Our school system provides an extensive range of specialist teaching services. However, these are not currently available in every public school. In many cases, regular class teachers wait for the support they need in teaching the students in their class.

Parents, teachers and principals have told us that they want more specialist support in regular, mainstream schools.

We need to improve access to timely specialist support for more students with disability and additional learning and support needs.

What we will build on

■ An extensive range of specialist teaching services provided through a range of programs.

■ The experience gained through a trial of a new model of supporting students with additional learning and support needs in more than 220 schools.

What we will do now

We will establish a specialist teacher presence in every mainstream school to support students with additional learning and support needs and their classroom teachers.

To achieve this, we will re-organise some of our existing specialist support services. This reorganisation will allocate directly to schools more than 1,800 existing specialist teachers.

These allocations will be adjusted every three years. In addition funding in excess of $39 million will be adjusted annually to reflect change in school needs.

 Principals, through their school learning and support teams, will remain responsible for determining how the school’s resources are used to best meet the learning and support needs of students in their school. This will enable more students to access support without the need for formal applications and paperwork outside the school.

Schools will have the flexibility to work together to share or pool their resources to provide specific programs or activities to support learning outcomes for students in their schools.

Students with a confirmed disability who have moderate, complex or highly specialised targeted support in mainstream schools will continue to be supported by existing arrangements.

Our special classes in regular schools and special schools will also continue to operate under existing arrangements.

We will:

■ Provide support in 2012 and 2013 for schools and regions to implement learning and support in every mainstream school.

■ Provide an extensive program of induction training and ongoing professional learning to support school leaders, specialist teachers, classroom teachers and support staff.

This training will include a focus on supporting:

■ A deep understanding of the learning and support framework and accountability for meeting the needs of every student with disability in consultation with students and their parents.

■ Effective local decision making about the use of resources provided to the school to support students with additional learning and support needs and their teachers.

■ Collaborative use of resources between schools and across communities of schools to achieve learning outcomes for students.

This will result in:

■ Classroom teachers across the state having more immediate access to additional support within the school to meet the educational needs of students with disability, including those in rural and remote locations.

■ Students with disability and additional learning and support needs having access to well supported classroom teachers and specialist in-school assistance at the time that they need it.

Further information

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