Ensuring adequate support for students with disruptive or challenging behaviour is a priority for the NSW Department of Education and Communities.

The NSW Department of Education and Communities has a wide range of support services for students with disruptive or challenging behaviour.

These services aim to positively engage students with school and learning. Students who have behaviour support needs of high intensity, frequency and duration may access one of the Department’s learning centres or schools for specific purposes.

**Learning centres**

Learning centres (previously called behaviour schools) provide specialist programs for students in Years 5 to 10, whose behaviour can no longer be supported by the students’ home school. Generally, students remain at the centre for up to one year. Some centres support students diagnosed with mental health disorders or who are emotionally disturbed. These students may remain at these centres for longer periods of time.

**Schools for specific purposes**

Schools for specific purposes provide specialist support services for students across Years K to 12 with confirmed disability. Some of these schools specifically cater for students diagnosed with emotional disturbance.

**Learning support**

Together, these services focus on providing students with access to the curriculum, returning students to regular classes and supporting students in their transition to other education or employment opportunities. These services also support the long-term education of students requiring ongoing intensive levels of support.

Students receive personalised learning and support developed in collaboration with a school’s learning and support team and other relevant professional agencies.

Both learning centres and schools for specific purposes have seven students in a class supported by a teacher and a school learning support officer.

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**Places in NSW specialist schools supporting behaviour by year**

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