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Health Needs

Needs of student

SUPPORT FOR HEALTH NEEDS

A student at your school has a health condition and is convalescing or recuperating from illness (including mental illness) and is receiving treatment in hospital or at home. They may also be gradually returning to school.

A student has a health condition (including mental illness) and needs help (for longer than six weeks) to attend school safely.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

A student at your school may require technology or equipment to remove barriers to learning and raise achievement at school.

Help available

Students may be eligible for help from a Regional Hospital Health School. Teachers from these schools jointly cover the whole country. Schools are based in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

The student may be able to access the School High Health Needs Fund. This fund provides teacher's aide time so the student can safely participate at school.

The education team around the student – their parents, school staff and special education staff, as well as the student themselves, assess what is needed and then develop and implement assistive technology solutions.

The Ministry of Education, Special Education district assistive technology coordinators can work with the team, if required.

How to get it

You can find the contact details for the Regional Hospital Health School closest to you by going to the Ministry of Education website: www.minedu.govt.nz

For further details and the application form look in the *School High Health Needs Fund Guidelines* on the Ministry of Education website: www.minedu.govt.nz

There are pre-requisites the student's education team need to complete before an application is made. Read about these in the online *Assistive Technology Guidelines*. These guidelines also provide a link to the application form. Go to the Ministry of Education website: www.minedu.govt.nz

What to expect

These teachers work with students both in hospital and at home.

The student's parent/caregiver, health care workers, school staff and the service provider agree on the level and type of care required. This is written up in an Individual Care Plan for the student.

Assistive technology includes computer products as well as vision equipment, specialised seating, tables and hearing devices.

The process outlined in the guidelines ensures support is available so that the student gets the right equipment or technology for their needs and the student gets the most out of equipment once it is in place.

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SCHOOL PROPERTY MODIFICATIONS

A student wants to enrol at your school, or one of your enrolled students becomes disabled, and they need help to access the classroom and playground so they can participate in activities and move around safely.

TRANSPORT TO AND FROM SCHOOL

A student at your school needs transport to school for safety or mobility reasons.

This student usually has high needs.

Help available

The Ministry of Education will meet the cost of modifications to state school property to enable access for the student.

For state integrated and private schools the Ministry of Education, Special Education can provide advice but the cost must be met by the school's proprietor (for integrated schools this is an obligation under the integration agreement).

Assistance for travel between home and the nearest school can be provided for students who need this for mobility or safety reasons.

How to get it

At state schools, the board of trustees should apply to their local Ministry of Education for information about the process.

The needs of the student will be discussed with the board and the student's caregiver.

A budget for the modifications will be agreed with the scope of the modifications being all reasonable work required to support the student's needs.

At state integrated and private schools the board of trustees needs to make an application to the school's proprietor.

You will need to apply for assistance. There are three separate sections of the application form. One section needs to be filled in by your school. The other sections need to be filled in by the student's parent or caregiver, and the Ministry of Education, Special Education.

Applications should be forwarded to service providers approved by the Ministry. The Ministry of Education website will provide you with more information and an application form: www.minedu.govt.nz

What to expect

Modifications can include items and modifications such as ramps, lifts, rails, specialised bathrooms for those who require wheelchair access, adjustments to doorways and door handles, change tables and hoists.

The assessment, design and construction process can take up to 12 months depending on the complexity of the work, so it is important that the process begins well before the student starts at your school.

Assistance may be a vehicle allowance or a place in a taxi, minibus or total mobility vehicle.

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FACILITATION SERVICES

Your school and the student's family are having difficulty working together to meet the student's extra education needs.

EXAM ASSISTANCE

A student at your school wants to sit an exam and has a proven significant learning difficulty.

The learning difficulty may be related to reading and/or written language and/or sensory/physical impairment.

And because of the specific difficulty the student is unable to demonstrate their knowledge in a subject area.

Help available

The Ministry of Education employs special education facilitators for schools and parents to approach if the relationship between the family of students (who need extra support for disability, high health, or behaviour) and the school breaks down.

The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) offers a range of assistance for these students.

How to get it

Call your local Ministry of Education office and ask to speak to a student support manager. They will refer you to a facilitator.

You need to identify potential applicants at the beginning of the year and provide them with assistance throughout the year.

Applications for exam assistance need to be lodged with the NZQA by August each year.

For more information go to the New Zealand Qualifications Authority website:

www.nzqa.govt.nz Search *Special Assessment Conditions*.

What to expect

Impartial special education facilitators are available to provide information, to facilitate and, where appropriate, mediate if difficulties arise. The facilitator will start a problem-solving process, which is focused on achieving a consensus among all those involved.

Exam assistance may include: a reader and/or writer, extra time to do the exam, enlarged exam papers, or use of assistive equipment.