

Individual Learning Plans

An Individual Learning Plan is a working document for the planning, provision and evaluation of your child's education.

In Victorian government schools, all students receiving support through the Program for Students with Disabilities should have an Individual Learning Plan.

However, any student who has additional needs may benefit from having an Individual Learning Plan, regardless of their eligibility for the Program for Students with Disabilities.

Everyone involved with your child at school should support your child's Individual Learning Plan. This includes all of your child's teachers across all subject areas, integration aides and co-ordinators, the principal, and Student Support Services Officers such as speech therapists.

The Individual Learning Plan is developed by the Student Support Group and written by your child's school. The plan is a working document that evolves as goals are achieved or modified. The plan should be referred to regularly and adjusted as needed.

Parent contribution to the Individual Learning Plan

As a member of the Student Support Group, you have an important role in the development of your child's Individual Learning Plan.

You know your child better than anyone else and will be able to assist other members of the Student Support Group to understand your child's strengths and needs.



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Linking to the curriculum

The main purpose of an Individual Learning Plan is to link your child's specific learning needs to the curriculum. This may be for part of the curriculum or for the whole curriculum. Teachers are responsible for planning and implementing the curriculum for all students.

Planning should be done in a way that allows all students to participate in classroom activities. This can involve contributions from other school staff such as the librarian, art teacher, music teacher, and sports teacher. Teaching and learning strategies may need to be adapted for this to happen.

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is responsible for the curriculum and assessment programs in Victorian government schools.

Designing the plan

There is no one-size-fits-all template for designing the perfect Individual Learning Plan. The plan will depend on your child's needs and must be flexible enough to allow for changes.

If your child can participate in certain parts of the curriculum without additional support, then the Individual Learning Plan need not cover those curriculum areas. An Individual Learning Plan only needs to be developed for those areas of the curriculum where your child will receive additional support. This may only be for certain parts of the curriculum or it may be for the whole curriculum.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) has sample student reports on their website, including 'Report cards using an Individual Learning Plan'. This style of report is in line with those provided to all Victorian students in government schools, twice a year. These sample reports can be adapted into Individual Learning Plans. Schools may also have their own Individual Learning Plan format they like to use.

Updating the plan

Your child's Individual Learning Plan should be updated by the Student Support Group as needed and following any assessments or reviews of your child's progress.

Sharing information

It is the school's responsibility to make sure that information about your child is communicated to the right people. The Student Support Group meeting provides an opportunity to decide how this will happen and to seek written permission to share information or make referrals. It's a good idea to document who, when and for what purpose you give this permission.

There may be some aspects of your child's care that only need to be communicated to those people directly involved. Your family and child's right to privacy must be respected at all times. Good planning will identify who needs to know what and how this can be communicated.

Working as a team, the Student Support Group should be able to design and write a plan that meets the individual needs of your child.

Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS)

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) provides the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) used by schools to develop Prep to Year 10 teaching programs. Within VELS there are three 'strands' covering 14 subject areas known as 'domains'.

1. Physical, Personal and Social Learning

- Health and physical education
- Interpersonal development
- Personal learning
- Civics and citizenship

2. Discipline-based Learning

- The Arts
- English
- Languages other than English
- The Humanities
- Mathematics
- Science

3. Interdisciplinary Learning

- Communication
- Design, creativity and technology
- Information and communications technology
- Thinking processes

For more information visit <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/parent/further.html>