

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

Information for schools

The NDIS funds specialist disability services for people with significant and permanent disabilities. NDIS participants determine how their funding is used to support them.

What is the NDIS?

The NDIS is an Australia-wide scheme to support people aged 0 to 65 years with permanent and significant disability. In NSW, about 161,000 people with disability are expected to join the NDIS, including around 79,000 children and young people.

Through the NDIS, people with disability will be able to access 'reasonable and necessary' supports to achieve their personal goals. Reasonable and necessary supports are those that help participants to live an ordinary life – that is, build their skills and capability so they can take part in education, employment and community activities. The NDIS gives participants more choice and control over which disability supports they access and how those supports are provided.

A person will be eligible for the NDIS if they have a lifelong disability that significantly affects their ability to participate in the community. People can check their eligibility on the NDIS website, using an eligibility checklist.

The NDIS is managed by the National Disability Insurance Agency, or NDIA. The

NDIA is responsible for determining eligibility for the scheme and for developing personalised support plans for participants. The NDIA does not directly provide disability services, it provides funding to participants to purchase services for themselves.

The NDIS funds supports for eligible people based on their individual needs

The types of supports the NDIS may fund include:

- daily personal activities
- transport to participate in community, social, economic and daily life activities
- help to get or keep a job in the open or supported labour market
- therapeutic supports, including allied health and behaviour support
- help with household tasks
- aids and equipment, including assessment, set up and training
- mobility equipment
- home or vehicle modifications.

More information on funded supports is available on the [NDIS website](#).

Schools remain responsible for meeting the personalised learning and support needs of students with disability

The **Disability Standards for Education 2005** continue to apply to schools. Schools remain responsible for making adjustments to personalise learning and support for students with disability that enable those students to participate on the same basis as other students.

The NDIS will fund reasonable and necessary supports that a student requires due to the functional impact of their disability on their daily life. There are still some areas of uncertainty and overlap of responsibility between schools and the NDIS, these are being negotiated between the NSW Government and the NDIA. Until they are resolved, schools should continue to support students with disability consistent with current obligations.

The Early Childhood (EC) approach is for children under 7 with a developmental delay or disability

The EC approach supports children aged 0-6 years and their families develop the skills they need to take part in daily activities. The NDIS has engaged experienced service providers, known as Early Childhood Partners, to deliver the EC approach. Children do not need a diagnosis to access EC supports and families can self-refer. Some children who access EC supports may go on to receive an individual NDIS plan.

Find an [Early Childhood Partner](#) near you.

Families may ask for NDIS-funded services to be delivered at school

Principals decide whether service providers funded by the NDIS can deliver their services on school grounds during school hours. In making this decision, principals should consult with parents or carers, and consider the learning and support needs of the student, the school's operational context, and the impact the service may have on other students and school staff.

[An information package](#) sets out the matters that principals need to consider in their decision making, as well as the legislative and policy requirements that service providers must meet before they can operate in schools. The package also includes information sheets for parents and carers, and service providers.

Collaboration between schools, families and providers can still occur without therapy being delivered at school. For example, there may be opportunities to work with families to align a student's learning and support plan with the supports in their NDIS plan. NDIS Coordinators for NSW public schools can provide advice and support during this process.

More NDIS resources for schools

More fact sheets are available on the department's [NDIS webpage](#):

- Assistive Technology and the NDIS
- Early Childhood (EC) approach
- Assisted School Travel Program and the NDIS
- Personal Care in Schools and the NDIS
- Supporting families to understand and access the NDIS
- Supporting families during the NDIS planning process
- NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Arrangements

More information

NDIS

1800 800 110

[NDIS website](#)

Inclusive Education (state office)

Email: disability.support@det.nsw.edu.au

[Disability, Learning and Support webpage](#)

NDIS Coordinators for NSW Public Schools

[Ann Eckert](#) – Nirimba Education Office

[Elizabeth Morgan](#) – Parramatta Office

[Rachel Pregel](#) – Coffs Harbour Education Office

[Bryce Toohey](#) – Orange Education Office

[Liz Watson](#) – Warilla Education Office