For Schools

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1. **Why is the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability important for school communities?**

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability will provide Australian schools, parents, education authorities and the community with information about the number of students with disability in schools, where they are located and the adjustments they receive.
The national data collection on students with disability reinforces the existing obligations that schools have to students under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (DDA) and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* (the Standards). It counts the number of students who are supported under these obligations based on the professional judgement of teachers and their understanding and knowledge of their students.

The national data collection on students with disability acknowledges the work already being undertaken in schools to support students with disability. It assists schools to identify and support students with disability so they can access and participate in education on the same basis as students without a disability.

Positive feedback has been received from many schools that have participated in the data collection. Schools viewed it as an opportunity to consolidate and raise awareness of the needs of individual children and the class as a whole, as well as support their families.

2. **Why should our school be involved in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability in 2014?**

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability will change and strengthen approaches to supporting students with disability.

Early involvement in the national data collection will ensure students are being provided with a level of educational adjustment that they require and that all eligible students are included in the data collection.

Involvement in the national data collection in 2014 will assist schools to:

- become familiar with the Model for the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability
- formally and consistently recognise the support and adjustments provided to students with disability in the school
- adopt a more proactive and collaborative approach to identifying support provided to students with disability
- shift the focus towards the professional judgment of school teams rather than relying on medical/clinical diagnosis alone
- include all eligible students in the annual data collection form 2015.

Many schools that have participated in previous national trials of the data collection model and the 2013 data collection have reported that it had a positive impact in their school and a way for the work of schools to be recognised.

The phased approach to implementation provides an important and valuable opportunity for all schools to become familiar with the requirements of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and to strengthen the systems and processes that will support participation from 2015 in the annual collection. It will give your school a “head start” on improvements to school systems and processes.
3. What resources will schools receive to assist with the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability?

A nationally available resource for principals and school teams to learn about the Model and its application is the online professional learning module developed by Educational Services Australia available at www.schooldisabilitydatapl.edu.au. This resource identifies and guides participants through the four steps for completing the data collection.

Professional learning on the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards) will be available to reinforce the importance of embedding these laws into everyday practice and to help provide a high quality learning experience for every school student with disability.

Education authorities will advise schools early in 2014 on how this professional learning and training will be delivered and accessed.

Materials on the process for submitting the data will also be made available to education authorities and schools early in 2014. It will also be made available from the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability page on the Australian Government Department of Education website.

4. How can schools start preparing for the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability counts all school students who have a disability as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA), and captures information about the levels of adjustment that they are being provided to enable their access and participation in education.

Sound knowledge and understanding of obligations under the DDA and the Standards will assist schools in understanding and implementing the data collection.

It is strongly recommended that school staff complete professional learning in this area prior to undertaking the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability. For more information, speak to your local education authority or principal about professional learning on the DDA and the Standards available to your school.

It is also strongly recommended that school staff access the nationally available resource for principals and school teams developed by Educational Services Australia available at www.schooldisabilitydatapl.edu.au. This resource identifies and guides participants through the four steps for completing the data collection.

It is also important that staff and the school community are aware of the school’s participation in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability, as well as nominate a school team to take the lead in implementing the national data collection within their school – the size of the team will depend on school size, and may be as small as one or two people.
Once the principal and the school team have an understanding of the Model for collecting data, the school team can begin working with teachers and other appropriate staff to identify students for inclusion in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability.

5. **How will schools submit the data for the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability?**

More information will be provided to education authorities and individual school principals early in 2014 on how schools are to submit data for the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability. This process will vary from state to state and between government and non-government school sectors.

6. **When will schools submit the data for the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability in 2014?**

Data collection will occur in August each year at the same time as the National Schools Statistics Collection (NSSC).

Key dates around the timing of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability will be communicated to education authorities from early 2014.

7. **Will schools still need to collect data under existing state/territory requirements?**

Schools may need to collect data on students with disability using the national Model and any existing state/territory or sectoral requirements that are linked to funding and reporting.

Your local education authority or school principal will inform you about your school’s data reporting requirements.

8. **How will the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability be reported?**

Schools will aggregate data at the primary/secondary level (if relevant) about:

- the level of adjustment provided
- the number of students who receive each level of adjustment
- the student’s broad category of disability.

The data from the count of students with disability supplied by the school will have student names and identification numbers removed. School staff will only be able to see the data related to their own school.
9. **What evidence do schools draw on to decide which school students are to be included?**

In determining which students are counted in the national data collection on students with disability, schools will draw on a range of evidences available in the school about the provision of personalised adjustments to meet the learning and support needs of their students with disability.


This includes evidence in four broad areas:

- the assessed identified needs of the student
- adjustments provided to the student to address their individual needs
- monitoring and review of the adjustments provided to students
- consultation and collaboration.

10. **Who is responsible for the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability in my school?**

School principals are responsible for verifying or confirming that there is evidence at the school to support the inclusion of a student in the data collection.

Your school principal is able to advise you of the review processes that apply to your school prior to the submission of data.

Schools are encouraged to consider and discuss the types of evidence available in their setting to support their judgements about the inclusion of students in the data collection.

In keeping with best practice, schools should retain relevant evidence of their provisions for students at the school.

11. **When will the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability be available and who will be able to view it?**

Information collected in 2013 and 2014 is not being made publicly available. This is because it is important to assess that the data is being captured accurately and consistently, in line with the Model. A rigorous quality assurance process will be applied to data from the count collected in the transition period.

When all Australian schools are taking part in the new data collection in 2015, the information will be reported on the [My School](https://www.my School.gov.au) website from 2016 onwards, subject to confirmation of data quality. Information will only be reported at the school level – no student names or identification numbers are reported as part of the data collection.