

YEAR 7 TO HIGH SCHOOL



Parent Fact Sheet Disability – Special Options

Year 7 will be taught in high school from term 1, 2022.

This means that from 2022, year 6 will be the last year of primary school and year 7 will be the first year of high school.

This move brings new opportunities for our students, workforce and system. Various supports for schools will be made available throughout the move of year 7 to high school.

Support for students with a disability

Year 7 students with disability will also be taught in high school in 2022.

To maximise this opportunity, it is important to:

- plan in advance
- update the One Plan, which is the student's personalised learning plan
- identify what supports are required to include the year 7 student, focusing on their strengths and abilities

Most students with disability are successfully learning in mainstream classes. In addition to these mainstream classes, public schools have a range of special options to support students with a disability.

Transition to high school

Transition is important to every student moving from primary to high school, and especially so for students with disability.

The school where your child is currently enrolled will work with students and their families on transition planning. The school can invite Student Support Services staff to be involved if required.

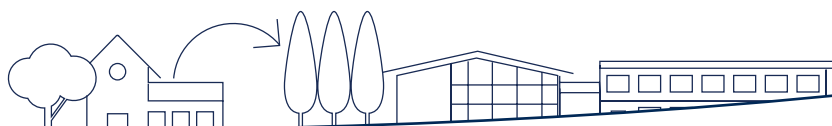
This will occur the year before your child moves to high school to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.

Your child will have the opportunity to become familiar with their new learning environments and routines. This may include visits to their new high school, meeting with staff and families, and being provided with a range of information relevant to your child's learning style.

Capacity to accommodate year 7s

Funding has been provided for an additional 180 new places in special classes and disability units across the state to meet the demand created by moving year 7 to high school.

Two new birth to year 12 schools being built in the north and south of Adelaide, which will open in 2022, will each have 100 inclusive spaces for students with disability.



Tips for families

Students with disabilities and their families experience a number of transitions in their lives.

Families are encouraged to start the conversation early with their school to ensure the right assistance and support is put in place for their child.

Families who have a child with a disability can support their child's learning in a number of ways:

- **Familiarise yourself with your child's One Plan.**
It's important to have a clear understanding of this. Speak to your school if you're unsure and continue to work closely with them.
- **Find out how you can help.**
It's a good idea to talk with your child's teachers about how you can support their learning at home.
- **Provide opportunities for your child to use their strengths.**
Every child has something they are good at, whether it be reading, singing, listening or painting. Work with your child to figure out what this might be then provide opportunities to use this talent, to build self-esteem and confidence.

Special options for students with disability

Public schools have a range of special options to support students with a disability.

Special Classes

These are located in mainstream schools and cater junior primary, primary or secondary students who require substantial adjustments to the curriculum.

Students are provided opportunities to learn in conjunction with their age appropriate peers.

Disability Units

These are located within some primary and secondary schools, and cater for students who require extensive level of adjustment to access the curriculum. Extensive adjustments are highly individualised, comprehensive and ongoing. In addition to accessing curriculum, students often need support with their personal care.

Special Schools

Special schools are mostly co-located with mainstream schools, though a couple are stand alone. Special Schools provide extensive adjustments to the curriculum and high levels of personal care, similar to Disability Units.

Special option placement process

Students in a special option will be reviewed in their final primary school year to assess their special option placement for high school.

This review is initially undertaken by Student Support Services. Other mainstream students may also be considered in this process, ahead of them starting high school.

Following the assessment, a recommendation is made that is included in an application for a special option in high school. A special options panel reviews all applications and students are then offered a placement that best suits their learning needs.

When placements will be made

With the move of year 7 to high school, the review process will take place in year 6, which will be in 2021, to ensure that students are offered places ready for the move to high school in 2022.

This means that in 2021, both year 6 and year 7 students will be reviewed and offered places for high school in 2022.

Transport assistance

Students may be eligible for transport assistance if they meet a range of criteria. This includes:

- being enrolled in a government special option that is not in their local school
- the special option is 5 kilometres or more from their home
- they have a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) plan with the inclusion of a support item for school transport

The assistance may take the form of financial assistance, such as a daily car allowance, or direct assistance such as a taxi, bus or access vehicle.

Further information

Speak to your school in the first instance. If required, the school will contact Student Support Services staff to help you determine the best options for your child's learning.

