



Department of
Education

Shaping the future

The plan for making a better School Education Act 1999



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About this book



This book is written by Department of Education. When you see the word we it means Department of Education Western Australia.



This book is written so it is easy to read. The first time we use hard words we write them in **blue**. Then we explain what the word in **blue** means.



You can get someone to help you

- read this book
- know what this book is about.



You can ask someone for more information.

What is happening



We want to give every student a great **education**. **Education** means

- learning things so you can have a full life
- giving back to your **community**. A **community** is where you live.



To help us give students a great education, we are going to do a big **review** about the **School Education Act 1999**.

A **review** means looking at something to see what is good and what can be made better.



The School Education Act 1999 is a set of rules that say how schools should work. It covers things like

- who must attend school



- which school they can attend



- what happens if a student does not follow the school rules.



It does not say what subjects are taught in schools.

Other people have done reviews about disability and education. The reviews said we need to



- make sure students with disabilities are included in everything



- teach people to respect each other



- treat everyone in a fair and equal way



- welcome and **accept** people who are different. **Accept** means not wanting to change someone.



- welcome people who have come from other countries and have different ideas to you.



When everyone shows respect it helps build a community where



- everyone feels like they belong and can take part



- people accept each other



- everyone is included.



The laws about schools were made a very long time ago.



The laws do not cover everything we know about disabilities now.



The **government** thinks it is time to look at the education laws again. The **Government** is the group of people who make the laws for Western Australia.

They want to make sure students with disabilities



- have better **access**. **Access** means getting into somewhere easily.



- are more included in schools. This is called **inclusion**. **Inclusion** means that you are part of the group and not left out.

Why are they looking at this



The review wants to find any **barriers** to access and inclusion. A **barrier** is something that stops you going ahead.

The review is trying to



- make being at school better for students with disabilities



- tell students and families about their **rights**. **Rights** are the things you should have in your life. Things like being free and being treated the same as other people.



- tell people what schools need to do for all students

~~SPECIAL NEEDS~~

- make sure people use words that show respect. Words like special needs make people with disability feel like they are not equal



- make sure the education laws work with other government laws and rules.

What things they are looking at

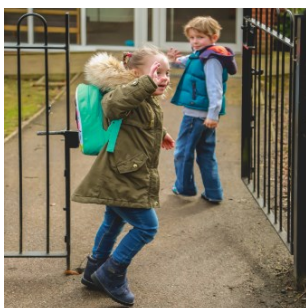


The review will only look at the School Education Act 1999.



They want to find the barriers and the gaps in the laws. They will **suggest** new laws where they need to. **Suggest** is when you tell someone about something you think is good.

They have already found 7 things that they want to look at like



- the right to go to a school near you



- what disability means in a person's life



- the right to get teaching and learning **adjustments**.
Adjustments are how you change the way you do something so it is easier.



- that schools should have to talk with students and their families



- how a **Disabilities Advisory Panel** works. A **Disabilities Advisory Panel** is a group of people who understand disability and tell others about how things could affect them.



In the law a Disabilities Advisory Panel helps schools to make decisions about students with disabilities like

- when a parent asks for a review of a decision
- where a child with disability has been **expelled** from a school. **Expelled** is when the school says the student has to leave the school.
- the use of **restrictive practices**. This is when people are stopped from doing and having things that they want.
- how to follow the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability**. These are rules from the United Nations to make life fair for all people with disability in the world.

The review will also



- look at how the law works with government plans in WA and Australia



- look at and think about what happens now



- look at what happens in other places around the world

- find out about the access and inclusion for students now



- learn from what other people have already said at the Disability Royal Commission.



This review will not look at



- how much money schools get



- how teachers are trained.

Who will be doing the review



A group of experts will do the review. Dr Andrew Whitehouse will be their leader.



They will look at disability rights and education.



The Department of Education will help them in this work.



The experts will talk to:

- people in schools
- families and others



The DDWA advisory Council will also guide the review.

What happens after the review



They will write a **report**. A **report** is a record of

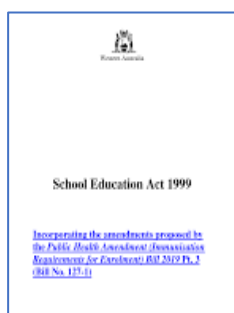
- what was done in the review
- what people said
- what was learnt.



The report will also make a list of what things need to change in the **Act**. The **Act** is the laws about education.



They will give the report to the Minister for Education.



The review is the first step in changing the School Education Act 1999.

What they hope will happen

After the review the Government will look at what changes they might make to the law to



- make it easier for children with disability to go to school



- help children with disability feel good when they are at school



- help children and families know their rights about school



- help schools do a good job and follow all of the Government rules.

When is the review going to happen

The review has started.



The review will finish at the end of 2024.

Who can give me more information

If you want to know more about the review send an email to

SEA.Review.Secretariat@education.wa.gov.au

Created by **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY** *wa*