Most students who have additional learning and support needs are well supported through quality teaching and learning in their schools and through additional support available to their teachers and schools.

A small number of students with a disability need highly specialised support for learning. In some cases, this support requires expertise and input from a range of professional areas, such as education, allied health services and assistive technologies.

Parents, teachers and principals have told us that they want better access to clear and easy to understand information about how best to support students with a disability and the services available to support them.

What we will do now

- We will improve accessibility of information about supporting the learning needs of students with disability. We will also enhance access to specialist support for students with disability and resources for students with high or complex additional learning and support needs.

We will:

- Develop an improved website to support teachers, principals, parents and the community to understand how we work to support students with additional learning and support needs in public schools, the services we provide, how they are accessed and how to deal with any concerns if they arise.
- Further develop specialist information for schools about disability and related health conditions and implications for learning in collaboration with NSW Health, and Ageing, Disability and Home Care.
- Establish an academic partnership with Sydney University through the NSW Centre for Effective Reading to undertake research on support for students with complex reading difficulties and their teachers.
- Trial new approaches around the use of specialist assistive technologies for students, in collaboration with other government and non-government agencies. This will include:
  - Students with complex mobility and communication support needs,
  - Students with conductive hearing loss in high need areas and
  - Live captioning in classrooms for students who are deaf
  - support for skills development in Auslan
- Develop and trial new models for supporting students with disability who have high and complex health care needs.
- Develop and implement a strategy to better support students who have additional learning and support needs and their families living in rural and remote areas, in collaboration with other agencies.

This will result in:

- Improved access to expert support and consistent, reliable information for school leaders, teachers and parents about identifying and supporting the educational needs of students with disability.
- Identification of new and sustainable ways to support students with complex or highly specialist support needs to inform long term policy development.

Further information

www.det.nsw.edu.au/every-student-every-school