

# Program for Students with Disabilities Policy

*(Ratified by School Council: June 2025)*

## **PURPOSE:**

Glen Waverley Primary School (GWPS), through the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) aims to;

- promote the inclusion of students with moderate to severe disabilities within our school.
- provide clear guidelines for how to support families of students with a disability.
- assist staff to formulate Individual Education Plans and provide students with opportunities to achieve success.
- create an educational environment and curriculum that is inclusive and meaningful to all students.

## **GUIDELINES:**

The Department of Education (DE) is committed to delivering an inclusive education system that ensures all students have access to a quality education that meets their needs. The Department provides a range of policies, programs and resources for schools to support the delivery of high-quality schooling for all students, including students with disabilities.

The [Program for Students with Disabilities](#) is a targeted supplementary funding program for Victorian government schools. It provides resources to schools for a defined population of students with disabilities, with moderate to severe needs, who meet criteria for one of seven program categories:

- Physical disability
- Visual impairment
- Severe behavioural disorder
- Intellectual disability
- Hearing impairment
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Severe language disorder with critical educational needs

Under the program, resources are provided directly to Victorian government schools to support the provision of school-based educational program for eligible students with disabilities.

Program resources assist schools to meet their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992; they do not define or limit the support provided by a school for a student with a disability.

Funding made available through the PSD program is determined using a scale from Level 1 to Level 5, with Level 5 being the high end of the scale. Funding is utilised by the school directly to employ and pay the salary of Learning Assistants (Integration Aides) or purchase specific school resources as deemed necessary by the school, to support the individualised learning needs of the student. The management of the Learning Assistant and their timetable allocations is the responsibility of the

Assistant Principal (Wellbeing) and the Principal, it is encouraged that this is done in consultation with the student's family.

Each student who is eligible and granted PSD funding is required to have a documented Individual Education Plan (IEP) which is developed by the classroom teacher in collaboration with the student's family, the Assistant Principal –Wellbeing and any other relevant parties. The duration of the IEP is generally one school term (approximately 10 weeks), however through consultation with the family, goals can be set for a longer period of time. All printed IEPs will be kept in student's file (blue folder) and a digital copy will be available on Compass.

The family of each student who is eligible and granted PSD funding is required to be offered at least one Student Support Group (SSG) meeting per term, at which the school and the family will discuss and assess the progress of the student against the goals outlined in their IEP, then collaborate in the development of new goals. All parties attending the SSG meetings are then required to sign and date the IEP, with a signed copy provided to the family and a signed copy kept on the student's file at the school.

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

As of March 1st 2025, the Program for Students with Disabilities was discontinued. Students currently funded through the PSD, retain funding for three years, after which school will need to submit a request Disability Inclusion Profile and related funding. Schools may apply for a Disability Inclusion Profiles at any time before 2028.

### ***Individual EducationPlans***

All students on the PSD require a documented Individual Education PlanIEPIndividual Education Plan (IEP) as a condition of their PSD funding.

An IEP is a document which specifically details the following:

- 1) Individual Learning Goals for the student by curriculum area (e.g.: English, Social-emotional)
- 2) Teaching strategies to be implemented to support the student
- 3) Outcome Goals and the duration of the IEP
- 4) Evaluation of the student's progress against the IEP, in the form of comments and scores against a 5 point scale.

### ***Student Support Group Meetings***

A Student Support Group (SSG) Meeting is a meeting held each term, for those people who are involved in supporting the student to achieve the goals detailed in their IEP. An SSG meeting can involve but is not limited to the following:

- Family (parents or guardians)

- The student (where applicable)
- Classroom teacher
- Assistant Principal and/or Principal
- Learning Assistant (Integration Aide)
- SSSO's or other educational support staff
- External health professionals (e.g.: occupational therapists, physiotherapists)

At the SSG, the school and the family openly and transparently assess the progress of the student in relation to their IEP goals and collaboratively develop goals for the upcoming IEP.

Throughout the term the parents of the PSD funded student and the classroom teacher will often communicate or meet in person to discuss the student's learning. These are not considered to be SSG meetings and are referred to as "parent meetings".

## **RELATED LEGISLATION:**

### **Equal Opportunities Act 2010**

<https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/equal-opportunity-act-2010>

### **Disability Discrimination Act 1992**

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2018C00125>

### **Disability Standards for Education 2005**

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2005L00767>

PSD operational guidelines for 2025 applications

<https://content.sdp.education.vic.gov.au/media/program-for-students-with-disabilities-operational-guidelines-for-schools-2025-3040>

Student Support Group – Guidelines for school and families

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/teachers/teachingresources/diversity/ssgguidelines.docx>

## **RELATED POLICIES:**

- *Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy*
- *Inclusion Diversity Policy*

## **POLICY EVALUATION:**

Evaluation will be conducted every two years by the Education Subcommittee and Assistant Principal.

## **DUE DATE FOR REVIEW:**

This policy is due to be reviewed in June 2027.