say at school.

There are laws in other places that have objects about



- Helping students to get the most out of school



- Giving students the skills they need to live in the community



- **Inclusion.**



Inclusion means all students get to join in together.

Question



What are some important goals or reasons that should be in the rules?

Principles



Some laws have **principles**.



Principles are like values or beliefs.



Principles help people know how to understand the rules.

The laws in some places have principles that say things like



- All students are able to learn



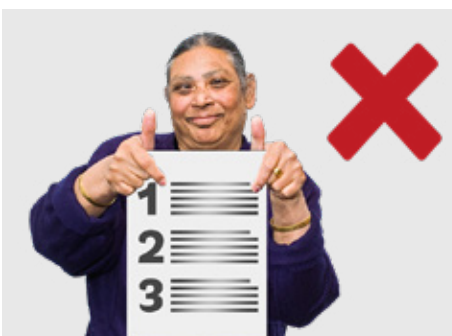
- All students have a right to have what they need at school



- All students are different and need different things



- Learning should be positive.



The rules do not have any principles.

Question



What principles do you think should be in the rules?

The word disability in the rules



Students in school have different types of support needs.



The rules only talk about support for students with some types of disabilities.



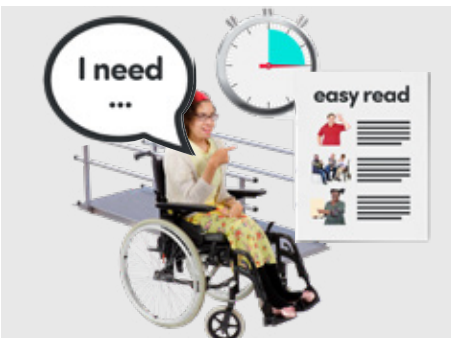
This means some students with other disabilities or support needs are not included in the rules.



Some people think disability is just a part of all people being different.



This means they think the word disability is not needed.

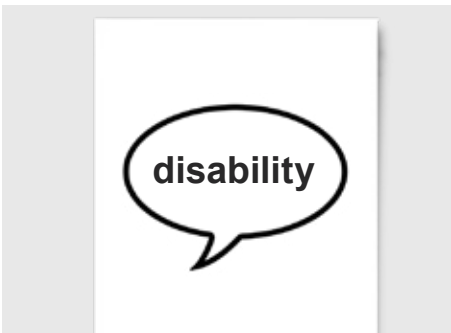


Some people think we should just look at what support the student needs instead.

Questions



How should the rules explain disabilities and support needs?



Do you think a student who needs support but does not have a disability should be included in the rules?

Why do you think this?

Joining the school they want



The rules say students can go to a school that

- Is in the area where they live
- Has the right learning program for them.



This means a local school can say they do not have the right learning program for a student.



This means some students with disability do not get to go to schools in the area they live.

Question



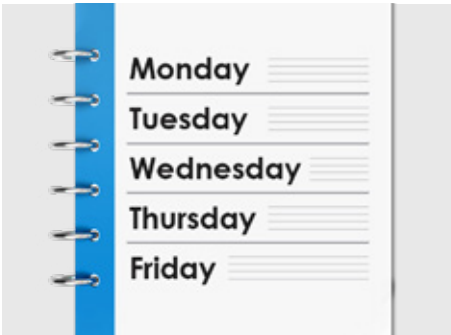
Do you think all students should be able to go to a school in the area they live in?

Why do you think this?

The ways students learn



The rules say all students need to learn.



The rules also say that students must go to school Monday to Friday.



Students can learn at school or home.



Sometimes students find school hard so want to have some days learning at home.



But the rules say they cannot learn in a mix of school and home.



If a student needs to go to school on less days the parent or carer need to fill in a long form.



Sometimes schools do not agree to let a student come on less days.



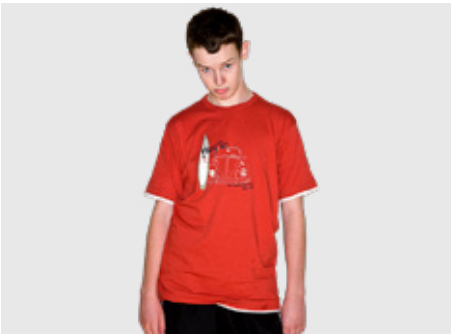
It can be hard for everyone to agree what is best for the student.

Questions



What are the good things about letting students with disability

- Go to school on less days?
- Learn from home some days?



What might be hard for the student if they

- Go to school on less days?
- Learn from home some days?

Who does what job in schools



There are lots of jobs to do in schools for

- Teachers
- Principals
- The Government.



There are no jobs in the rules for inclusion and **accessibility**.



Accessibility is when everyone can do things like

- Get into the school buildings
- Have information in ways that work for them.



It means there is no one person that has to think about making schools inclusive and accessible.

Question



Should the rules say it is someones job to work on inclusion and accessibility in schools?

Right to adjustments and learning in the same classroom as everyone



Adjustments are when students with disability have what they need to learn at school.



The rules have some things that only Government schools have to do for adjustments.



It says the principal of the school needs to make the decision.



It says the principal should talk to people who know the student well to decide what they need.



Laws in some other places say a lot more things about adjustments.



Some places say that all students have the right to learn in ways that are best for them.



Other countries have laws that say schools need to work for all students.

Question



What should the rules say about adjustments?

Communication



The rules do not have a lot about how the school should **communicate** with students about what they need.



Communicate is when the principal or teacher talks and listens to the students and parents.

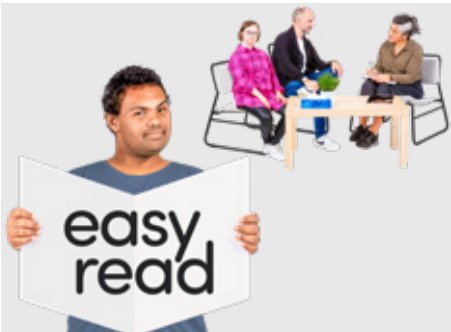


Some people think the rules should be clear how students and parents can have their say.

Question

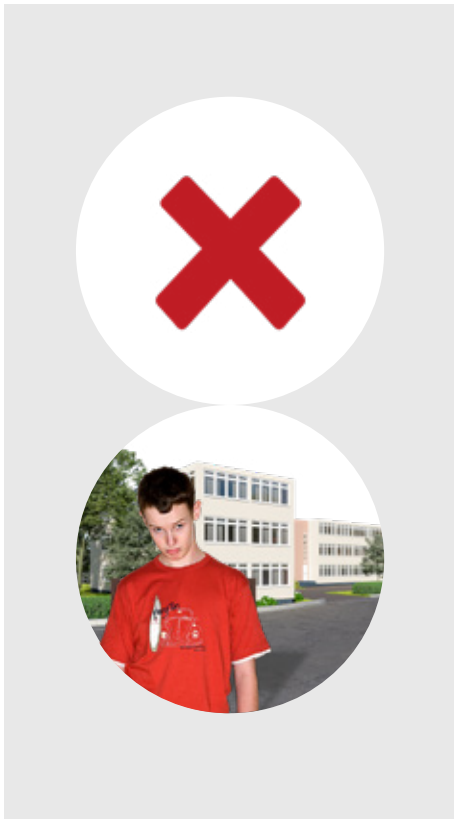


How and when should schools communicate with students and parents?



What can schools do to make it easier for parents and students to share what they think?

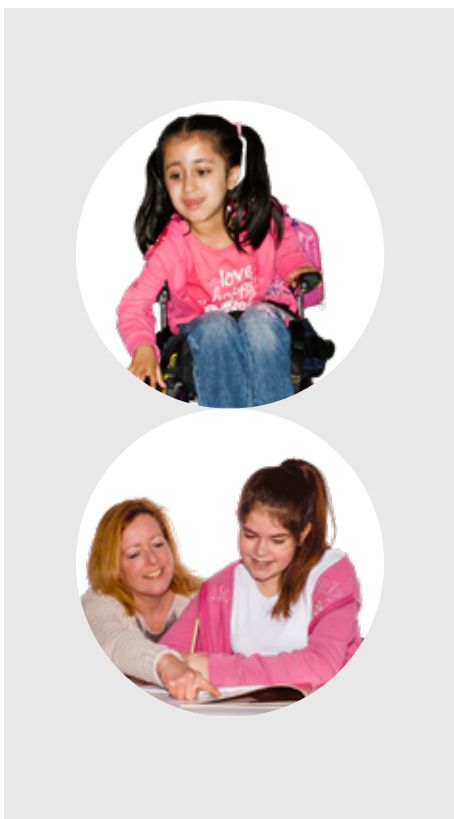
When the school said a student did the wrong thing



The rules say how schools can decide

- When a student has done the wrong thing

- When a student is told to leave the school.



When schools decide if a student has done the wrong thing or should leave they do not have to look at things like

- What made the student with disability do the wrong thing

- If the school has tried other things first to support the student.

Question



When is it okay for a student to be in trouble for something they did because of their disability?

Restrictive practices



Restrictive practices are when a student has something that stops them from moving freely.



This might be like

- Holding someone by their arms so they cannot move
- Locking someone in a room on their own.



The rules say there are some times when Government schools can use restrictive practices.



This is to stop a student from

- Hurting others
- Breaking things.

Question



When is it okay for a school to use restrictive practices?

The Panel



In the rules there are a group of people who decide if a student should be asked to leave the school.



They are called the Disability Advisory **Panel**.



A **panel** is a group a people who know a lot about students and schools.



The schools do not have to follow what the panel says the school should do.



The rules say not all students with disability can get help from the panel.

Questions



Should the panel change so it can work more with all students with disability?



Should the panel also help students with other needs like

- First Nations students
- Students who are LGBTQI?

Complaints



Complaints are when you tell someone you are not happy with

- A teacher at the school
- The way the school teaches the students.



The rules only have things about complaints that Government schools can follow.



Schools that are non government do not have to follow these things.

Some places say there should be a different Government department that



- Deals with the complaints



- Gives people the right information about what to do when they make a complaint.



This may make it better and safer for everyone when there is a complaint.

Question



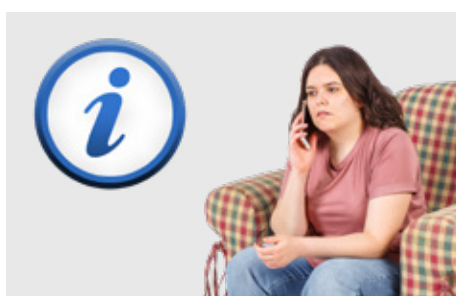
What should the rules say about complaints?

More information



You can read more about the review on this website

www.education.wa.edu.au/web/education-act-sector-review

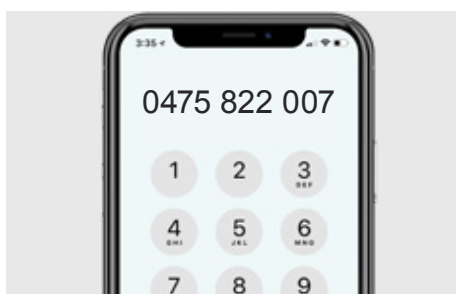


For more information you can contact us.



You can email us at

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You can call or text us on

0475 822 007.

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