Currently, we assess students by the type of disability that they have, rather than their additional educational needs.

Parents, teachers and principals tell us that they want better ways to assess and understand the specific educational needs of students that recognise more than the type of disability of the student.

Understanding the specific educational needs of individual students is a vital element in identifying and planning the support and adjustments that they need. Teachers, students and parents are in the best position to inform this understanding by working together to profile the learning needs of the student and to plan how best to meet those needs.

**What we will do now**

We will develop materials to support teachers and schools in assessing the impact of disability on the learning of students. This will inform planning to meet the individual learning and support needs of students.

**We will:**

- Accelerate the development of a functional assessment tool for teachers to profile the learning and support needs of individual students in collaboration with students and their parents.
- Develop a standards framework and best practice guide to support the development of personalised learning and support for students with disability, in line with the State Plan, *NSW 2021*.
- Develop and implement training for teachers to support the use of a functional assessment tool and to support planning for personalised learning and support, in collaboration with students and their parents.

**This will result in:**

- Teachers being better equipped to identify the strengths, abilities, skills and learning needs of students with disability in collaboration with students and their parents and carers.
- Planning for adjustments to support the educational needs of individual students with disability being informed by their functional educational needs, rather than their disability type or label.

**What we will build on**

- Current work to design and test a reliable and valid tool for teachers to profile individual students with disability and their skills, strengths and functional education needs, in collaboration with parents, to inform their programming and planning.

**Further information**